

USING PHOTO SOFTWARE

A Modest Introduction



WHAT'S IMPORTANT

- Decide on your *software* ... and learn how it works
- Decide on your *workflow* ... and stick to it every time

STEP 1
DECIDE ON YOUR SOFTWARE

Snapshotter	Photographer	“Pro”Photographer
<p><i>Basic software</i> (Free)</p>	<p><i>Advanced software</i> (\$80-138)</p>	<p><i>Pro software</i> (\$680)</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Windows Essentials 2012 Windows Photo Gallery (PC) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Adobe Photoshop Elements 11 (PC & Mac) Buy \$83 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Adobe Photoshop CS 6 (PC & Mac) \$680
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Google Picasa 3.9 (PC & Mac) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Adobe Lightroom 5 (PC & Mac) Buy \$138 - Upgrade \$73 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Nik Collection (PC & Mac) \$149
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ iPhoto '11 9.4.3 (Mac) \$15 update at App Store 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Aperture 3 3.4.5 (Mac) \$80 at App Store 	

SNAPSHOOTERS

- Best Choice for PC: Google Picasa
- Good Choice for PC : Windows Photo Gallery
- Best Choice for Mac: iPhoto

PHOTOGRAPHERS

- Adobe Photoshop Elements is a good choice for either PC or Mac.
- Adobe Lightroom is a better choice for PC.
- Aperture is a better choice for Mac.

“PRO” PHOTOGRAPHERS

- The gold standard is Adobe Photoshop CS6 ...
sometimes in combination with Adobe Lightroom.

STEP 2
DECIDE ON YOUR WORKFLOW

DIGITAL PHOTO WORKFLOW

- 1 Transfer photos from camera to computer
- 2 Organize them so you can find what you want
- 3 Improve them through editing
- 4 Secure them with backup copies
- 5 Share them in ways that suit you best

TRANSFER PHOTOS

- For newcomers, most problems start with a lack of understanding of downloading
- Either they use “automatic” downloading and then don’t understand what has been done
- Or they use manual settings, but aren’t consistent in applying them.

TRANSFER PHOTOS

- I prefer a card reader to a direct cable
- Wi-fi is latest download method
- You can control the transfer yourself or let the photo software control the transfer. I say, you do it!
- You can decide where to store the photos
- You can rename the files during the transfer
- You can decide to delete the files on the memory card

WHERE TO STORE PHOTOS

- Place photos in folders that relate to dates or events
- Elements defaults to a folder for each day
 - You could also create a folder for each “Event”
- Photo Gallery defaults to a folder for each “Event”
- iPhoto creates “Events” based on your preferences and the events are stored chronologically
- Aperture offers the best of both Elements & iPhoto

WHAT TO RENAME PHOTOS

- Your camera assigns an alphanumeric name
 - Sequence numbers should be continuous
- You can change the name to some combination of a date/event/event sequence number/camera “name”

DELETE OR NOT?

- It's best to delete photos on the card after downloading to free up space and avoid multiple downloads ... but they are your only backup until you make another copy
- For safety, (1) download, (2) then make a backup copy on an external hard drive or DVD, (3) then use the camera to erase the card
- *Elements* allows you to make a backup copy on an external hard drive while you are downloading so you can safely let the software erase the card

COMMON PITFALLS

- Different pictures with the same name
- Multiple downloads of the same pictures
- The same picture with different names
- Some pictures can't be found in Elements
- Elements shows thumbnails but can't find pictures

ORGANIZE PICTURES

- You must decide how to file your pictures
- Depends on what type of pictures you take
 - Family & travel versus nature & art
- Depends on how often & how much you download
 - Group event folders by day or month or year
- Simplicity versus flexibility

KEY DIFFERENCES IN THE SOFTWARE

- Photos are not stored “in Elements”. They can be anywhere in folders on your hard drives.
- In Elements, you can only “see” photos imported into Elements
 - On a PC you can use “watch” folders to make this happen automatically
- In iPhoto and Aperture you can only “see” photos imported into the iPhoto or Aperture library.

- The default structure that Photoshop Elements uses

Pictures

20080806

20081111

20081225

20090112

20090124

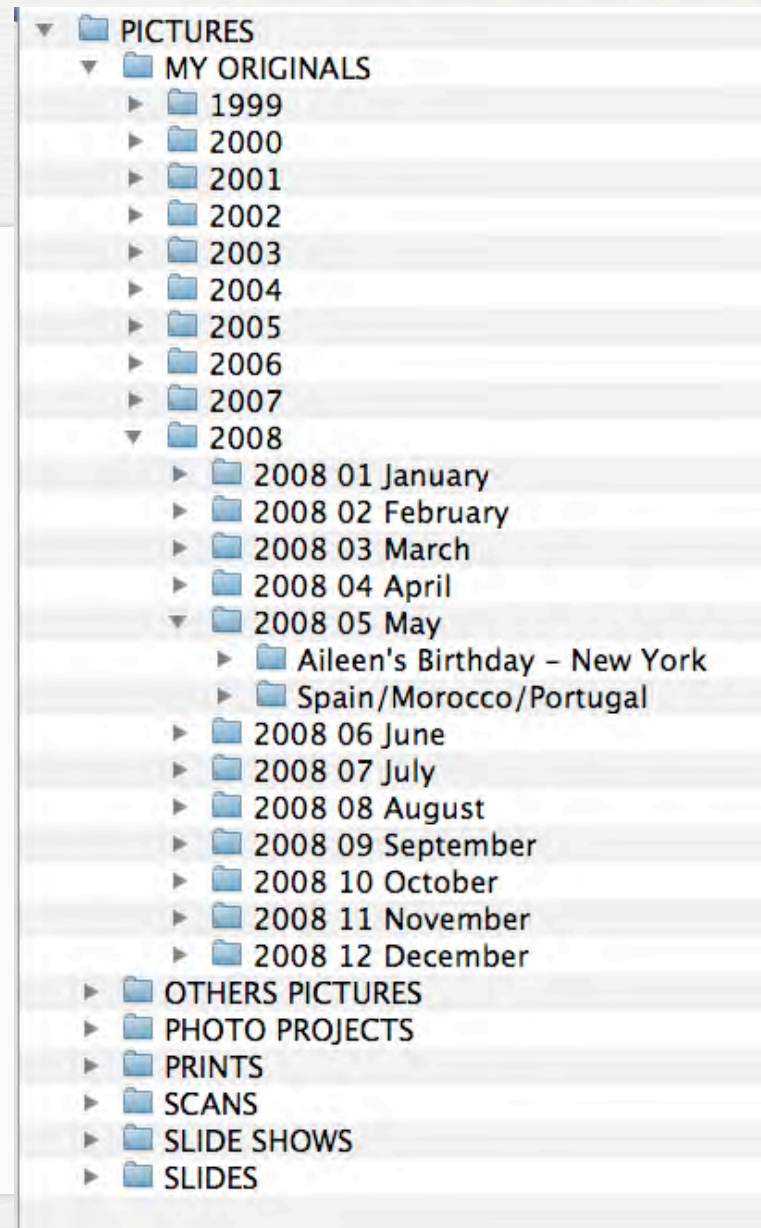
20090308

20090514

20090622

20090928

- The file structure that I use to store pictures when using Elements.



ORGANIZE PICTURES

- Delete the bad ones
- Assign *keyword tags* for people, places, subjects
- Create *Albums* for best photos or photo projects
- Decide on how to treat *versions*
- Can make copies for “Photo Project” folders

EDIT PICTURES

- Basic - Crop
- Basic - Exposure, Brightness, Contrast & Saturation
- Basic - Fix other things (redeye, blemishes, hue, sharpness etc.)
- Advanced - Get creative (levels, curves, layers, selections, filters etc.)
- Advanced - shoot & edit in Raw format
 - Change camera settings after the fact

**PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE
MAKE A BACKUP COPY
OF YOUR PICTURES!**

**TODAY ... BEFORE THE
SUN SETS!**

BACK UP PICTURES

- Make an “Originals” file on your hard drive
- Make an archive copy on an external drive
- Make an archive copy on an internet site
- Make CD or DVD copies & send one to kids

SHARE PICTURES

- Prints
- Slide shows
- Books
- Calendars
- Internet & e-mail

**FOR MORE
INFORMATION**

MORE INFORMATION

- Experiment with the lessons learned today
- Go to www.kiawahphotoclub.com for links
 - All Workshop slides will be posted there
- Read your manuals and other photo books
- Come to more of our Workshops & Lectures

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