



Google Photos: One Photo App to Rule Them All

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What if there was a photo app that could manage all your photos and give you unlimited backup space? There is one. It's called Google Photos. Google's facial recognition technology lets you create shared albums, collages, animations, movies, stories, and much more. It's totally free and unlike any other photo app out there.

THE PROBLEM OF PHOTOS

Mylio estimates that 1.2 trillion photos were captured in 2017. This is based on one billion people owning cameras or phones and taking less than 3 photos per day or 1,000 pictures per year. Digital photography has changed the landscape for literally everyone. However, with all this picture taking, people still lose photos, and many don't know how to organize them. Have you ever lost data from a computer or a phone? Have you ever lost photos and can't get them back? Google photos will help you keep track of all your photos and let you organize, edit, and share them with ease.

ACCESSING GOOGLE PHOTOS

There are really two ways to access Google Photos. If you have a phone or a tablet, go to the app store, and download the app. If you have a newer Android phone, the technology might already be built into your phone. If you have an iPhone, just download the app. When you log in with your Google account, choose the option for unlimited storage. Yes, the photos will be lower resolution, but you'll never run out of space. If you want to access your photos online, just go to photos.google.com, and sign in. Remember, a lot of functionality on the mobile version hasn't made it to the desktop yet! The ability to create videos is one example of this.

BACKUP

Backing up your photos is easy in Google Photos. If you take pictures on your phone, just snap away. Then when you get to a place you can use wifi, just connect, and open the app on your phone. It will automatically back up your photos. Remember, you can back up unlimited photos and videos for free, up to 16MP and 1080p HD. Once you've backed up your photos, you can access them from any phone, tablet, or computer.

FEATURES

The power of Google Photos is in the features. Unlike Google Drive or Dropbox, which just let you upload and organize your photos, this app does a whole lot more. This app also works on Apple and Android phones!

1. Assistant—This is one of the best things about the app. Basically, this assistant builds stuff for you. If you like it, you keep it, and if not, you just discard it. It will build collages, videos, custom photos, animations, etc.
 - a. Collage—collages are super easy to make. Just click on a few photos, and then click the **+ button** to make a collage.
 - b. Animation—animations are usually made from photo bursts (a bunch of pictures taken at the same time). Again, click the photos, and create it.
 - c. Movie—this is one of the best things about the app, but it only works on the mobile version for now. Highlight a bunch of photos, or search for something, and then make a movie after you click the **+ button**. You can edit it and even add your own music right there in the app!
2. Photos—This is basically your photo stream. All your pictures are kept here, and they are organized by year. I upload a lot of photos from my phone weekly, but I've also uploaded a lot of scanned photos over the years.
3. Albums—This is one of the ways you stay organized. You can easily create albums and organize the pictures you upload. They are easy to share, and you can send a link or invite people to contribute their photos to the same album. Social albums are a great tool feature.

EDIT

Once you have a few photos in the tool, you can edit them. It's a simple process to do, and the changes you make are simple to save. Google used to have an offline tool called Picasa, where you could edit photos, and now it's been discontinued in favor of Google Photos.

SEARCH

The same great search technology that Google employs can now be used for your photos! One of the best features of this tool is the facial character recognition used to basically create people albums for you. Just click in the search bar and tag people, and it will organize the photos for you. Remember, the photos are organized and searchable by the places and things in them.

SHARE

Sharing is easy in Google Photos. You can share individual photos or albums easily. I'll often go on a trip, then come home and connect to wifi, and back up the photos. Then I create an album on my phone and send it out to others—no messy attachments in emails.

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