

# Audio, video and image sharing

**Audio, video and image sharing** refers to websites or software where users can distribute their files. A **podcast** is a digital audio or video file or recording, usually part of a themed series, that can be downloaded from a website to a media player or computer.

## ■ Network file sharing

The general term **NFS, network file sharing**, means sharing all kinds of data or files on a network, even in a LAN. A file sharing system generally has one or more administrators and users may all have the same or different levels of access to read, view, modify or copy the files.

On the Internet, the file transfer system is called **File Transfer Protocol (FTP)**. It can be used to access files shared in a server among a particular set of users with a password. However, many FTP sites offer public file sharing or at least the ability to view or copy files by downloading them anonymously. Most website developers use FTP to upload new or revised web files to a web server, and indeed the World Wide Web itself can be thought of as large-scale file sharing in which requested pages or files are constantly being downloaded or copied down by web users.

## ■ Types of NFS

NFS uses two basic sets of network criteria:

- **peer-to-peer (P2P) file sharing** is the most popular system because it allows the download of a file from multiple sources at the same time to speed up the process. An example is Emule. Network computer users locate shared data with third party software, i.e. Emule, and P2P allows files to be directly accessed, downloaded and edited. The third-party software, which is a sort of library of all the users' files, facilitates P2P sharing by collecting and segmenting large files into smaller pieces.



- **file hosting services** are service websites which usually host a **broad** selection of popular online materials to enable users to download them.

In the case of P2P, when the users download or make use of a file sharing network, their computer also becomes part of that network, allowing other users to download files from the user's computer. File sharing is generally illegal, with the exception of sharing material that is not copyrighted or **proprietary**. Another issue with file sharing applications is the problem of malware which may infect computers.

**broad:** *ampio*  
**knot:** *nodo*  
**proprietary:** *brevettato, di proprietà di qualcuno*  
**to scurry:** *correre*  
**to tangle:** *aggrovigliarsi*

*YouTube* is the most popular video hosting service, while *SoundCloud*, an online audio distribution platform, is the equivalent for audio files. As for images, *Flickr* is the most famous image hosting service.

Users who share files are called *seeds*, while those who download files are called *leeches*.



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Read the text and complete it with an appropriate word.



### A Brief History of YouTube

As content and photo sharing sites **1.** .... taking off in 2005, the founders of YouTube noticed a small problem: there was an explosion in the number **2.** ..... expensive and inexpensive ways to capture video, but there was no good way to share them.

Chad Hurley had studied design **3.** ..... Indiana University in Pennsylvania, while Steve Chen had studied computer science at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. After graduation, the two started working at PayPal in San Jose, California **4.** ..... they met many of their future employees.

On Valentine's Day 2005, Hurley registered the trademark, logo and domain of YouTube. Three months later, in May 2005, a small group **5.** ..... early employees launched the beta test site [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com).

In November 2005, YouTube received funding **6.** ..... Sequoia Capital. In December,

YouTube officially became a corporation.

The first office **7.** ..... located above a pizzeria and Japanese restaurant in San Mateo, California. Over time, the number of employees increased, the desks multiplied, cables **tangled** into **knots** and from time **8.** ..... time, rats were discovered **scurrying** around. The time had come to move.

In October 2006, Google came knocking at the door. YouTube had about 65 employees. On the day **9.** ..... acquisition was announced, YouTube moved into a former GAP office in San Bruno, California. The much-discussed deal **10.** ..... settled one month later.

Today, YouTube **11.** ..... the first most visited website overall before Google. The platform comprises the largest video-sharing community **12.** ..... the world with more than 2.3 million users.

Adapted from: <https://sites.google.com/a/pressatgoogle.com/youtube5year/home/short-story-of-youtube>