WebVTT subtitles

SubTech 1, Munich

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"The Web Video Text Tracks Format"

- partly inspired by SubRip (.srt) format
- positioning, styling etc.
  - partly delegated to CSS (before cues or outside)
- annotations
- metadata e.g. as JSON
Simple example

This is the first line.

Another subtitle line.

(...)

WEBVTT

00:00:01.200 --> 00:00:05.640

This is the first line.

Another subtitle line.
Example with styling

This is **bold**, *italic*, and *underlined*. Rendered in lines 2 and 3.

WEBVTT

00:00:01.200 --> 00:00:05.640 line:2

This is `<b>bold</b>`, `<i>italic</i>` and `<u>underlined</u>.

Rendered in lines 2 and 3.

(...)

WebVTT subtitles
Standard & status

- started 2010 in WHATWG (Apple, Google, Microsoft, Mozilla)
  - moved to W3C community group in 2011
  - "officially" maintained by W3C TTWG (also maintains TTML)

- **W3C Candidate Recommendation (05/2018)**

- native support by all modern browsers (which don’t want to support TTML)
  - often used
  - mixed support i.e. important styling (e.g. colors) often missing, see web-platform-tests
Thank you for your attention!

Experts in audio-visual media

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