

About Resizing Images For The Web Site

Why Resize?

Our web site is essentially rented space from a host. For that reason we have a finite amount of room to store our web page data, flyers, logs, videos and upload our photos to. In order to help conserve space so that we may continue to add to it well into the future we restrict the size of the photos that can be added to the Gallery to a maximum width of 1200 pixels and or file size of 1.5 MB. I personally recommend a maximum file width of between 640 and 800 pixels. This size limitation also serves another purpose to reduce the upload and download times for those with a slower connection.

Most digital cameras these days can produce pictures as large as 3888 pixels wide by 2592 pixels with a file size of 2.6 MB or even larger than that depending on the camera. If everyone uploaded their original, unprocessed, high resolution images, the available space would soon be used up. Of course, we all want to take our photos using the highest resolution possible for detailed viewing not to mention making high quality photo prints for posters or framing. This will mean that every time you want to add a photo to the Gallery you will need to resize it.

Preparing To Upload

There are many photo editing apps out there ranging from free to several hundred dollars that will do this job for you. Most will also resize multiple images at once all without altering the original commonly known as batch processing. Because this process, not to mention uploading them, can take some time here are a few suggestions on how to make it as painless as possible.

1. Take the time to sort through your pictures and pick the very best you would like to contribute.
2. Copy these pictures to a separate folder. This is an important step because you do not want to compromise the integrity of your originals.
3. Use your photo editing software to resize and if you wish, rename and replace the photos in that folder.
4. Upload your photos to the Gallery from this folder to minimize the number of images you must scroll through and choose.

Finding An App

Most computers today come prepackaged with some form of photo editing software. Unfortunately they are generally limited to basic image correction and cropping but resizing is not always an option. In this case you will need to find a good program that has this feature. Resizing an image requires some serious number crunching to get a good result hence not all will yield desirable results. You be the judge!

I personally use Photoshop Essentials. You can purchase it from Adobe for around \$100 U.S. My copy came bundled with my Canon DSLR camera. If you own a digital camera it too likely came with photo editing tools on a disk that may meet the requirements. If you did not bother to install the software, I would highly recommend you do that now and see what it's capabilities are.

P/C Bill Woods has found this site with a free editing tool. This also works with video files etc.

<http://www.dvdvideosoft.com/free-dvd-video-software-download.htm>

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