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Photo Editing Preparation for Windows PC

How to transfer your photos



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Overview

This document attempts to explain how to transfer digital photos captured on various devices to your Windows PC so that you can use Microsoft's Windows Photos to edit them.

Image Preparation

It might seem obvious, but the first step is to be able to access the image(s) you want to edit, especially if they are on a different device from where you want to edit them.

First, we need to understand where the images really are.

- Photos can be large, while memory on your device can be limited, so photos may be offloaded onto "*the cloud*" instead.
- On many devices this happens automatically without you having to do anything to set it up.
- When you see photos on your device, are they stored on your device or are they simply thumbnails for photos stored on "*the cloud*"?
- If your photos are stored only on your smart device and not transferred to "*the cloud*" or some other device, what happens if your smart device is lost, stolen, or suddenly stops working? Your photos are probably gone as well!
- The latter is not just a mechanical or electronic failure – many of the functions on smart devices will stop working if the memory becomes full.
- Even if your photos are stored on "*the cloud*", the thumbnails for them alone can fill up memory as well.
- And if they are stored on "*the cloud*", which cloud service are they stored on?

Cloud Services

The term "cloud services" refers to a wide range of services delivered on demand to companies and customers over the internet. These services are designed to provide easy, affordable access to applications and resources, without the need for internal infrastructure or hardware.

Moreover, the cloud service can be used to backup or replicate the resources on your computer so that your files and photos can be accessed over any device permitted access to it, and prevent loss if your computer or device fails.

The downside is, that in order to access your files and photos, you need to have a working Internet connection, and that isn't always possible, and response times can sometimes depend on unrelated Internet activity resulting in slow response times or delays.

Let's examine the cloud services that you are most likely to use.

Apple's iCloud

- **iCloud** is a cloud service developed by Apple Inc.
- It enables users to store and sync data across devices, including Apple Mail, Apple Calendar, Apple Photos, Apple Notes, contacts, settings, backups, and files, to collaborate with other users, and track assets through FindMy.
- Users must have a valid Apple-ID to use the service.
- If you use iCloud, It is important to understand how it works, otherwise you could find yourself losing photos.

- It is built into iOS, iPadOS, watchOS, tvOS and macOS and may additionally be accessed through a limited web interface and MS Windows application.
- iCloud offers users **5GB of free storage** which may be upgraded to 50 GB, 200 GB, or 2TB through optional paid plans. All paid plans include iCloud+ which additionally provides Private Relay, Hide My Email and Custom Email Domain.
- If you use an Apple iPhone with an Apple Mac computer, iCloud is fully integrated with both devices.
- If you use an iPhone with an MS Windows computer, iCloud requires an interface that must be downloaded from the Microsoft Store and installed on your computer.
<https://apps.microsoft.com/store/detail/icloud/9PKTQ5699M62>
- From an Android device, open a web browser and go to icloud.com, enter your Apple-ID/password to log in to your account and access your photos using Android Photos.
- Your only other consideration is the amount of space that you require and paying for that space if it is more than 5GB.
- 50GB costs NZ\$1.69/month; 200GB costs NZ\$4.99/month, 2TB costs NZ\$16.99/month.
- Many people believe that iCloud is a great place to store all of their photos and that they don't need to download them to some other device or storage medium.
- Unfortunately, this is not the case. Apple do not make it clear that iCloud is NOT a storage facility, but a syncing facility for a number of services. Photo syncing is only one of those services. Hence if you delete a photo from your iPhone, it is also deleted from the iCloud photo library - i.e. kept in sync.
- The problem is that your phone can fill up with thumbnails that cannot be deleted. You therefore you need to store your photos someplace else, enabling you to delete the photos from iCloud and clear old thumbnails from your phone before you run out of memory.

Google's Cloud

- **Google Cloud** is a cloud service developed by Google LLC.
- It is actually a suite of cloud computing services that runs on the same infrastructure that Google uses internally for its end-user products, such as Google Search, Gmail, Google Drive, Google Photos and YouTube.
- Users must have a valid Google Account to use the service.
- Google provides data storage and syncing facilities across all of your Google connected devices.
- Every Google Account comes with **15 GB of free storage** that's shared across Google Drive, Gmail, and Google Photos.
- If you fill it with files and photos your Gmail will stop working.
- When you upgrade to Google One, your total storage increases to 100 GB or more depending on what plan you choose, plus many more access privileges with Google apps.
- 100GB costs NZ\$3.49/month; 200GB costs NZ\$4.99/month, 2TB costs NZ\$16.99/month.

Microsoft's OneDrive

- **OneDrive** is a cloud service operated by Microsoft.
- It enables registered users to share and synchronize their files.
- OneDrive also works as the storage backend of the web version of Microsoft Office.
- OneDrive offers 5GB of storage space free of charge, with 100GB, 1TB, and 6TB storage options available either separately or with Microsoft 365 subscriptions.
- The OneDrive client app adds file synchronization and cloud backup features to its device.
- The app comes bundled with Microsoft Windows and is available for macOS, Android, iOS, Windows Phone, Xbox 360, Xbox One, and Xbox Series X and S.
- In addition, Microsoft Office apps integrate directly with OneDrive.
- Microsoft don't just want you to use their cloud, which they seem to try and force you to do at every opportunity, they also want you to use their Microsoft 365 apps which are bundled into their subscription pricing, although only OneDrive and Outlook for the Basic 100GB plan.
- 100GB costs NZ\$3.00/month or NZ\$29.00/year,
1TB costs NZ\$10.00/month or NZ\$119.00/year,
6TB costs NZ\$16.00/month or NZ\$165.00/year.

Other Cloud Services

There are numerous of companies offering cloud services, and you can learn more by checking the Internet for yourself, as they are outside the scope of this document.

Photo Sources

For most users, images will come from one of 3 sources:

1. Digital cameras
2. Android phones and tablets
3. Apple iPhones and iPads

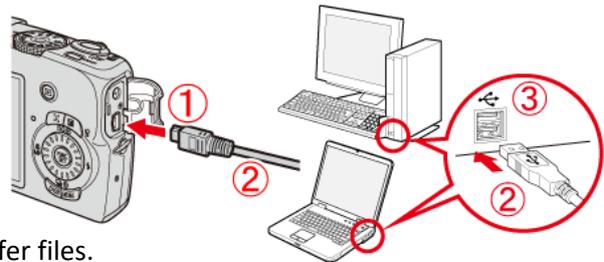
Digital Cameras

While some digital cameras do have limited built-in editing facilities, it is generally easier to transfer the images to a PC for editing.

Digital Cameras Option 1 (USB Cable)

Some digital cameras have provision to connect a USB cable between your camera and the computer that provides data transfer.

1. Connect your digital camera to your computer using a USB cable that can transfer files.
2. Turn your camera on.
3. On your PC select **Photos**.
4. Select **Import > From a connected device** and follow the instructions.
5. Wait for the content to load from your device.
6. Select the photos you want to import for editing.



Digital Cameras Option 2 (Proprietary Software)

Many digital cameras also come with software provided by the manufacturer for transferring images to your computer. Some may require the use of a USB cable while others may use a Wi-Fi connection. The operation of the software will depend on the manufacturer, and will typically come with reference to an online help file (paper manuals are seldom supplied). Therefore, follow the instructions supplied if this is your preferred option.



Digital Cameras Option 3 (Storage Device)

Some cameras may require you to remove the storage device, normally an SD card, and insert that into a USB card reader that is connected to your computer. In this situation, the storage device can be accessed using File Explorer, and files copied to wherever you require them.



Android Devices

Most Android smartphones and tablets will store their photos locally (on the device) and accessible via the Gallery, or on the Google Cloud and accessible via the Google Photos app. Both of the above are directly accessible by the Edit facility of the respective tools. If you are storing your photos on some other cloud, then you will probably already know how to drive it.

Android Devices Option 1 (USB Cable and Photos)

The option can be used when the photos you want to edit are stored locally on your device.

1. Connect your device to your computer using a USB cable that can transfer files.
(This will normally be the cable you using for charging.)
2. Turn your device on and unlock it – your PC can't find the device if the device is locked.
3. On your PC select **Photos**.
4. On Windows 10, select **Import > From a connected device** and follow the instructions.
On Windows 11, select **Import** and then select your device from the list.
5. Wait for the content to load from your device.
6. Select the photos you want to import for editing.

Android Devices Option 2 (USB cable and File Explorer)

This option can be used when the photos you want to edit are stored locally on your device.

1. Connect your device to your computer using a USB cable that can transfer files.
(This will normally be the cable you use for charging.)
2. Turn your device on and unlock it – your PC can't find the device if the device is locked.
3. On your PC select **File Explorer**.
4. Locate your device under **This PC** and double click on it.
5. Select **Phone > DCIM > Camera**.
6. Wait for the content to load from your device.
7. Select the photos you want to transfer for editing.

Android Devices Option 3 (OneDrive)

This option can be used when the photos you want to edit are stored locally and you have installed the OneDrive app on your Android device (often already installed) to transfer the photos.

1. Log into OneDrive from your Android device and copy your photos to the Pictures folder.
2. On your PC connect to OneDrive > Pictures and access your photos using Windows Photos.

Android Devices Option 4 (Bluetooth)

This option can be used when the photos you want to edit are stored locally on your device and you want to transfer the files via Bluetooth. The process is a bit messy and not very quick, but it does work – Microsoft needs to do it better, especially since Windows 11 is even worse.

The first step is to pair your device with your Windows PC:

1. Turn your device on and unlock it – your PC can't find the device if the device is locked.
2. Make sure that Bluetooth on your device is turned **ON**.
3. On your PC select **Settings**.
4. From Settings select **Bluetooth & devices**.
5. Make sure Bluetooth is turned **ON**.
6. Click on Add device, select your Android device from the list of devices, and pair.
7. You will be prompted to enter a security code (provided), otherwise, you are paired. Tap OK to the message on your device and then click on OK to a similar message on your PC.
8. Once paired, the information should be retained for future use.

To receive a photo from your device using Windows PC:

1. Turn your device on and unlock it – your PC can't find the device if the device is locked.
2. Make sure that Bluetooth on your device is turned **ON**.
3. On your PC select **Settings**.
4. From Settings select **Bluetooth & devices**.
5. Make sure **Bluetooth** is turned **On**.
6. Check that device is paired (connected), otherwise pair the devices as explained above.
7. For Windows 10, select **Send or receive files via Bluetooth** from the panel on the right.
For Windows 11, click on **Devices** in the main panel, then scroll down to **Related settings** and select **Send or receive files via Bluetooth**.
8. Then click on **Receive files** – a message **"Waiting for a connection"** is then displayed.
9. On your device, find the photo you want to transfer and tap on **Share** .
10. From the list options that display, tap on **Bluetooth**
11. Then select the device that you want to connect to.
12. The file will then start transferring.
13. Once transfer is complete you must save the file onto your PC.
14. A default location somewhere on OneDrive is displayed, or you can select **Browse** to specify where you want the photo saved.
15. Click on **Finish** to save the file.

Android Devices Option 5 (Wi-Fi)

This option can be used when the photos you want to edit are stored locally on your device and you want to transfer the files via Wi-Fi. It will require an Android app to be installed on your device, such as AirDroid, Droid Transfer, Feem, Wi-Fi Direct, Xender, etc, although you use these at your own risk. Each app comes with its own procedure to follow.

Android Devices Option 6 (Google Photos)

This option can be used when the photos you want to edit are stored on the Google Cloud rather than on your device.

1. On your PC select **Google Photos**.
2. Log into your Google account if you haven't already.
3. Display the photo you want to edit – you can edit the image using Google Photos., else do:
4. If you want to use Windows Photos instead, hover the cursor over the image, right click on it and select "Save as" from the menu to save the file to wherever you wish.
5. You can then edit the saved file using Windows Photos.

Apple Devices

Apple iPhones and iPads store their photos locally (on the device) and accessible from the Photos app, and/or if iCloud Photos is turned on they are automatically uploaded to Apple's iCloud where there are accessible via the iCloud Photos app on any other device with access to your Apple-ID.

Apple Devices Option 1 (USB Cable and iTunes)

The option can be used when the photos you want to edit are stored locally on your iPhone or iPad and you have installed the **iTunes app** on your Windows PC.

1. Connect your device to your computer using a USB cable that can transfer files.
(This will normally be the cable you use for charging.)
2. Turn your device on and unlock it – your PC can't find the device if the device is locked.
3. In the iTunes app on your PC, click the **Device** button near the top left of the iTunes window.
4. Click **File Sharing**
5. In the list of the left, select the app on your device that you want to transfer from, e.g. Photos.
6. Select the file you want to transfer in the list on the right, then click **Save To**.
7. The file is transferred to your device or saved in the location you specified.

Apple Devices Option 2 (iCloud)

The option can be used when the photos you want to edit are not stored locally on your iPhone or iPad but on Apple's iCloud, and you have installed the **iCloud app** on your Windows PC.

1. On your PC select iCloud for Windows and login using your Apple-ID and password.
2. On your PC select **Photos**.
3. In Windows Photos, next to photos, select Options
4. Select **iCloud Photos** from the menu.
5. Wait for the content to load from iCloud.
6. Select the photos you want to import for editing.

Apple Devices Option 3 (OneDrive)

This option can be used when the photos you want to edit are stored locally and you have installed the OneDrive app on your Apple device to transfer the photos.

1. Log into OneDrive from your Apple device and copy your photos to the Pictures folder.
2. On your PC select **Photos**.
3. Click on Folders
4. Select **OneDrive**.
5. Wait for the content to load from OneDrive.
6. Select the photos you want to import for editing.

Apple Devices Option 4 (Bluetooth)

This option can be used when the photos you want to edit are stored locally on your device and you want to transfer the files via Bluetooth. The process is a bit convoluted and not very quick, but it does work.

The first step is to pair your device with your Windows PC:

1. Turn your device on and unlock it – your PC can't find the device if the device is locked.
2. Make sure that Bluetooth on your device is turned **ON**.
3. On your PC select **Settings**.
4. From Settings select **Bluetooth & devices**.
5. Make sure Bluetooth is turned **ON**.

6. Click on Add device, select your Apple device from the list of devices, and pair.
7. You will be prompted to enter a security code (provided), otherwise, you are paired. Tap OK to the message on your device and then click on OK to a similar message on your PC.
8. Once paired, the information should be retained for future use.

To receive a photo from your device using Windows PC:

1. Turn your device on and unlock it – your PC can't find the device if the device is locked.
2. Make sure that Bluetooth on your device is turned **ON**.
3. On your PC select **Settings**.
4. From Settings select **Bluetooth & devices**.
5. Make sure **Bluetooth** is turned **ON**.
6. Check that device is paired (connected), otherwise pair the devices as explained above.
7. For Windows 10, select **Send or receive files via Bluetooth** from the panel on the right. For Windows 11, click on **Devices** in the main panel, then scroll down to **Related settings** and select **Send or receive files via Bluetooth**.
8. Then click on **Receive files** – a message **"Waiting for a connection"** is then displayed.
9. On your device, find the photo you want to transfer and tap on **Share** .
10. From the list options that display, tap on **Bluetooth**
11. Then select the device that you want to connect to.
12. The file will then start transferring.
13. Once transfer is complete you must save the file onto your PC.
14. A default location somewhere on OneDrive is displayed, or you can select **Browse** to specify where you want the photo saved.
15. Click on **Finish** to save the file.

Apple Devices Option 5 (Wi-Fi)

This option can be used when the photos you want to edit are stored locally on your device and you want to transfer the files via Wi-Fi. Combined Wi-Fi and Bluetooth is used by Apple's AirDrop app, but that does not work with Windows.

1. For Windows, it will require an Apple app to be installed on your device, such as WiFi Photo Transfer.
2. This app appears to upload your photos to a website where you can retrieve them using your PC, which is virtually the same as using iCloud but with less security. Why bother? It seems better suited to videos.
3. You use this at your own risk.

Apple Devices Option 6 (Google Photos)

This option can be used when the photos you want to edit are stored locally and you have installed the Google Photos app on your Apple device to transfer the photos.

1. Log into Google Photos from your Apple device and upload your photos to Google Photos.
2. On your Windows PC, log into your Google account, if you haven't already.
3. Start Google Photos.
4. Display the photo you want to edit; now you can edit the photo using Google Photos.
5. If you want to use Windows Photos instead, hover the cursor over the photo, right click on it and select **"Save as"** from the menu to save the file to wherever you wish.
6. You can then edit the saved file using Windows Photos.

Smartphones and Tablets (if all else fails)

Email your photos as attachments between devices.