Coding HTML with NVDA -Part 9(Multimedia Tags)

# Introduction

Hey guys what’s up it’s your girl Thee Quinn here and I’m back with another video in the html series. In today’s video I will be showing you how to use the multimedia tags in html. But before we get into it, please be sure to like the video if you love the content, subscribe if you are new and turn on my notification bell to be alerted whenever I post the next video. Also note that the instrumentals for this video have been provided by Inner Sanctum Entertainment Ltd. But without further ado, let’s get right into it.

# Start of tutorial

So on the web, multimedia is basically sound, video or both of them combined. In html, there are elements that we can use to insert audio and video on our webpages. Let us start out with displaying videos. If you have a video file that you want to display on your website, you would make use of the html video tag. The basic syntax for the video tag is:

<video src="file\_path" controls>Your browser does not support the video tag</video>

The src attribute is placed in the starting video tag, and it is what is used to specify the location or file path of the video that you want to display. Note that the url of the video can be either absolute or relative. There are many video formats but html only supports the MP4, WebM, and Ogg formats. The controls attribute is used to add video controls, such as play, pause, and volume. This attribute does not require a value so you only have to put the word controls in the starting video tag. The text that was seen between the starting and ending video tag is text that will be displayed to users using a browser that does not support the html video tag. Now let’s go ahead and demonstrate the use of this video tag.

So first you should know that I added three files to the Web Series folder for the purpose of this video (clips.mp3, intro.mp3, and website.mp4). Now let’s open up our index.html file in Notepad. Now remember that in the last video we were dealing with lists. I went ahead and deleted out those tags that we were dealing with in the last video to make space to demonstrate these tags for this video. So right now you should be in a blank line under the last link that we did in our links video. So right here I am going to go ahead and indent by two spaces because we have been keeping consistent with that throughout the whole series. Then let’s start typing our starting video tag. Before we end the starting video tag, remember we have to add our src and control attributes. So let’s first put the location of our file. Now the only video I have in the web series folder is the one called website and it is a mp4 file. So you should put the name of the file as well as its file extension and as I noted before, you can put both relative and absolute urls in here, but we are using a relative url today. The video is right in the same folder that I have the index.html file in, so I am going to put “website.mp4”. then let’s put our controls attribute and close the opening video tag. Then let’s put “not supported” for those persons whose browser does not support the video tag, and the closing video tag. You should have:

<video src="website.mp4" controls>not supported</video>

Now let’s save the file and go back to our Web Series folder and open it up in chrome to see how it looks. If we down arrow to where the video should be we come across a play button. There are also other controls under that such as duration, mute, full screen, a show more controls button and a time scrubber. The video should be there but you would not be seeing it unless you have some sight. Now let’s get back to the play button and press enter or spacebar on it to play. But before I play the video, I am going to play some of the video and then pause it so that we can continue with the tutorial. But I must note this to you. For us screen reader users, as soon as you press play it puts the video in focus. So in order to get back to the pause button, you would have to tab until you hear it say pause, then you would press enter on your pause button. So let’s go ahead and do that. Awesome so you see that the video that I had in my web series folder was being played.

It is also important to note that not all browsers that support the html video tag support all the 3 file formats that html does. In this case, instead of using the src attribute we would use the source tag within the video tag. The source tag allows us to specify alternative video files so that the browser can choose from them. The browser will use the first format that it recognizes or supports. This example shows you the basic syntax of the source tag:

<video controls>

<source src="file.mp4" type="video/mp4">

<source src="file.ogg" type="video/ogg">

Your browser does not support the video tag

</video>

So of course the src attribute in the source tag is where you would put the file’s location. So what is the type attribute for you may ask? This attribute is used to specify the type of the file, and the file type should match the file extension of the file specified in the src attribute. The possible values are:

* MP4: video/mp4
* WebM: video/webm
* Ogg: video/ogg

So let’s try this out in our index.html file. First let’s go ahead and take out the src attribute out of the starting video tag. Then let’s go to the end of the starting video tag and press enter twice to create a blank line. Then lets go up to that blank line under the starting video tag and let’s indent it by 4 spaces as it will be within the video tag which was indented by 2 spaces. Alright now let’s put our source tag and note that the source tag is an empty html element which means that it does not have a closing tag. So I’ll start typing the source tag, put the src attribute with my “website.mp4” file. Then I will put the type attribute with a value of “video/mp4” and close the source tag. Then I will down arrow to the line with “not supported” and indent it by 4 spaces because it is within the video tag as well. And we should be good here, but if you want to put the video in a line by itself you can do that as well. Just make sure that it matches up with the same spacing as the starting video tag. So you should have:

<video controls>

<source src="website.mp4" type="video/mp4">

not supported</video>

if you save it and open it up in your browser the video should be there. And you realize that I only used one source tag because I currently only have one format of the file in my folder. But you would go ahead and convert your video into webm or ogg formats and put in those source tags within the video tag as well.

It is also best practice to include width and height attributes in the starting video tag. If these are not set, it is possible for the page to flicker while the video loads. The syntax is:

<video src="file\_path" width="pixels" height="pixels" controls>

Where you see the words “pixels” is where you would put the numerical values for the width and height of the video. These values will vary depending on how much space you want the video to take up on the page. So let’s go ahead and try out using these attributes. First let’s go back up to our starting video tag. Now let’s put it after the controls attribute, so go to the end of the line and in front of the greater than sign. Now put a space and put the width and height attributes. Note that any value that you put in here is in pixels. You should have:

<video controls width="320" height="280">

Now you can save this and go ahead and play it in your browser. And if you have some sight or if you ask someone who is sighted, they would probably tell you that the width and height of the video have been adjusted.

It is also possible to set the video to loop over and over. We would do this by adding the loop attribute in the starting video tag. This does not require a value and we just need to write the word loop in the starting tag. We will demonstrate this later on when dealing with audio as this video file is a bit long.

Videos can also be set to auto play as someone visits your webpage. This however is not supported by Chromium browsers in most cases. And you guys can understand that because you can see how that can get a bit annoying where as you click and open a webpage, something starts playing and you can’t even find the button to pause it. What is supported though is muted autoplay.

This means that the video will be started automatically, but muted. To start a video automatically, use the autoplay attribute. And in order to mute it, we would add the muted attribute after the auto play attribute. Both these attributes do not require a value. So the basic syntax would be:

<video src="file\_path" autoplay muted>

So let’s go ahead and try this out. So let’s go to the end of the line with the starting video tag, and go in front of the greater than sign. Then add a space and the autoplay and muted attributes. You should have:

<video controls width="320" height="280" autoplay muted>

Now let’s save this and open it up in our browser. Alright so you realize that the video has already started playing because we are not seeing the controls. So let’s tab to find those controls and pause the video. Now if you down arrow and unmute the video, and play it again, you will notice that the video was already playing before from when we entered the website. Now that is it for the html video tag, now let’s move into audio.

If you have an audio file that you want to display on your website you would make use of the html audio tag. In html, Only MP3, WAV, and Ogg audio are supported. The syntax of the audio tag is very similar to that of the video tag. Here is the syntax:

<audio src= "file\_path" controls>Your browser does not support the audio tag</audio>

So the src attribute specifies the files location and can be either an absolute or relative url. The controls attribute adds audio controls. And the text between the starting and ending audio tags is displayed to browsers that do not support it.

So now let’s go ahead and demonstrate the use of this audio tag. First let me go ahead and delete out this video tag that we were working with. So right now we should be right in a blank line under the last link of the page. So we are going to put our 2 space indent and start writing the starting audio tag. Then lets put in the source attribute with the file “clips.mp3”, and the controls attribute. Then let’s close the starting tag, put not supported, and the ending audio tag. You should have:

<audio src= "clips.mp3" controls>not supported</audio>

Now let’s save it and open it in our browser. And if you down arrow to the audio, there should be similar controls to the video tag. And if you should press enter on the play button, it would play and you can just press enter on the pause button to pause it. Notice that you don’t have to tab to get back to the audio controls.

Note that just like the video tag, the audio tag also supports the source tag for adding alternative file formats. These are the possible values for the type attribute of the source tag when used in the audio tag:

* MP3: audio/mpeg
* OGG: audio/ogg
* WAV: audio/wav

The audio tag also supports the loop attribute. And remember that earlier on I was telling you about this loop attribute with the video tag. You would just put the word loop in the starting tag whether it is the audio tag or the video tag. So let’s go ahead and test out this loop attribute. Then go to the end of the starting audio tag right in front of the greater than sign. Then put a space and the word loop. You should have:

<audio src= "clips.mp3" controls loop>not supported</audio>

Now if you should save it and open it in your browser and play it, you would realize that the audio file loops. And lastly, just like with the video tag, you can set audio files to be played automatically. But remember that this is not supported in chromium browsers in most cases so you would have to use the same muted auto play method as with the video tag.

# Conclusion

So that is it guys for the html multimedia tags. So you can go ahead and use them to be able to put video and audio onto your webpage. Hopefully you liked this video, and if you did not know about these tags, or how to use them, I would like for you to let me know in the comments because I love to hear your feedback. But that is it. Hopefully this video was interesting and helpful to you guys. Remember to like the video if you love the content, subscribe if you are new, and turn on my notification bell to be alerted whenever I post the next video in the series. Thanks again for watching and I’ll see you next time.