

Multimedia development platforms: summary

This is a summary of the comparison between HTML and Director as development platforms. Both these platforms are flexible. Given enough time and patience, almost any production made with one could be recreated with the other, but for a certain objective there will often be a clear choice as to which is the most appropriate.

	<i>HTML</i>	<i>Macromedia Director</i>
Navigation	Default: Non-linear Possibilities: any	Default: linear Possibilities: any
User interaction	Interactive	Any
Page Layout	Linear	Any
Usage	Single interactive use	Single or public
Distribution	WWW broadcast	Packaged multimedia
Graphics	Any format, but sizes need to be appropriate for web distribution	Most, but they are usually converted by director when imported
Sounds	Any format, but playback will depend on the user's browser, installed software and settings	Many: mp3, wav and a few others. Does not need to rely on external software or settings
Authored by	Web developer	Multimedia team
Authoring difficulty	Medium	Hard
Ownership	Open/W3C	Macromedia
Price	Free	£500