

How to Organize and Edit Your Photos

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March 30, 2014

A great tool for home users to organize, view, edit, and print photos is Google's Picasa Photo Software.

Once downloaded and installed, upon initially launching Picasa, the software will automatically scan your computer for photos, creating a library organized into albums based on your existing folder structure. Picasa will continue to monitor your folders for new photos and add them to your library.

Photo editing is easy and non-destructive. All edits are stored external to the photo and reapplied each time the photo is displayed. This technique preserves the original photo. Simple edits such as cropping, straightening, red-eye reduction, etc. are extremely easy to apply to your photos. You can add captions and create slide shows. You can even perform basic retouching with a photo brush tool.

Photo printing is flexible and easy. Just tell Picasa the size of the photo paper you are using, and you will have perfect prints all the time.

A really neat feature of Picasa is facial recognition. Choose a folder that has lots of people in the photos, and click on the 'Show People Panel' button on the bottom right of your screen, you will see thumbnail size images of all the people in the photos from the selected folder. Try it again on other folders, you will be amazed at the results.

Picasa has all the features you would expect from basic to intermediate photo software. Best of all, Picasa is free. Download from 'picasa.google.com'.