

Editing Digital Photos



Computer Training Center

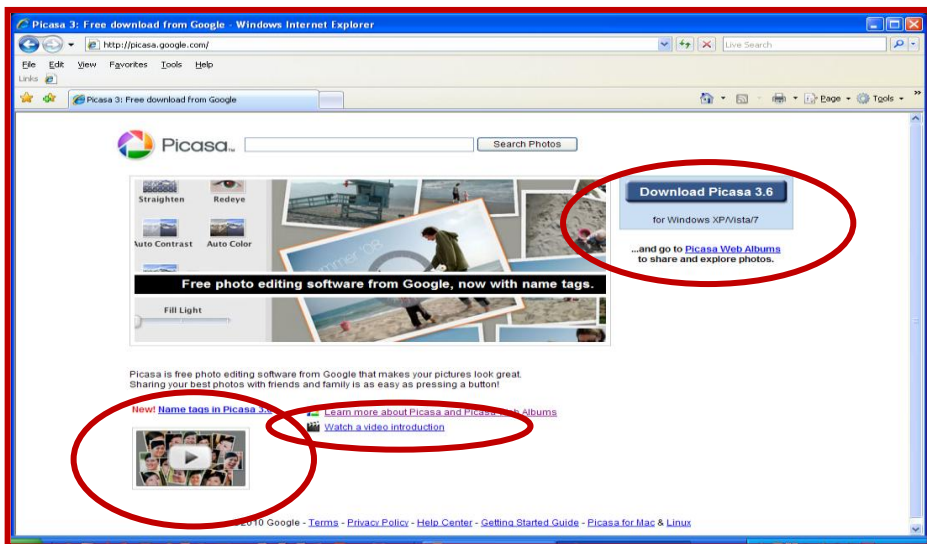
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Editing DIGITAL PHOTOS

Go to <http://picasa.google.com> to download Picasa to your computer and to see the introductory video and tutorial. Picasa is available now on library computers for staff and for our customers. Google's Picasa has four main characteristics that make it attractive as a photo editing software:

- It is fast!
- It is intuitive.
- It allows you to get great results quickly.
- And, it is free!



Once you open the program, you will notice the **directory of folders** containing pictures **on the left** and thumbnail images of each picture organized by folder on the right. In the **upper left corner** locate the **File Menu** and the **Back to Library** button. For this session, we'll use the **Digital Photos folder**.

DOUBLE CLICK on the thumbnail of the photo you wish to edit.

BASIC FIXES



CROP the caution tape out of the bottom of the photo. Note the drop down arrow next to **Manual** lets you decide proportions for prints or framing.

Preserve your original photo by going to the File Menu and selecting Save As and giving the edited photo a new name OR by selecting Save As A Copy. Picasa edits are non-destructive, but you need to be in Picasa and use the Undo feature.



STRAIGHTEN or tilt the cropped landscape image using that tool.

REDEYE. Click the Redeye button and see how the program automatically located and fixes the photo. Next, use Picasa to manually fix redevye.



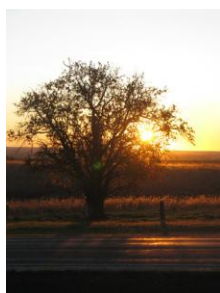
FILL LIGHT for any photo can be changed using the slider at the bottom of the Basic Fixes tab. Experiment with fill light using this night photo on the wharf. How does the emphasis or interest change depending upon the amount of light in the photo?



With this photo, click the **I'M FEELING LUCKY** button. With this option, Picasa brings a number of fixes to the photo at once, sometimes with dramatic results. For a better photo to post to your blog, indoor photos without flash or gray weather days, sometimes the **I'M FEELING LUCKY** button is all you need.



AUTO CONTRAST intensifies the lights and darks of a photo. This can add drama or bring out details in the photo subject.



AUTO COLOR also affects the intensity of a photo. It alters the photo so that a full spectrum of color in both light and dark values is present. Watch the sky in this photo as you click on the Auto Color button.



RETOUCH is a tool that allows you to change the elements of a photo. In the introductory video at <http://picasa.google.com> you see an image of a baseball player at bat. He has a significant scratch on the bridge of his nose & the retouch tool is used to 'cover it up.' In this photo of the kitten, use the background trees to cover up the lantern directly behind her. You can also have fun with other elements of the picture to create a true piece of **artography**. Brush size can be changed for better detail work, as can the zoom box. Set the amount of zoom using the slider below the picture. Set the placement of the zoom box by moving the box using the pointer of your mouse.



TEXT TOOL enables you to add text, a greeting, title, or caption to any photograph. Click on the tool, type your text and a box appears around the text. Mouse over the box. Click on the white and red dot to the right of the box to resize or rotate your text. Play with text color and outline color also.



TUNING

Select this photo with a double click and make sure you have clicked on the tuning tab. Experiment with the sliders on the tab. Fill Light you have used before. Highlights brightens the light areas of the photos, and shadows darken areas. This can add greater depth and dimension to a photograph. Color Temperature can warm cool colors of blue, purple and green or turn a warm red, orange or yellow into a cooler shade. Be sure to click on the eye dropper at the bottom of the Tuning tab, the Neutral Color Picker, then click once on a fish or some of the plant life. This can completely change the look of your photo.



EFFECTS

Try as many of the Effects on the third tab as time allows. On the Tint tool for example you have the ability to use a full spectrum and change color to any shade. Sepia can make current photos appear timeless, and Soft Focus can add a dreamy effect.

Finale to Photo Editing – USING THE COLLAGE TOOL.

PRIMARY SOURCES for Digital Photos

- Downloaded images from a digital camera
- Images scanned to computer
- Copyright-free or public domain images from the Internet

BACKING UP YOUR PHOTOS Backing up your photos is a good way to make sure that they are safe. Picasa makes it easy to do this. Just click the **Tools** menu, select **Backup Pictures**, and select **New Set** to get started.

External hard drive: If you have a large collection of photos, you may want to store your backup file on an external hard drive to save some room on your local hard drive. Once you've initially backed up your entire collection, Picasa will then only back up the recent changes that you've made. This saves you time and ensures that your entire collection is protected. Using an external drive with Picasa's backup feature is also a great way to migrate your photos to a new computer.

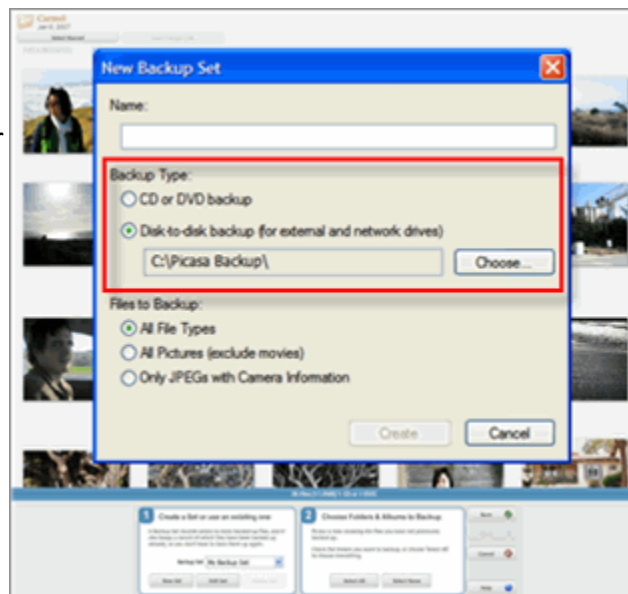
Back up to CD, DVD, flash drive, or portable hard drive:

Burning your photos to CD or DVD is also a convenient option. Should your hard drive ever fail, or should a power surge hit your drive, you will be very happy to recover your photo files.

Printing your photos

In the era of digital pictures, sometimes it is gratifying to see and hold a hard copy of a photo. Picasa makes it easy to print your photos at home or order prints online through your choice of print providers.

The **Print** button lets you print your selected photos using a local or networked printer. You can select a print layout size, such as 4 x 6 or wallet size, and Picasa will automatically size your selected photos to those proportions. Opt to include a border or your photo captions. These print layout options make it easier to print multiple photos on one page.



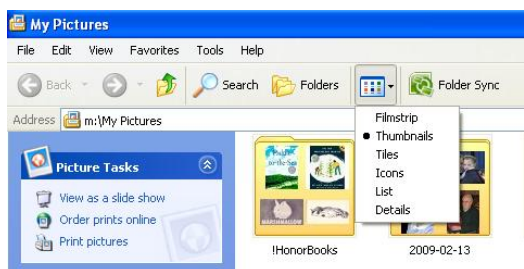
Click the **Shop** button (Windows only) to access a list of Picasa's online print providers. After you sign in to the provider's website, Picasa will automatically upload all of your selected photos to the print provider's website, enabling you to order prints as you wish.

Picasa Photo Viewer

Picasa Photo Viewer is installed with Picasa and lets you quickly view photos on your computer desktop or in Windows Explorer. The photo file types supported by Picasa are as follows:

- Photos: .JPEG, .TIF, .TIFF, .BMP, .GIF, .PSD (Photoshop), .PNG, .TGA, and selected RAW formats. For more information on RAW file support, please see the [list of supported file types](#) and camera manufacturers.
- Movies: .AVI, .MPG, .ASF, .WMV, .MOV, and 3gp (for camera phones)
- Audio (for slideshows and the Movie Maker): .wma and .mp3

VIEWING PHOTOS in Windows

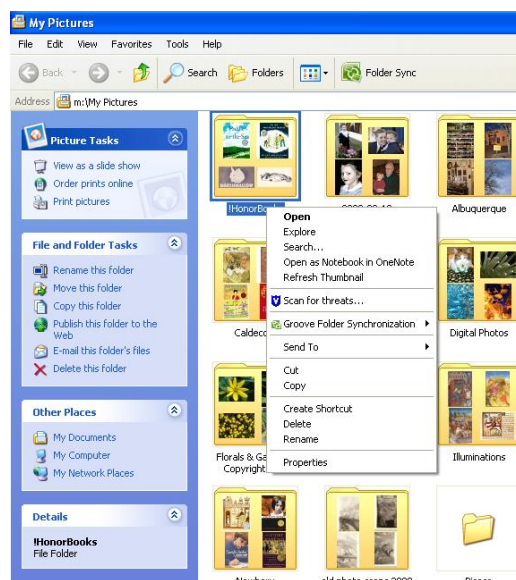


To view miniature versions of photos in your *My Pictures* file, click on the icon shown to the left and choose *Thumbnails*. To see the size of the photo file or the date it was last edited, choose *Details*.

RENAME A FOLDER or COLLECTION OF PHOTOS in Windows

To rename a folder in Windows My Pictures directory, click on the particular folder to select it, and 1) use the task pane at the left of the screen to click on *Rename this folder*; or, 2) Right click on the folder itself and click *Rename* from that menu.

To rename a folder in Picasa, right click on the name of the folder and then click on *Edit Folder Description*. A new window will open – *Folder Properties*. The top field is right under the word *Name* and the current name is highlighted. Just type in the new name and click *OK*.



OTHER PHOTO APPLICATIONS

- **Adobe Elements:** A photo editing software you can purchase and install on your computer. This software is much less expensive and simpler than Photoshop, one of the professional standards for high end photo editing and special effects. MSRP for Adobe Elements is @ \$129 and for Photoshop \$500-\$1,000 depending on software version.
- **Animoto:** <http://animoto.com/> Animoto will take your photos and make them into a dynamic slide show. This is also a feature already available in Picasa, or you can use Microsoft PowerPoint.

- **Cellsea:** <http://www.cellsea.com>. Requires a free download to your computer. This software does have some fun special effects that Picasa does not yet offer.
- **Gimp.org:** <http://www.gimp.org> A free download with some similarity to Adobe Elements.
- **Paint.Net:** <http://www.getpaint.net/> This free photo editor ranked as nineteen of the top one hundred products of 2007 (PC Magazine).
- **Photosynth:** <http://livelabs.com/photosynth/> Take your photos from a vacation and turn them into a 360 degree walk around. This is a graphics intensive process and may not work on older computers.
- **PicApp:** <http://www.picapp.com>. PicApp can make a world of difference on your blog or Web site. It is a free stock-photo service that lets you quickly and easily grab photos of whatever subject you need for use on your blog. PicApp has quite a large image catalog, and photos range from run-of-the-mill stock photos to celebrity pics.
- **Picnik:** <http://www.picnik.com>. This easy, web based software package allows you to edit and enhance your photos on the Internet. Simple and easy to use with some very nice special effects.
- **Scrapblog:** <http://www.scrapblog.com/> Make dynamic, animated scrapbooks to share with family and friends online or print them.

Amazing Free Stock Photography Sites [Source: www.presidiacreative.com, Jan 13, 2009]



Stock photography is a rapidly growing industry on the web. Sites like iStockPhoto and Shutterstock make vast sums of money just by hosting high quality stock images. This article shows where to find free stock photos and images on the web. Do you need a photo for your website, article, magazine, craft, flyers, ads or gifts? It's very time-consuming to search the web for the sites you can download free photos and images from. I have created this list to help you save time. Enjoy!

Here is a list of the best [websites](#) where you can find and [download free](#) stock photos and images. Please be sure to read their terms and conditions. Many of these stock photo sites allow the images to be used for commercial [projects](#), such as websites, ads, etc. Redistributing and claiming ownership for the images are prohibited.



Stock Xchng is probably the most well known stock photography site out there, with over 350,000 stock photos for you to choose from. The images all fall under a usage policy, so be sure to read it before you use an image, but overall, SXC is an amazing stock photography site. They have several methods that help make finding the right image a breeze.



morgueFile is another popular stock photography site, featuring high quality stock photos that are free to use. Check the FAQ to verify the image usage policy as always.



StockVault features a more modern design and interface and provides all the functionality you'd expect from a stock photography site. Still somewhat small, StockVault continues to grow and now has 11,000+ stock images from which to choose.



EveryStockPhoto is another more modern site. EveryStockPhoto boasts one of the largest free image galleries on the internet with almost 4.5 million photographs to choose. However, images fall under different usage policies so carefully read the usage policy associated with your choice.



OpenPhoto is the open-source equivalent for photography. Featuring a large, high quality image gallery, you'll be able to find the image that you need with the search function.



Pixelio.de Well, you may need to need German or have a page translator available for this one, but Pixelio.DE has over 280,000 stock photographs in 147 different categories, so if you can't find the image you want on other sites, try checking out Pixelio.



Nations Illustrated is somewhat unique as it features almost exclusively landscape and scenery photographs. Coined as "The World In Pictures", if you're looking for quality images that you might see in National Geographic, try Nations Illustrated to find the photo you need.



Image After The name may remind you of a Disney fairy-tale, but there's nothing imaginary about Image After. Featuring another very large database of photographs to choose from, Image After definitely deserves to be mentioned up with the top stock photography sites.



PhotoGen is somewhat less known and has a little overlap with some of the other stock photography sites, but nonetheless features a great image gallery of free stock photographs.



Unprofound Don't let the layout fool you, Unprofound is nothing but professional. Unprofound features a large collection of widely unique photos that you won't find on other stock image sites, so be sure to check out their gallery of images. Also, if you're an uploader, you can get a free gallery portfolio.



PhotoRogue is a revolutionary concept where designers and artists can request a stock photograph, and the PhotoRogue team will actually go out and capture the photograph that you request. Not every request is fulfilled due to time and location constraints, but they still do a fantastic job keeping up with requests.



Freepixels.com You will also find many beautiful and professional quality photos on freepixels.com. Their images may be used for personal and commercial purposes, under the limitations of the license agreement.



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