Underlying theme

- Memorialize an event, that can be shared, with a nice looking friendly output, no ads or junk
- Portable, modifiable, and take-overable, editable standalone output (static or responsive!)
- Control and maintain your own content and website
- Originals not touched!

Getting Started

quickstart / screenshots

- **Making your first album**: Drag a directory of images onto the form… a webpage is autogenerated. You can also drag Youtube URL's onto the form and a video section will be inserted above any pictures.
- **Preview**
  a. **Built-in**: A preview automatically pops up when the album is dragged on (or click "Preview")
  b. **Your Browser**: To render in your own default browser, click the "Webpage" link
- **Thumbnails**
  a. **Arrows** (near thumbnail)
    - Left mouse Click to navigate forward and reverse through the images
    - Left-mouse-hold down to zip forward and reverse through the images
  b. **Mousewheel** scroll with cursor over thumbnail will navigate thru the images
- **Moving between albums**
  a. **Making subsequent albums:** Drag a new directory of images onto the form at any time
  b. **Previous albums**: Click **History** in upper left to look at previous albums
  c. **Use TitleView for albums of albums**: For nested albums see **TitleView**
- **Publish**: For publishing your new webpage to the internet See **Publishing**

Generated Web Page

example websites

- **Click Preview button or "Webpage" link** to see the generated web-page
- **Images**:
  a. Those images in the preview or webpage can be clicked for a larger image
  b. Once viewing a larger image, drag images or use the arrows to slideshow thru them
- **Videos**: Those videos added will play like normal YouTube videos
- NEW **Timeline**: If enabled, a **timeline** will show at the top where you can hover and see thumbnails
- **Map**: If **Mapping** was enabled, and the images had GPS coordinates, then an interactive map will be shown at the bottom of the generated webpage, and placemarks will be on each image.
- **Social**: If enabled, you can **comment** on, **like**, and **download** images by clicking the respective icons

Tidbits

- Images can be added/deleted from the Windows directory, and PPG will auto-update
- Album settings are saved for each album, so you can pick up where you left off
- Double click the thumbnail on the main form to see the original image
- Double click the Image Directory path to open up Windows Explorer to that directory
- Images are auto-rotated as necessary
- Any size or aspect ratio images are supported… they will auto-fit
- Resizable forms for better visibility and control
- I have experimented with directories with 500+ images without issue
- If you "lose" the preview window, click "reset" (next to Preview button)

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Album Settings

There are various settings on the main form that you can set to control what your generated album looks like, and how you want the album created. The adjustable settings themselves are highlighted below in **green**.

- **Header Settings:** Adjust **title**, **subtitle**, and **description** as desired. These will show up at the top of your webpage. You can add HTML to format it further if you are familiar with HTML formatting. For the description, text/HTML that is between "[[" and "]]" will be put into a footer at the end of the web page.

- **Video Settings:** Add **videos** by dragging YouTube links (see **Videos** below for more details)

  Finding videos or getting your videos into Youtube is your responsibility. Once you have done that, or using any that are there, the following will easily put them in your album. Here is an example website of what it can look like.

  - **Adding Videos to your album**: Drag a Youtube link onto PPG . This can be done repeatedly for multiple videos. New ones are added at the end of the list. They can be added by one the following methods
    - Drag any Youtube thumbnail from their website onto PPG
    - Drag the little icon to the left of the address in your browser's address bar onto PPG
    - In the Videos text box (or pulldown), type in the Youtube ID, followed by a comma, followed by the desired width in pixels, followed by ' x ' followed by the desired height in pixels. An example is:

      V-Cb9x70gYQ, 400 x 250

      Do one per line if there are multiple
  - **From a file or playlist**: Drag a .csv file (a text file with the extension .csv, or a spreadsheet tool like Excel can save as) that contains a list of youtube id's, 1 per line, onto the PPG form. Other commas and data can be on the rest of the line in the file (it isn't used). It just needs to contain the youtube id on each line. These videos will all be added to your album. If you want an actual Youtube playlist, there are various tools on the internet which allow playlist-to-csv file.
  - **Making a page of only videos**: Drag an empty directory onto PPG, then follow steps above for "Adding Videos to your album" or "From a file or playlist"
  - **Configuring Videos**: Once videos have been added, as described in the prior methods, they show up as a list in the "Videos" section of PPG, something like:

    V-Cb9x70gYQ, 400 x 250
    zSBsq6HBBzw, 500 x 300
    rRbHTeAcJLQ, 400 x 250

    The first field is the YouTube ID, and the second field is the width x height. You can configure the numbers to reflect what the video is, or how you want it to look on your webpage. You can also add:
    1. carriage-returns/line-feeds as desired to space things out
    2. comments/captions (just type text on the lines preceding or following the Youtube ID's)
    3. HTML tags to format the text (e.g. <h2> For heading, <b> for bold, <font…> for color, etc.). Don't add HTML tags unless you are familiar with HTML formatting.
  - **Formatting**: Do you want videos formatted the same as thumbnails (rotated, likes, comments, border, matting, etc.)? Then check "and videos" under the Thumbnails formatting section.

- **GPS/Map Settings**: If your images have embedded GPS data, a map can be created at the bottom of your webpage, with placemarks shown which represent various images. There are two main settings:
  a. **Map background type**: roadmap, terrain, or hybrid (of roadmap and satellite)
  b. **Map type**: Interactive or Static. The static type has existed in PPG from the beginning.

Map type	Advantage	Disadvantage
Interactive	Best user experience. • Representation for all bookmarks • Zoom and pan by users • Bounding box or sequential path	• The album will become stale over time if Google changes how mapping is done (probably many many years though) • Heaviest weight on website
Static	• Saves for all time, the current map/context into an image that will never go stale. • Lightest weight for website.	• Not interactive (no zoom/pan by users) • Only shows max of 36 placemarks • No bounding box or sequential path

Interactive map



Interactive maps allow users of the album to zoom in/out, pan around, and click placemarks to see the image. The map is autozoomed to show all placemarks when the webpage is loaded. It also shows in the preview as interactive. Zoom and centering are not needed in PPG controls since the user will zoom and center as desired. For title pages, the map will be autogenerated with all underlying placemarks from all underlying albums, color-coded to the album they were in (this could be hundreds), and makes for a quick reference of all images in a collection of albums.

Static map



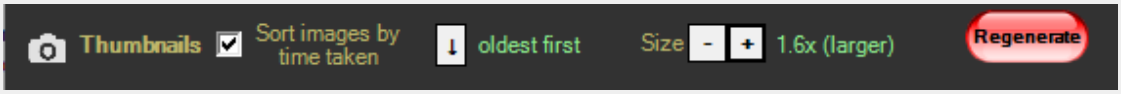
Static maps are the main map mechanism that has existed in PPG forever. It renders a map at the time of creation in PPG only. It is not live updated every time your webpage is loaded by a user. It is meant to be as it existed at the time of creation. Only 36 images are practical to show placemarks. Which 36 are auto-selected by PPG based on maximum separation from all others, and also on specific separation from a minimum 5 pictures in the sequence. There are a few settings:

c. **Zoom**: 1-20, with 1 being the world, and 20 being max zoom
d. **Center position**:



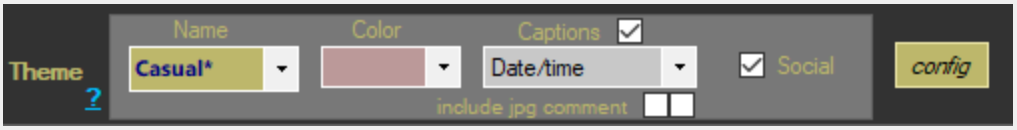
- **Using displayed points**: The default center of the map is the geographical average of the center of all the images. However, if you zoom too far in, you may see no placemarks on your map since there may be no placemark actually at the center.
- **Point nearest center**: The map will be centered at the point nearest the center. Therefore, you are guaranteed to see a placemark
- **Other individual points**: Allows you some options of where to center your map. This list is built based on the images available for place-marking

- **Thumbnail settings:**



  a. **Sort** the images by one of the following, depending on whether the sort option is checked:
     - Time the picture was taken (selectable clicking of arrow button for oldest or newest first)
     - Alphabetical (selectable clicking of arrow button for A to Z, or Z to A, or random)
  b. **Size**: Change the thumbnail size bigger or smaller to suit the desired arrangement. If the size gets too large or small, a "**Regenerate**" button may show up to allow recreation of the thumbnails so that they look the best for the size they are.

- **Theme Settings:**

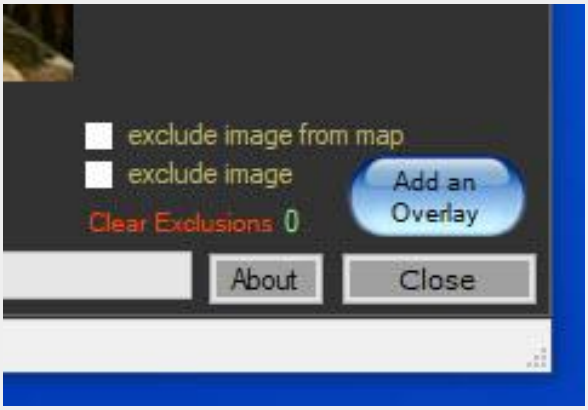


Pick a **theme** and **color**, then enable **captions**, **caption type**, and/or **social** (i.e. likes/comments). The theme underlying settings are configurable by clicking the **config** button… see **Theme Configuration**.

Note that if captions are enabled, there are 2 checkboxes below the caption selector, to also include the image's JPEG comment and/or JPEG description as part of the caption. Also note that an asterisk (i.e. *) after the name of the theme indicates that the theme has been modified (not permanently!) from it's default state.

Exclusions

In the bottom right of the thumbnail on the main form, you can opt to do either of the following:



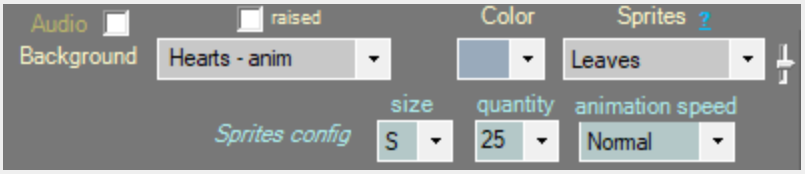
- **exclude image** from the album altogether when you decide you don't want to show it for some reason on the webpage. If an image is excluded, the option below to exclude it from the map, is not present (since it's GPS won't be used if the image is excluded)
- **exclude image from map**: This is convenient to use when you want to include the image in the album, but not have it show up on the map, since maybe the image's GPS is incorrect and it pollutes the display with a placemark in the wrong place, or extends the bounds of the map area incorrectly as a result.
  This checkbox will only be present if the image actually has GPS embedded in it.

After clicking either, it automatically advances to the next image. This allows for rapidly excluding a group of images. You also have the option to **Clear Exclusions**, and revert to using all of the images in the directory. **This operation can not be undone.**

It is best to uncheck GPS/Map while excluding images (since the map is re-rendered each time an exclusion is made, and this thrashes Google).

Theme Configuration

By clicking the “config” button next to the theme controls, many more settings are available, as follows.



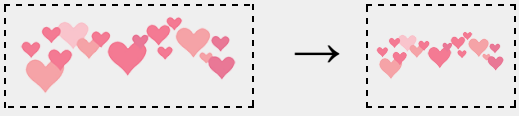
Background Settings

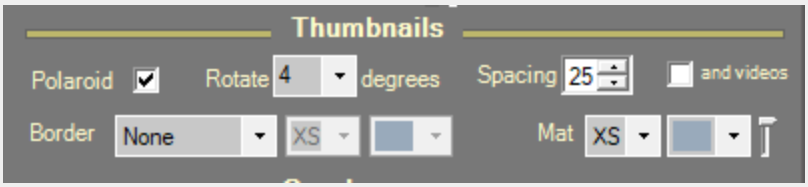
Select from various **background** patterns and **colors**. There are several synthesized backgrounds, animations, and seamless image-based backgrounds to choose from. You can also use your own image as a background by simply dragging the file onto PPG. If an image is used, a **transparency slider** becomes visible, right next to the background selector. Use this to make the background more prominent, or softer. Just to the right of that is the **gradient slider**. This controls how light the top of the webpage is. This is handy for making the text at the top easier to read. Use the 2 sliders together to create the desired effect. Supported background images are JPG, GIF, and PNG. The GIFs and PNGs can be animated. Especially slick when “seamless” images are used. The **raised** checkbox allows the content to be raised off the background.

An **Audio** checkbox will be present if an MP3 audio file has been dragged onto the form, which controls whether the audio file will play with the loading of the webpage. See the subsequent section entitled “Audio / Background music” for more details. There are several nuances with regard to audio, how its played, and what happens on different browsers.

Sprites are icon-sized background objects which will slowly fall from top in the background. They will not render in the Preview (since the preview feature browser predates when support for such things was added… this is not a worry), but will render in your browser if you click “webpage” or once the page is published. There are options that will be seen only if you have them enabled. The **type** of sprite can be one of the included types (leaves, bubbles, balloons, etc.), or they can be custom (by selecting CUSTOM as the type), in which case you should drag between 2 and 20 .**png files** on the form, and they will render. The number you drag on becomes the unique set used to render from. The **quantity** rendered is selectable and will pull from the available unique ones for each type. The **size** is settable from tiny to extra small (XS) to extra large (XL).And the **animation speed** is a combination of fall speed and swing back-and-forth speed. It ranges from near-standstill to insane. There is a small slider next to the sprite type. This indicates **transparency** of the sprites. The higher the slider, the more opaque. The lower the slider, the more transparent. A middle settings is a good default as it softens the overall look. See an example here. For best effect:

- **Use small files** (like icon size). You can theoretically use any size, but large files will take long to load.
- **Use PNG images with transparency** for the nicest effect
- **To resize individual custom sprites** with respect to each other, modify the aspect ratio of a sprite image. PPG makes all the vertical sprite sizes the same. To make a given sprite appear smaller, add transparency to the vertical dimension. See how PPG scales these 2 images to have the same vertical height, but the right one is smaller because of more transparency vertically...





Thumbnail Settings

Besides the overall thumbnail settings already mentioned in the “Album Settings” above (like size and sorting method), there are several theme-based settings configurable by clicking the “Config” button.

a. **Polaroid**: Adds a border (or backdrop in the case of transparent PNGs), mat, and drop shadow. And also enables the border and mat settings. With Polaroid off, there is no mat or border, and so those settings are hidden in that case.

b. **Rotate**: Additionally, you can rotate the images by a selectable number of **degrees** (you can also type in a number). If set to 0, no rotation is applied. If set above 30 degrees, the rotation is additionally random. For example, if set to 90 degrees, it will be random between 45 and 125. This makes for a more pleasing effect than a hard number of rotation, especially for big rotations.

c. **Spacing**: modify the spacing between images (both horizontal and vertical).

d. **Border**: You can add a **border** to the thumbnails, including changing its **size**, and **color**. Sizes range from XS (Xtra Small) to XL (Xtra Large). The “frame+” border is the most sophisticated, and renders an authentic-looking picture-frame type border.

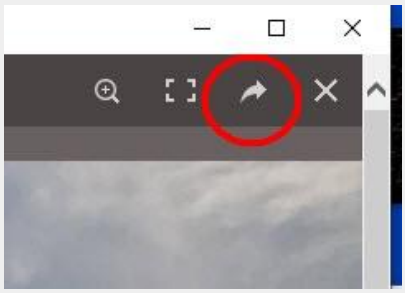
e. **Mat:** You can change the mat **size** and the **mat color**. Sizes range from XS (Xtra Small) to XL (Xtra Large). The slider just to the right is a mat-**transparency** slider, from opaque to transparent. This can be used to allow the background to bleed thru the mat.

f. **And videos**: This enables using these features (border, mat, etc.) on the videos in the video section. This defaults to off, since it seems more pleasing without it.

Share Settings



If using the Enhanced/Swipe lightbox mode (the default mode) in the overall Application Settings, there is an option that will show on the PPG form to enable/disable that mode’s feature of allowing a user to click an image on a webpage, whereby a “share” arrow shows up in the upper right corner of that image to allow a user to share the image on social media (Facebook, Twitter, etc.).



This feature will not show up if you are not in Enhanced/Swipe lightbox mode.

This mode defaults to enabled, but can be disabled by un-checking it.

Overlay Settings



- **Where**: Location of the controls on the thumbnails can be On Top, Bottom, or on the image top or bottom. Top/Bottom puts them in the mat area if there is a mat (on the image if not).

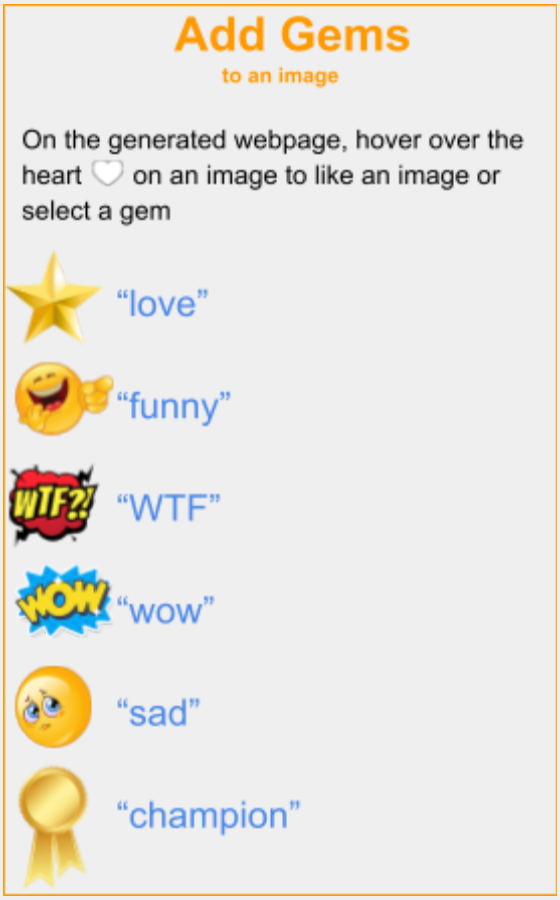
- **Placemarks** can be placed on images if the image has GPS coordinates in the metadata. This will be a link to Google Maps with the proper location.

- **"Like" mechanism:** If checked, will put a small white heart on each image. If clicked, the like count will increment and color changed to red. It is only clickable once by any given computer (although it can be "unclicked" by clicking it again… the count will decrement by 1 if you have already "liked" the image).

  A key will be added to the top of the webpage showing what the different colors mean, and the associated like tallies for the webpage.
  - image has been liked by someone (other than you)
  - image has been liked by you

  Gems can be added to any image on the webpage as well for making a more emphatic statement. User names are added to the gem to indicate who selected it. The key is to the right..

  ***Note**: although the hearts will show in the preview webpage, the clicking and color-changes will only work once you publish the website since the mechanism uses server-side dynamic coding (i.e. PHP) to work, which generally only runs on conventional servers.*



- **Download:** Places a download icon on every image, which allows users to download that image.

- **Thumbtacks:** Enabling this feature will put a random-color thumbtack on the top center of images, making it look like it is pinned to the background. You can select a thumbtack, nail, darts, or tape.The color and orientation is randomized to be less uniform and give a more realistic effect.

  tack  nail  dart  tape 

- **Captions**: See **Captions** below for more details

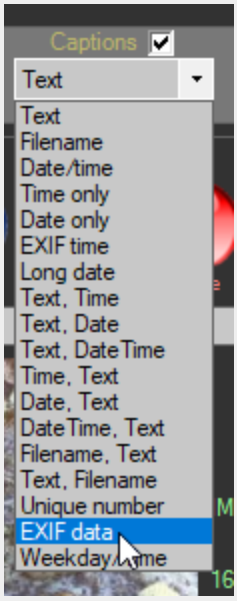
Captions



If Captions are enabled (in the theme settings), then each image can have a caption, which is displayed on the webpage. Add HTML tags as desired to format the text (e.g. <h2> For heading, <b> for bold, <font…> for color, etc.). Don't add HTML tags unless you are familiar with HTML formatting.

There are several settings when using captions (available by clicking 'config' in theme area):

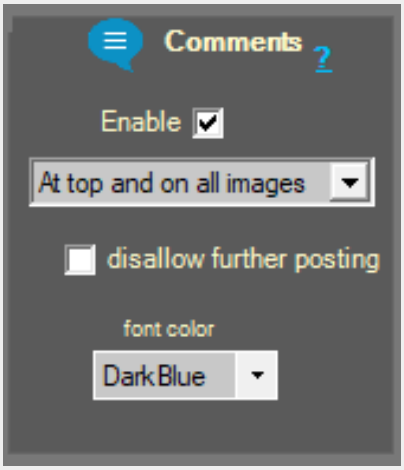
- **Where**. Captions can be in the border/mat area of the image at the top or bottom, or directly on the image on the top or bottom. This setting also controls where the "Likes" and "Placemarks" are placed.
- **Style**: There are a variety of choices to choose from, including plan, handprint, cursive
- **Color**: Captions can be a variety of colors, depending on the look you are going for.
- **Size**: The caption size is controlled by the + and - symbols at the end of the caption settings. This is just a bigger/smaller kind of thing, not an absolute size, since all fonts have different proportions.
- **Type**: You can have the caption be simple text, or various combinations which include text and/or the date, the time, both date and time, EXIF data, unique numbers, etc. This setting is in the theme area (see to the right for types available).



This feature is not to be confused with the Overlays button/form, which etches the actual images with captions and other data. That is, they can be turned on and off at will.

NEW Note that if captions are enabled, there are 2 checkboxes below the caption selector, to also include the image's JPEG comment and/or JPEG description as part of the caption.

Comments



You can **enable** user-posted comments with **selectable placement** at the top of the web page, or for each photo, or both. A comment box and a post button are added to the web page, and a sign-in avatar is added to the upper right. The only thing required for the sign-in is a name (this is not a secure system… only open up comments on pages where you send it to people you trust!).

Check out the example website, where you can see the result and experiment.

Once comments have been gathered, you can optionally "**disable further posting**" so that the comments are displayed on the web page, but no other comments can be added. You can also change the **color** of the text of the comments (if using themes, this is already handled, but can be overridden).

There is a limit per image of 25 comments, afterwhich no more would be accepted.

Note: comments use PHP (server side code), and so do not work in the Preview (although the buttons and sign-in are seen)… they will only work once your web page is published to a conventional server. The 3rd party services built into PPG (like Google Drive, Microsoft OneDrive, Netlify, etc.) do NOT support this (talk to them!), as they are not conventional servers.

Audio / Background Music

Under the theme configuration, in the background settings, is a checkbox entitled **Audio**. However, it will only be visible if you first drag an MP3 audio file onto PPG. It will automatically play when the page is loaded (including in the preview page). Dragging a new MP3 file onto the form will update the music to play that.

It will play as follows:

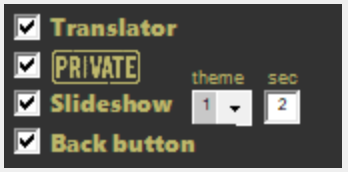
- Slideshow enabled: it will play only on the slideshow page
- Slideshow not enabled: It will play on the main album page

Note:

1. **Chrome**: On older versions of Chrome the audio will autoplay but only play once and not loop. On the most recent versions (2019), it will not play at all. This is by design, by Google. They now expressly prohibit autoplaying audio without a user authorizing it somehow, every time.
2. **Other browsers**: On other browsers, it will autoplay upon page load, and it will loop forever.
3. **Conflicts**: If you had several albums with audio and had them all loaded, you will have a lot of conflicting audio being played. Beware that making a webpage play audio has implications.
4. **Stopping audio**: Closing the page with the audio playing will make it stop playing

Miscellaneous Settings

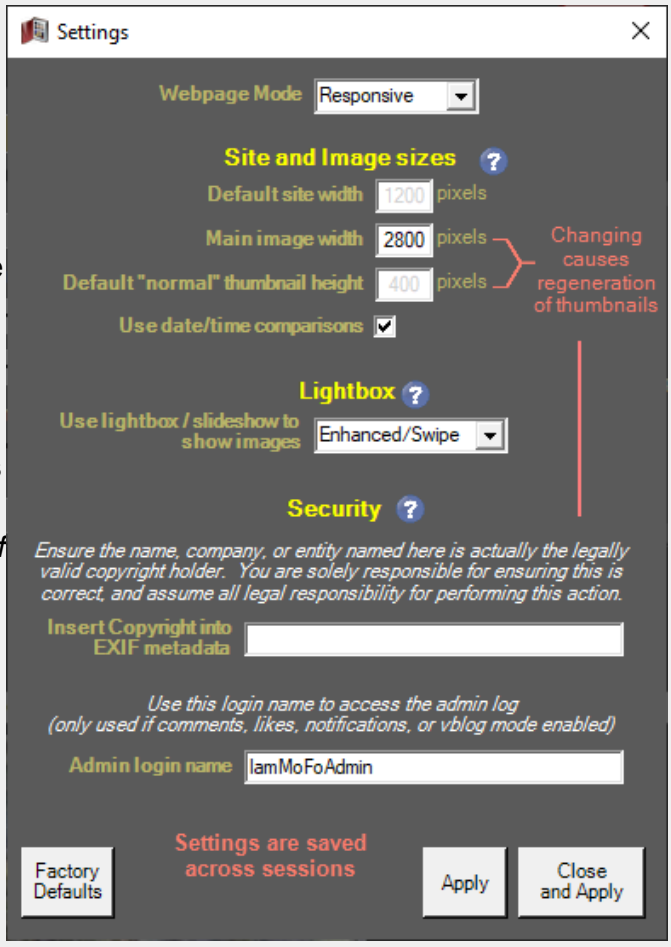
- **Translator:** Adds a Google **translator** pulldown at the top of the webpage allowing the webpage to be displayed in any language.
- **Private**: If **private** is enabled, a robots metadata tag is added which tells search engines not to index this website. Use this if you do not want your webpage found by search engines once published. You should realize a few things:
  a. This is NOT a guarantee. Not all search engines necessarily abide by this, especially the unscrupulous ones
  b. It is only meant to assist you in this regard



- **Slideshow**: Adds a link to the webpage to a **slideshow**. You can pick the **theme** and **slide duration**.
- **Back button**: If enabled, places a back button at the top of the webpage. So if a website links to the PPG webpage, clicking this will take you back to the prior webpage. Works exactly like the browsers back button. Just allows for easier navigation. Especially useful when using sub-albums under a title page.
- **Timeline:** If enabled, will insert an appropriately scaled timeline near the top of the page (with or without thumbnails shown on hover).
- **Site Width**: Indicates how many pixels wide you wish the content area of your website to be.Only present if not in the Responsive lightbox mode in Overall Settings (because it is meaningless in responsive mode since the webpage auto-ex[ands to the browser size).
- **Notifier**: Selecting **notifier** will cause an extra field on the sign-in dialog for an email address. If that is entered by a user, henceforth, any updates to the album (that is, adding images, editing images, or removing images), or any new comments or likes, will cause an email to be sent to the email address entered. This will occur when the “upload album” button is clicked on the Publish form. At this time, the person clicking the Publish button will also get a notification (in a browser window) of who is subscribed, and was sent the update.

Application Settings

Overall application settings are configured by clicking the gear icon at the top of PPG. These settings are saved across sessions and configure the general behavior of PPG.



- **Webpage mode:** Select static or responsive. **Static mode** s the age-old main mechanism for most older versions of PPG and maintains a certain width for the webpage, the images, etc.. **Responsive** mode makes the webpage dynamic and fully responsive to browser size (and so very mobile friendly) and as well. Example here.The best user experience is with Responsive mode. See the table under lightbox below for a comparison of what is supported in what release.

- **Default site width**: If the site width in album settings is corrupt or can't be determined, this is the site width that will be used and set for a given album. *Only valid if lightbox mode is not "responsive".*

- **Main image width**: This is the main image width when clicking a thumbnail on the web browser or preview. The original images are resized to this size, and this is what is transferred to the server.

- **Default normal thumbnail height**: This controls the "normal" size of the thumbnails. The album settings Size buttons (the + and -) can make this bigger or smaller for individual albums. *Only valid if lightbox mode is not "responsive".*

- **Use date/time comparisons**: File date/time comparisons are used to regenerate (re-create the thumbnails and main images) only what is needed every time an image is updated, removed or otherwise changes after an album is already created. If Windows is not behaving correctly, these date/times of files are incorrect, everything will be regenerated every time. To avoid this, turn this feature off if it is a problem. A problem has never been seen, except on some network drives. It is handy to leave on, unless there is an issue.

- **Lightbox**: There are 3 settings possible, described below.
    a. **No lightbox**: this will cause clicked thumbnails to show an underlying image in the browser, but not be slidable to the next image. You will have to click the "back" button on your browser to get back to the main page of images. This is the lightest weight from an HTML/webpage perspective, but is not the best user experience.
    b. **Normal**: This is the normal lightbox that has been in PPG since the beginning. It allows sliding between images once an image is clicked. This is a very traditional lightbox.

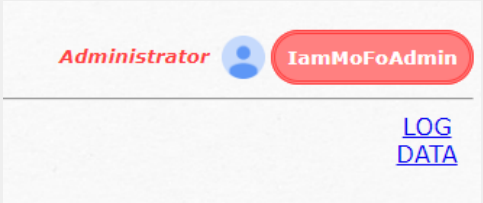
c. **Enhanced/Swipe**: When the albums images are clicked, it will gray out the background, and zoom into the image, and you have ways to cycle through the zoomed images in a slideshow type fashion, including swiping with the mouse (if on desktop) or with your fingers (if on a mobile). You can also zoom by clicking, or pan by dragging once looking at an image. This is the heaviest weight, but is also the best user experience.

This chart shows all possible combinations of lightbox, webpage mode, and raised panel that are supported, and in what version, since most of this was just recently added. In summary: 7.1 added raised panel option, 7.2 added responsive mode but only for the enhanced lightbox and without raised panel, and 7.5 added all possible combinations and they all look pretty decent.

Lightbox	Web page type	Raised panel	Supported release			
			≤ 7.0	7.1	7.2, 7.3, 7.4	7.5+
None	static	no	Y	Y	Y	Y
		yes	-	Y	Y	Y
	responsive	no	-	-	-	Y
		yes	-	-	-	Y
Normal	static	no	Y	Y	Y	Y
		yes	-	Y	Y	Y
	responsive	no	-	-	-	Y
		yes	-	-	-	Y
Enhanced / swipe	static	no	-	-	-	Y
		yes	-	-	-	Y
	responsive	no	-	-	Y	Y
		yes	-	-	-	Y

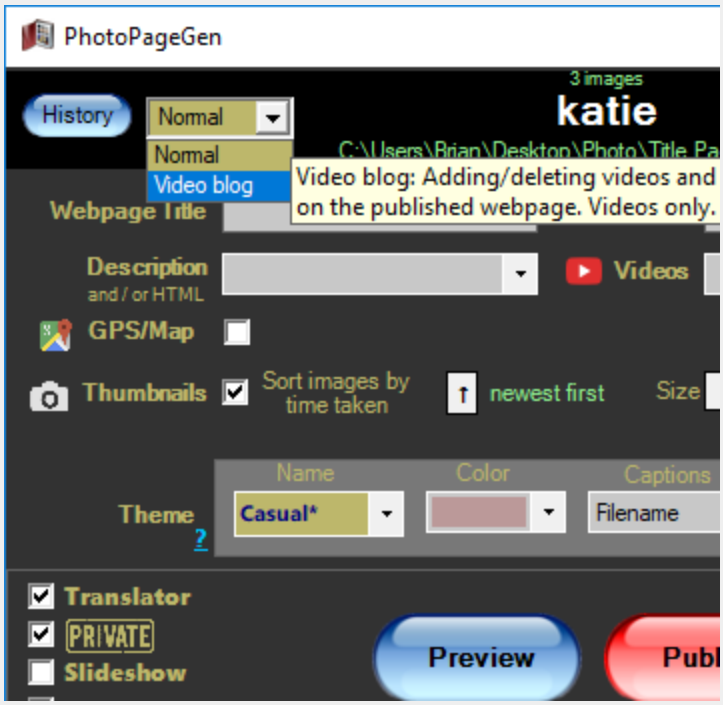
- **Insert Copyright**: Modify (or assert) the copyright holder name in the EXIF data embedded in the image. Ensure the name, company, or entity named here is actually the legally valid copyright holder. You are solely responsible for ensuring this is correct, and assume all legal responsibility associated.

- **Admin login name**: When comments or likes are enabled, or in VideoBlog mode, if this name is used to login to the webpage, the admin LOG and DATA can be seen in the upper right of the webpage, near the login avatar, and the word Administrator will be present (**these will not be seen in the preview**). Additionally, if in VideoBlog mode, videos can be added/deleted, captions can be changed, and the title and subtitle can be changed… all directly on the website.



Video Blog mode

An example is here.



This new vblog mode is totally distinct from "Normal" PPG operation. It is not to be confused with the above method for adding videos. In this new Video Blog Mode, PPG can create an infinite depth video blog that is totally managed from the website by an admin. Once PPG creates it and it is published, you never need PPG again to update it, add/delete videos, change the headers, etc.

To create a video blog:

1. Enter this mode by selecting it in the upper left of the GUI and change from Normal, to Video blog.
2. Then just drag an empty folder onto PPG.
3. Configure any settings you like. There aren't many. Mostly just related to background, and colors.
4. Go into the main overall settings (gear icon), and make sure you add an Admin login name.
5. Publish it to a standard server (i.e. one that can run PHP… not Google Drive, OneDrive, etc.)
6. Add/delete videos, modify headers/colors as desired, directly on the published webpage, first logging in as the administrator. You can even add HTML in the header (for other images, text, links, etc.)

Notifier

If you checked **Notifier** on the main PPG form, then the login form of a website contains an area to add an email address. Anyone who does this will be notified by email of any new videos added.

Admin functions on web page

If you login on the webpage as the admin, then you can subsequently:

- Change the Title/Header and subtitle of the website (by clicking it)
- Add a text/HTML in the description area (by clicking it). This will only show on the main page
- Look at the log
- Add and delete videos (by dragging youtube URL's to the designated area on top)
- Caption videos (by clicking the caption area, right above the video)

User functions on web page

Users can "like" videos, comment on videos, and add gems.

Publishing

There are several ways to publish your new webpage to the internet.

1. **Using your own server**: Copy it yourself (the whole directory, or whole directory minus the originals since they are not needed) to your server that hosts your website.

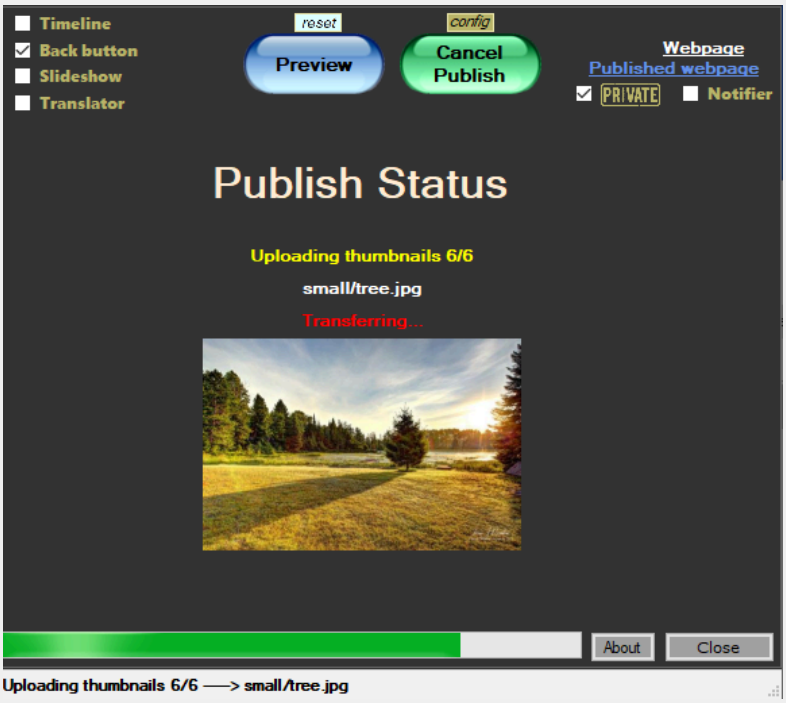
2. **Using a 3rd party server**: Copy it via whatever means the 3rd party provides to install new web pages and images. Sometimes this can be exactly like above, using FTP or drag/drop.

3. **Use PhotoPageGen**: Which can do all of the following:
   a. FTP to your own server
   b. FTP to a 3rd party server that supports FTP (like Bluehost)
   c. Use the instructions in PPG for various 3rd parties. Currently support Netlify, NeoCities, Google Drive, and Microsoft OneDrive.

To configure publish settings on next page

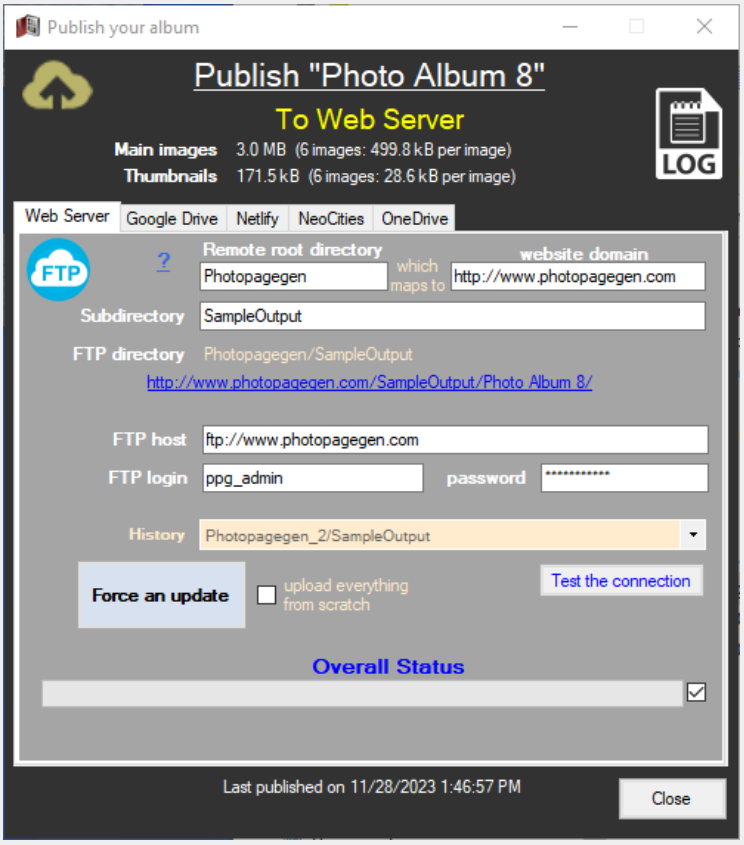


Once click the 'Publish' button:
1. publishing begins (button changes to 'cancel')
2. preview area updates with transfer status
3. status bar changes to publishing status



To A Server (with FTP)

For method 3a and 3b above, using PPG to auto-transfer to a server, click the config button above the Publish button. Once configured, clicking the Publish button will transfer any files needing transfer.The following settings may be configured.



- **Remote root directory**: is the directory path on the server that maps to the top level of your website. That is... if you FTP files to this root directory, they would show up in a web browser at the website domain URL
- **Website domain**: your top level website domain
- **Subdirectory**: This is one level up from the directory path of the server machine where your album is to reside (or resides). If one-level-up dir does not exist, it will be created.
- **FTP host**: Your or 3rd party FTP host. An example would look like: ftp://www.photopagegen.com
- **FTP login/password**: Your FTP login credentials.
- **Force an Update**: Uploads the whole album. Normally, just clicking the Publish button on PPG will transfer whatever it thinks it needs to. But this button will force date-checks on the server too. It shouldn't normally be needed unless there are suspected issues.
- **Upload everything from scratch**: When forcing an update, ignore all time checks and force upload of every file.
- **Test The Connection**: Does a simple test to see if you are talking to your FTP server. If this fails, do not bother with other transfers. The most likely cause is usually either bad FTP credentials, or a bad FTP directory Or your server is not enabled for FTP transfers.

Derived from the settings above… ensure these are what you expect before proceeding:

FTP directory to where files will be copied :
[remote root directory]/[subdirectory]
Published URL where your new album will be available on the internet:
[website domain]/[subdirectory]

NEW Double click on the FTP directory to see a directory listing from the server.

NEW If the FTP directory does not exist, it will be created on the server.

You may find it handy to use an FTP client (like FileZilla) to poke around the directory structure and understand how things are configured on your server.

To A 3rd Party Host

Instead of FTP, you can publish to Netlify, Neocities, Google Drive, and OneDrive; usually by drag/drop or a folder-select dialog.

For each of these, basically follow the instructions on each tab in the Publish form.

In all cases:

- you can do this completely outside of PPG (i.e. PPG is not needed… once your album is created, just put your album in one of those 3rd party places)
- then just put the link in PPG, for future reference (and history/logs)
- You do NOT need to transfer the originals… they are not used for the website

Netlify: This is probably the easiest one. Just go to their site, and drag your directory of images to it.

Google Drive: Google themselves abandoned hosting websites on Google Drive (at end of 2016), but a 3rd party company DriveToWeb made it trivial to host all the content there and still render the site. See warning below.

NeoCities: Very similar to Netlify, only slightly more pro, and slightly more complicated. Just go to their site, and create an account and transfer your site there.

Microsoft OneDrive: Very similar in concept to the Google Drive option. A 3rd party company DriveToWeb made it trivial to host all the content there and still render the site. See warning below.

Warning on Google Drive and Microsoft OneDrive:
These methods both use DriveToWeb, which would have permission to view all files on a user's Google Drive/OneDrive and is thus vulnerable to reflected XSS. After you set it up, Google stores a cookie in your browser to remember DriveToWeb as authorized. This cookie persists even after closing the browser. While we have not personally seen issues, you need to realize that DriveToWeb has access to your respective accounts, and if they were unscrupulous or they themselves got hacked, your Google or Microsoft accounts would be vulnerable. It is therefore not recommended to use these services unless you have throw-away or single-purpose accounts that don't contain sensitive data, or… research DriveToWeb yourself to become comfortable with how they operate, and understand the risks. See the security section at the end of this document for more details.

Log

There is a “Log” icon in the upper right of the Publish form, which outlines all of your transfer activity. There are two different logs maintained. As follows:

1. **Standard Album Log**: This has 1 entry for every album transferred. That is, if the same album is transferred again (as might be the case when the settings/index-file is updated), it overwrites the last entry for this album (and then puts it at the top, so the latest transfers are always shown first). It’s a better way to see the state of every album you ever transferred.

2. **All transactions**: This basically shows all transfers that took place in time order. So it will be much larger than the Standard Album Log.

Misc

The publish button on the main form will turn red, if:
- An album was previously published, and…
- It has been updated (by changing a setting or image for example)

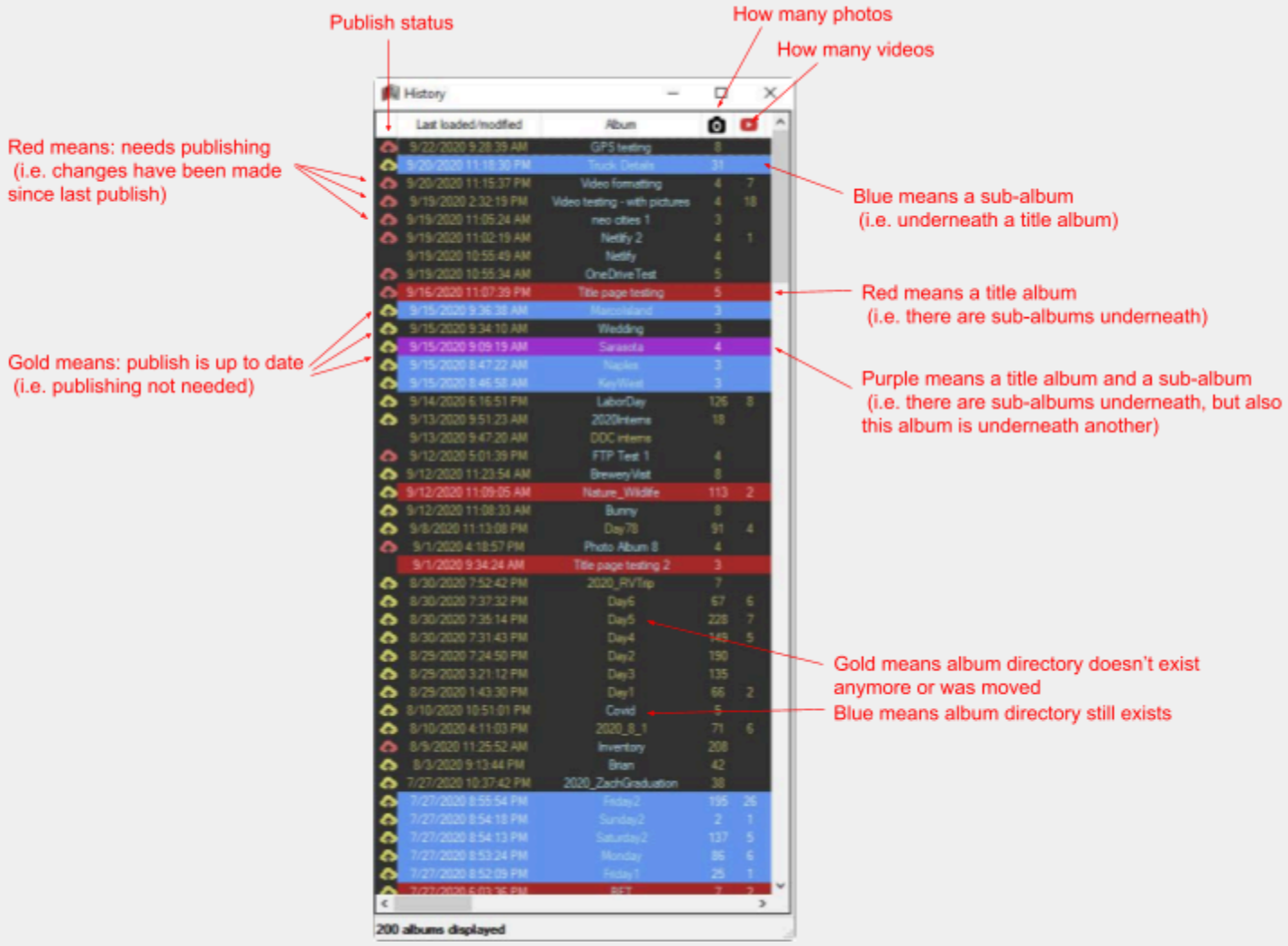
The publish icon in the history log, and on the publish form, will turn red as well, for the same reasons.

History

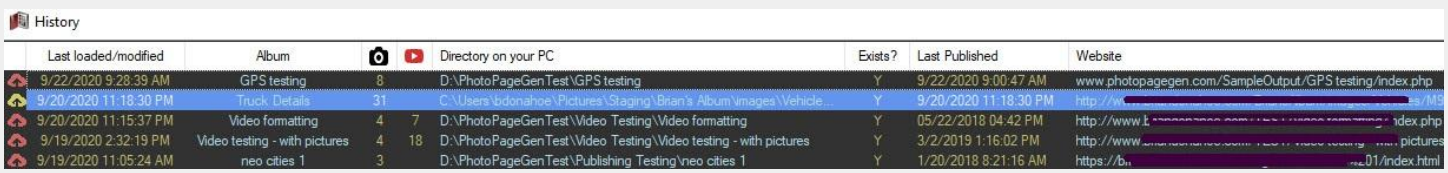
Clicking the history button brings up a form that shows the album history, from most recent, to oldest. You can click on any line, and it will load that album (assuming it exists). The meanings of the various colors and objects is shown below.



The window can be expanded or scrolled vertically to show more entries, going back in time. The window can be expanded horizontally to show more detail about any entry, including the directory on the PC, whether it still exists or not, when it was last published, and the current website it was published to.

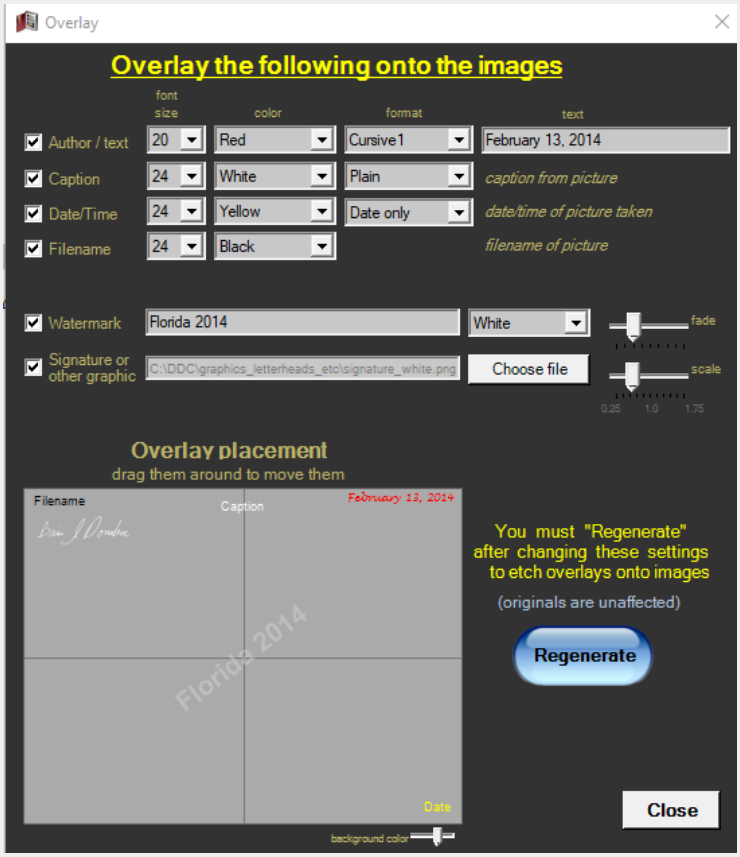


Expanded horizontally



Overlay

Overlays can be etched into the images in the album, by clicking the “Overlay” button. The overlays are embedded into the images directly, although the originals remain untouched. Keep in mind that this is not to be confused with the captions on the main form, which are displayed *above*, *below* or *on top of* the images, but not actually embedded/etched into the images. With this overlay function, the fields are actually embedded into the jpg images and become part of the image. For these embedded overlays, you can control various things like **font size**, **color**, and **format**, as is applicable.



There is an “Overlay Placement” area at the bottom of the form to move your overlays around as desired. This mechanism is sort of corner-centric (i.e. things in lower left corner would be lower left in the image, etc.)

The overlay settings are as follows:

- **Author/text**: Use this to embed an author’s name or some other desired text
- **Caption**: This embeds the caption from the ones you have previously entered for each image, if any
- **Date/Time**: This embeds the EXIF date/time of the image
- **Filename**: This embeds the image filename into the image
- **Watermark**: This embeds a semi-transparent diagonal selectable text into the image. The transparency is controlled with the **fade** control
- **Signature/graphic**: This embeds an imported image file that contains a graphic, and that graphic is embedded into the image. You can **scale** the size of that graphic.

Once you have properly configured your overlay settings, you must **Regenerate** the album, which recreates all of the images (both thumbnails, and main images) which etches the overlays into the images (the originals are unaffected).

Overlays always start with the originals as the base, and then etch the large images created for the website. Thus, nothing is destroyed, and you can modify the overlays as you see fit. It’s just that you will have to regenerate each time you change a setting.

Keyboard Shortcuts

These work after subsequent albums are loaded:

- **Ctrl-1*:** Adjust all settings to be from previous** album, except the titles, description and videos.
- **Ctrl-2*:** Adjust all settings to be from previous** album, including titles, description and videos

* You may need to click on the PPG for this to work. Also, this feature is less relevant when first creating a new album, since new albums use previous settings anyway. It is more relevant when you like settings from a different album, and want to use them for your current album

** The word "previous" means any album last loaded (by drag and drop, or by selecting from album log (i.e. it does not work across sessions).

Title Page / Nested Albums

Example here, which happens to contain all the demonstration albums. This link “is” a title page. You can create a top level album that has sub-albums underneath, and clicking an image opens up the subalbums (instead of just zooming the image like normal). **Basically, this will automatically occur if PPG detects a directory name that exactly matches an image filename in the same directory (ignoring the .jpg)**

In a directory of subdirectories of images that have had PPG run on them…

1. *add identically named images that match the corresponding subdirectory name*
2. *then drag this directory on PPG (or click it in the TitleView)*

How does a title album look different than a normal album?

it automatically changes a few settings to make it look distinct (all can be overridden manually by adjusting settings):

- Title albums are shown in thumbnail as a display stack of images. That’s how you can tell it detected an album as having content underneath
- It captions the sub-albums with the directory name, on top of the image, and in big font (if there is an html “<br>”, the 2nd line (i.e. subtitle will be a different color and smaller)
- It spaces out the thumbnail stacks to isolate the albums more and look more distinct
- Comments and likes statistics are aggregated from album underneath and automatically display underneath the title album thumbnail. GPS markers are also aggregated onto the map. And the timeline will aggregate all images underneath as well.

Example

If you have a directory called MyAlbum, which contains:

- 3 directories SubAlbum1, SubAlbum2, and SubAlbum3 (each which contain photos)

You could now add 3 representative images to the MyAlbum directory (besides the 3 directories):

- SubAlbum1.jpg, SubAlbum2.jpg, and SubAlbum3.jpg

and then if you drag MyAlbum onto PPG, an album will be created where if you click one of the images, the corresponding SubAlbum will be displayed (instead of a zoomed image).

TitleView



If any title album is loaded or any subalbum of a title album, the entire tree structure of the whole album tree is shown just off to the right of PPG. It auto-resizes as necessary (large trees can be accommodated), and it is always present for title albums. The top-most row is always the top album of the whole tree.

This TitleView shows the

- directory structure of the entire album
- number of images and videos in each album in the structure
- publishing status for each album in the structure
- if the album is connected: Red text in the table means: this album is not “connected” yet. That is, it may be a directory of images, even already built into an album with PPG, but it is not yet navigable from the top album because a jpg file with the same name as the directory does not exist in the album above, yet. In some cases, you may not intend for an album to be connected.

The TitleView is auto-updated as necessary. That is, when:

- new images or videos are added to or deleted from any album in the tree (i.e. added or deleted from the Windows file system directory structure)
- publishing of any album in the tree is performed
- albums are added to or deleted from the tree (i.e. added or deleted from the Windows file system directory structure)

The LED’s next to the album name indicate the publishing status (hovering over the LED will show the status in the bottom status bar of the TitleView window). These LEDs have the following meanings.

LED	Publishing status
	**up to date**: the album has been published and there are no detected changes needing publishing
	**stale**: there have been changes to the settings or images since it was last published
	**not published yet**: or not detected as published yet. This is not a guarantee it was never published. It simply indicates no records are found locally indicating it was published.
	**not a PPG album yet**: perhaps just an empty directory, or a directory of images that has not been made into an album yet with PPG

Summary of Things you can Drag onto PPG

Normal Mode

- **Directory of images**: autocreates an album (i.e. a webpage) of the images as thumbnails
- **Youtube URL:** Adds the chosen video to your album in a video section at the top. Any number can be added.
- **.csv file of Youtube videos**: Adds every youtube video in the file to your album in a video section at the top of the album. Just a simpler method to do a lot instead of 1 at a time method above.
- **Image URL**: Downloads the image and adds it to your album
- J**PG, GIF or PNG image**: Makes the image be the background of your album
- **MP3 audio file**: Adds background music to your album
- **favicon.ico**: An icon file that will become the icon used in your browser tabs or bookmarks
- **2-20 png images (if sprites enabled)**: If sprites are enabled (by having something other than "None" selected from the sprites dropdown under "Config->Background"), these will be treated as custom sprites. If sprites are not enabled, the 1st of the images dragged on will become the background image.

Video Blog Mode

- **Empty directory:**: autocreates a video blog website. Nothing else is needed. All videos, comments, descriptions, headers, etc. are edited directly on the published webpage. PPG is only used to first create the blog. After it is published, you never need PPG again to handle the video blog (unless you wanted to change the background, border, mat, or other formatting).
- **favicon.ico**: An icon file that will become the icon used in your browser tabs or bookmarks

Known Issues/Limitations

- **Image filenames**: with a single quote (i.e. ‘) in the name will cause a crash of the page and the page will not load if comments (and possibly likes) are enabled on that page. To avoid this… Don't use image filenames filenames with single or double quotes in them
- **Audio**: On the most recent versions of Chrome (2019+), background audio will not play at all. This is by design, by Google. They now expressly prohibit autoplaying audio without a user authorizing it somehow, every time.
- **Admin issues**: It is intended that the admin's name never show up in a log (it should just say "Admin"), but sometimes still does under certain circumstances.
- **Links in captions**: Hypertext links don't work in captions (yet) for the Enhanced/Swipe lightbox mode (set in the overall settings). It works with the other lightbox modes. The Enhanced/Swipe mode is otherwise superior in most ways, to the other modes (which is why it is the default), but if you need to put links in the captions, you will need to choose another lightbox mode until this is addressed.
- **Videos in preview**: With the advent of the new Preview on it's own thread, only if youtube videos are present, and only if the Preview is closed and then re-opened (clicking the 'X' in the upper right hand corner, and then clicking Preview), the videos will not always re-render… white boxes will be there instead sometimes. To avoid this: don't exit the Preview window, or... close PPG, and reopen it. This does not affect rendering in any other browser, nor with clicking "Webpage" or with anything published. It is purely a Preview artifact (because Preview uses Internet Explorer).

Security

Realize that there have been thousands of pages created with PPG… I personally have not been victim to any of these issues or been made aware of any of these issues by users. I just state them since I recently did a cybersecurity audit of the pages created by PPG, and wanted to share the results.

PPG was originally intended to be used in trusted environments (your friends, family, groups, etc. who you share the link with). However, should you desire to go more public, realize a few things below with the pages PPG creates:

1. **Google Drive / OneDrive publishing**: One of the publish methods (DriveToWeb) used to host on Google Drive or OneDrive should NOT be considered secure. DriveToWeb has permission to view all files on user's Google Drive/OneDrive and is vulnerable to reflected XSS (cross-site-scripting). After you set it up, Google stores a cookie in your browser to remember DriveToWeb as authorized. This cookie persists even after closing the browser. Don't use this publish method unless you understand the implications, and are comfortable with them. See the security note in the Publishing section above.
2. **Commenting**:when comments are enabled, beware of a few things (when not enabled, these are not an issue):
   a. **Cross-site scripting (XSS)** can theoretically happen under certain conditions. The user input is reasonably sanitized against common things, but has not been tested for complete sanitization. This could allow an attacker to leave a comment that might cause a pop-up or other page graphics, etc. in certain cases. I will be improving this over time.
   b. **Null byte injection** can occur if you are using a server with PHP version less than 5.3.4 (pretty old… they are up to 7.4 now). An attacker could execute a comment as PHP and run arbitrary (albeit user-level, not admin) commands on the server, which could corrupt your site files, etc.
   c. **Bogus comments**: Whoever has the link to your PPG site has the ability to add bogus comments, so be careful who you share it with.People can also fake who they are.
   d. **Correcting issues**: Realize you have the ability to edit the .txt files on the server PPG creates underneath the graphics directory to remove any junk that might show up from users. You also have the ability to "disable further posting" in the config panel (and republish), which will display existing comments, but disable future posting. This is a good idea once an event has been commented on, but you are going to leave the site up for a long while.
3. **General security**:
   a. **Admin login name**: If using likes, comments, or notifications; where the "Admin login name" is used… realize it is generally hidden from the logs and users being able to discover it, but it should NOT be considered super secure to a knowledgeable hacker. Also, it is stored in the local browser cache, and can be discovered by users of your computer if they knew how to find it.
   b. **Logs**: The logs are not admin-protected, so if a user (i.e. especially another PPG user!) knows the URL of the PPG site, they can derive the path to the log and see it. There is not super-sensitive information in the log, and it is not generally known to a site's visitors, but it is possible to find under certain circumstances. It is mostly used to log likes and comments.
   c. **To be most secure**: To avoid the majority of security issues and/or use a PPG site totally publicly where the whole internet might be visiting:
      i. Use the "Private" checkbox to keep search engines from finding and indexing your site
      ii. Avoid using likes, comments, or notifications, but if you do, check the logs often
      iii. Use a robust server / host to house your site (i.e. do not use DriveToWeb)