

DIGITAL PHOTOS



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INTRODUCTION



As technology has advanced, the way we take and keep photos has also changed. Our cameras are now primarily digital, whether you use a traditional camera or use a smartphone, which means our devices are full of computer files. But what can we do with these files?

Photographs are precious and so we want to keep them as safe as possible – and for as long as possible. As a result, there are different ways to store them using computers. Some of these options are “offline”, meaning you need extra hardware. Others are online: using the elusive cloud as storage. Both have their pros and cons, so it is up to you to determine what is best for you.

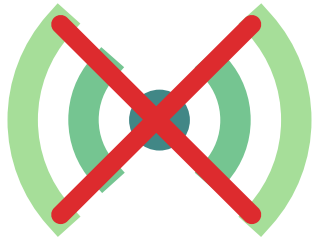
Store your photos in multiple spots. It's better to be over-protected than under.

First things first – make sure your photos are on your computer or mobile device! Any older film photos can be digitized using scanners. It is best to have a good scanner, in order to preserve the picture quality. There are some companies that will do this for you, though you will need to check with them.

In order to transfer photos from your device to your computer you will generally have to connect your device to your computer. Sometimes this happens automatically, if the program you are using on your smartphone is the same as the one of your computer (known as syncing). Otherwise, you can plug your smartphone into your computer and manually move the files over.

If you use a traditional digital camera, you can either use the same manual method or connect the camera to your computer using a Wi-Fi connection.

PHOTO STORAGE



Offline Storage

Offline storage means you are not using the Internet to store your files; instead, you use hardware devices like USBs, external hard drives, or re/writeable discs.

Pros:

- Fairly inexpensive, one-time costs
- You don't rely on Wi-Fi
- Portable and transferable

Cons:

- Technology is becoming obsolete
- They do degrade over time
- USBs and external hard drives will save viruses



Online Storage

Online storage generally refers to cloud storage. Think of cloud storage like individual safety deposit boxes in a bank: the bank (Internet) is freely accessible to anyone, but your safety deposit box (cloud storage) is a section of the bank only accessible to you. This seems to be the future of file storage and the most stable, as it is unlikely the Internet will ever go out of favour!

As long as you know your account information, you can access your cloud storage from any computer.

- Keep in mind that the cloud itself is not under your control

Risks:

- Being locked out of your account
- Being hacked
- The cloud service you chose closes

PHOTO APPS AND PROGRAMS



Most devices, whether a smartphone or computer, have a default photo program that is automatically used to view your photos. These programs can sort your photos into groups, including use facial recognition (in some cases).

Major companies like Apple, Google, Amazon, and Microsoft all have their own cloud storage services that are relatively inexpensive and user-friendly, which are great for basic storage. Google and Amazon also have photo-specific programs that are free to use with an account.



However, you can use third-party apps and programs to manage your photos. These programs will allow you to sort and store your photos, edit them, and even share them with others. Top programs include:

Adobe Lightroom

Magix Photo Manager

Google Photos

PHOTO PRINTING

There are several ways you can print your digital photos for display:

1. **At home:** You can use a standard printer or a photo-specific printer. You can even get small ones to print out wallet-sized photos straight from your smartphone! Just be aware that quality can vary based on the type of printer and paper.
2. **Use a printing centre at a drugstore, wholesale store, or photography store:** You can either walk in with your photos saved on a portable device, or set up an online account and submit your photos digitally.
3. **Use a third-party online service:** These are companies that offer only photo-related services and require you to set up an account. Many are based in the United States, so there may be price discrepancies, shipping costs, or even restrictions of use if you are in Canada.

Some of the benefits of using a store or online service are quality of the photographs, and the ability to create keepsake items using the photos!

Top printers

- Epson Expression Premium
- HP Sprocket Select
- Canon IP8720 Wireless Printer

Top print centres

- Staples
- Walmart
- Shoppers Drug Mart
- London Drugs

Top online services

- Pikto (Canada)
- Shutterfly
- Printique

REFERENCES

Photo Management:

Guides to help decide on a program

- <https://www.tomsguide.com/best-picks/best-photo-organizer-apps>
- <https://www.adamenfroy.com/best-photo-management-software>

Photo Storage:

- <https://www.amazon.ca/b?node=16055944011>
- <https://www.google.com/photos/about/>
- <https://www.adobe.com/ca/products/photoshop-lightroom.html>
- <https://www.magix.com/ca/>

Photo Printing:

Guides to help with choosing a printer

- <https://www.pcmag.com/picks/the-best-photo-printers>
- <https://www.forbes.com/sites/forbes-personal-shopper/2020/12/10/best-photo-printers/?sh=23d703f9f547>
- <https://www.pikto.com/ca/>
- <https://www.shutterfly.com/>
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