The Villages Computer Club

The Villages Computer Club will meet at 1 p.m. Friday June 28 st at Lake Miona Recreation Center.

 The program will feature a presentation on "**Protecting and Backing Up Your Data**" by Bob Walton.

 This is something to think about now while your data is accessible. Don't wait until you have a problem and can't get to your data.

 Following the presentation will be refreshments, door prizes and a problem solving session.

 If you have a computer problem you can't resolve, fill out the troubleshooting request form found at thevillagescomputerclub.com and bring it to the meeting. Forms are also available at the meeting. Ask for one when you pick up your door prize ticket.

 Guests are always welcome, please bring your village ID card. For information or to sign up to be on the VCC email list, visit the website or email Paul Rabenold at TVCC.Pres@gmail.com

 thevillagescomputerclub.com

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Pictures to Picasa

Q. How can I move pictures sent to me as attached files into my Picaso2 folder?

Answer
1.Save the photo's you downloaded from email into a folder (not Picasa's folder). I recommend you create sub-folders in your My Pictures folder in order to make it easy to find certain pictures. (Remember Picasa does not copy your pictures to the Picasa program. It merely indexes the pictures it finds on your computer to make it easy for you to find them while working in Picasa.
 a. Rightclick Start...Explore.
 b. Click the My Documents folder and scroll down to the My Pictures folder.
 c. Click once on My Pictures folder to select it, then click File...New...Folder. Give the folder a name. Click Enter twice.
 d. Now, locate the downloaded photos and drag and drop them into this subfolder of My Pictures that you created. (You may create many subfolders in order to organize pictures further into such things a Vacation 2008, Vac 2010, Marys Family,etc.
2. Now, you need to tell Picasa where to look for your pictures..
 a. Start Picasa and click on the Tools tab. Then click on Folder Manager.
 b. In the Folder Manage box, click on the folder or folders you want Picasa to scan to find new pictures you have added.
 c. Once you select the folder, check the box with the icon that looks like an Eye and is labeled "scan always".

If you created your folder in step 1 under the My Pictures folder, then all you need to do is make sure that Picasa is set to scan the My Pictures Folder. This will cause it to scan all the folders under my pictures every time you start Picasa or add new pictures while Picasa is running.

Note: Picasa doesn't actually move pictures, files and/or folders, it simply creates an index file so it knows where your pictures are located. It then displays them and lets you work with them in that folder. I know it "looks" like the pictures have been moved into Picasa, but they haven't.

Note: Warning!!! If you DELETE a picture from Picasa, it will be deleted from the folder where it is stored….the My Pictures folder or other folder that is used to store Pictures.
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Picasa3

Click here: Picasa 3: Free download from Google

Note: below is a link to a web page that has a "Forum"-type exchange regarding a user's loss of photos uploaded to Picasa - *because he was not aware of how the Program works*. This link will help you to understand what Picasa does and does NOT do.

http://www.google.com/support/forum/p/Picasa/thread?tid=385f541f5231b5d1&hl=en

Together, Picasa & Picasa Web Albums make it easy to organize, edit and share your photos.

1. When you launch Picasa, you can immediately organize and edit the photos on your hard drive. Picasa can also help import pictures from your camera.
2. Try sharing pictures online with Picasa Web Albums. To get started, simply select photos that you'd like to share, and press the 'Upload' button.
3. Try adding name tags to your photos on Picasa or Picasa Web Albums. Click "Unnamed People" in Picasa to get started.

Click here: Getting Started Guide - Picasa Help

- Two things to know
- Add your photos
- Organize your photos
- Edit your photos
- Share your photos

- [Discover more features](#)

Two things to know

The Picasa software provides a simple way to view, edit, and organize the photos on your computer. As you get started, there are two things you should always remember:

- **Picasa does not store the photos on your computer.**
  When you open Picasa, it simply looks at the folders on your computer and displays the photos it finds. It displays the file types that you tell it to find, in the folders that you tell it to search.

- **Your original photos are always preserved.**
  When using editing tools in Picasa, your original files are never touched. The photo edits you make are only viewable in Picasa until you decide to save your changes. Even then, Picasa creates a new version of the photo with your edits applied, leaving the original file totally preserved.

Add photos to Picasa

Use Picasa to view photos already on your computer, or to import photos from your camera.

Add photos already on your computer

Once you've [downloaded and installed](#) Picasa, you have total control over the photos that Picasa displays. Picasa shows you the photo and video [file types that you tell it to find](#), in the [folders that you tell it to search](#).

Organize your photos

The folder list on the left is the hub for Picasa organization. By scrolling through this list, you can access all photos displayed by Picasa. To understand Picasa organization, you need to understand the following three collections:

- **Folders**
  Folders in Picasa represent the folders on your computer. You [control the folders](#) that are scanned and displayed by Picasa. Changes you make to folders in Picasa affect the corresponding folders on your computer's hard drive. For example, if you delete a photo in a Picasa folder, that photo is also deleted from the computer.

- **Albums**
  Unlike folders, albums exist only in Picasa. Albums allow you to create virtual groups of photos taken from multiple folders on your computer. Albums display those photos without actually moving the photo -- it's like a playlist for photos. When you delete or move photos from an album, the original files remain in their original folders on your computer.

- **People**
  In this collection, you can organize your photos by what frequently matters most -- the people in them. Picasa uses facial recognition technology to find and group similar faces

together across your entire collection of photos. By adding name tags to these groups of faces, new people albums are created. These people albums are just like the albums above: when you move or delete faces, the original files stay put.

Edit your photos

Picasa provides a range of one-click fixes to help you improve almost any photo, adjust its color and lighting, and add effects like black and white or sepia toning. Double-click a photo and use the three editing tabs on the left.

Share your photos

Your photos take on more meaning when you share them with friends and family. Here are two ways to quick share your photos:

Upload photos to the web
Use the **Upload** button in Picasa to upload all selected photos to Picasa Web Albums. Don't feel like picking through your photos? The **Share** button uploads an entire folder or album, and sends email invitations to your friends and family

Email photos

Click the **Email** button in Picasa to quickly send all selected photos to friends and family, using the email provider of your choice. Keep in mind that email doesn't accomodate a large number of photos, so if you want to share a lot of photos, consider uploading them to Picasa Web Albums, where you can take advantage of the free one GB of storage that's available.

Discover more features

If you've read this far, you're familiar with the basics of Picasa. As you become a power user, here are some of the features for you to explore:

Resize photos: One of the most popular -- and most hidden -- features of Picasa is the ability to resize photos. Use the **Export** button to quickly resize your photos.

Sync to Web: When you enable **Sync to Web** in Picasa for a folder or album, edits made to your photos in Picasa are reflected immediately in the corresponding album in Picasa Web Albums.

Make a collage: Make a collage and share it with your friends and family. Experiment with six different types of collage, and maintain total control over your collage content and layout.

Add captions: Adding captions can help tell the rest of the story. While editing a photo, click the text below that says 'Make a caption!'. Captions are displayed in Picasa, Picasa Web Albums, and other IPTC compatible programs.

Use Movie Maker: Combine your photos, videos, and music into a movie and upload it directly to YouTube. You can also trim existing video files.

Map photos: Use the **Maps** tab in Picasa to embed latitude and longitude information into the EXIF data of your photo file. This geographic data accompanies your photo when you upload it to Picasa Web Albums.

Print photos: Use the **Shop** button to order prints from our online print partners or use the **Print** button to print your photos at home.

Add tags: Tags are like keywords. By applying single or multiple-word tags in Picasa, you can quickly search and locate photos. The Tags tab offers quick tags, tag counts and the ability to manage your tags.

Upload to Blogger: Use the BlogThis! button to post photos directly from Picasa to Blogger.

Back up your collection: Protect those precious memories. Use Picasa to back up your photo collection to either an alternate drive or to CD/DVD.

Revised 10/4/2010 JMM

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Forum re Picasa 3. This will help you to understand what Picasa can and what it cannot do.

Why, why did I trust you with my pictures??

martian88
Level 1
2/9/10

Before anyone downloads your program you need to state in GIANT letters that once you have control, we may never get them back. Even when we create backup disk, they'll only open on your Picasa!! I trusted you to store my pics, now I've lost most of them, never knowing if I deleted them from my documents to free up some space on my computer, you would delete them too. I ask you to help me get them back & you want even answer me!! Everyone needs to be warned NOT to trust you with their precious, irreplaceable pictures, I am mad, I am heartbroken!! I hate you!!!

Best answers

Don Lind
Top Contributor
2/26/10

Popular answer Go to this answer
This post title sure gets your attention...

Yes, Martian... Picasa is just another program on your computer.
It finds your photos on your disk and lets you work with them.
If you delete your photos (in Picasa or in Windows Explorer) they're deleted.
Don't do that.

@we-carey - a few comments...

1. CDs and DVDs are (in my opinion and experience) way too painful to use as backups. Sitting there with a Sharpie, feeding in blank DVDs for an hour is not my idea of fun. And DVDs are just plain flakey. I had 20K photo backed up on DVDs and as a test (ALWAYS test your backups...) I found that about 25 of the photos were unreadable on the backup. That was my last backup to DVD. External drive backups are much easier and better. And much more reliable.

2. Carbonite... be careful. Several people used that and found that they didn't back up the right stuff. They lost all their album definitions because they didn't back up the Picasa Database stuff properly. That's the advantage of using Picasa's backup... it knows everything that needs to be backed up.

3. I'd suggest an external disk drive for backups...External USB disks are fast, cheap, and really nice. $80 or so gets you a 1TB external drive - room for 300,000 or so photos.   Picasa backs up to them very nicely.

4. I don't know what deleted your photos.   But from years of experience with Picasa directly and with many people in this forum, Picasa just plain doesn't randomly delete your photos. It just doesn't happen. Someone has to have deleted the photos using Windows Explorer. Or someone has to have deleted them using Picasa. Or some other program. Or, I guess a terrible disk error could wipe out photos, but it would be a very strange and selective error to zap just photos. But just plain old using Picasa to organize, edit, and share photos doesn't delete your photos.

5. Hmmm... on the "albums vs. folders" thing... that is an absolutely critical concept in Picasa. If you don't "get it," you're liable to delete all the photos in your folders. Really. That happens.   Folders are the real folders on your disk. All your photos are in folders on your hard disk. You can create albums in Picasa. Albums exist ONLY in Picasa. Albums look like folders (except albums have "blue book" icons rather than "Manila Folder" icons. And, for many things, within Picasa, Albums act like folders. But albums do not **contain** photos.   Albums simply "point to photos" that live in folders. All too often, people create some albums. And then they delete their folders... They're generally assuming that the albums have their own copies of the photos... and so, to save disk space, once they've got the albums set up, they delete the folders. HUGE mistake. Your real folders are in the folders. They get deleted. The albums then die because the photos they were "pointing to" are gone...   Never delete folders of photos unless you want them completely gone for good from everywhere. Albums let you add organization to your photos. Albums don't waste any space doing that...

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PDF File Creator

FREE PDF file creator program
 CutePDF - **Create PDF** for free, Free **PDF** Utilities, Edit **PDF** easily;.
 1. Download and install the program.
 2. Open a document, press PRINT.
 3. From the printer drop down menu select 'cutepdf'.
 4. Save it as a .pdf file.
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Cute PDF

Using CutePDF Writer to create PDF document:

   DO NOT look for any application to run. Just print your document using CutePDF Writer (the printer) to get PDF output.
   1. Open your original document and select **Print** command in File menu of your application to bring up **Print** dialog box.

   2. Then select CutePDF Writer as the Printer to print (**DO NOT select "Print to file"** option).

   3. You will get a Save As dialog box prompted for saving created PDF file.

Select a folder to Save in and enter a File name, then click on **Save**.

4. Go to that folder to find your PDF file.

* CutePDF Writer supports Microsoft Windows 98/ME/2000/XP/Vista/7 (x32/x64).

* CutePDF Writer requires PS2PDF converter. You may get a free converter **here**.

To uninstall CutePDF Writer:

Activate the Control Panel, double click Add/Remove Programs, and double click on the CutePDF Writer list box entry.

Or.

1. On the Windows taskbar, click **Start**.

2. Run Programs -> CutePDF -> PDF Writer -> **Uninstall CutePDF Writer**.

If you need more help, comments or bug reports...

Please visit World Wide Web at http://www.CutePDF.com.
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Convert word processor documents to PDF without paying hundreds of dollars for the full Adobe program.

PrimoPDF **Totally Free** PDF Creation

Click here: Free PDF Converter - create high-quality PDF from any printable file type
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PDF Reader Foxit

The Adobe PDF program that is installed at the factory for nearly all PCs is a 50mb program. Foxit is a 5mb program that does the same thing, allows you to view .pdf files.

Foxit can be downloaded Free at Click here: Foxit Software - Foxit Reader 3.0 for Windows. The Foxit in the left column is the free program.
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Make Your Own Personal Screen Saver In Win XP.

1. Right click on the desktop, go to "Properties"

2. Click the "Screen Saver" tab.

3. Scroll down to My Pictures Slideshow.

4.Click the "Settings" button and make the specific adjustments, such as picture size, transition effects and etc.

5. Click "Browse" to find the <u>folder</u> where the particular images or photos are stored. If there are some pictures within that folder that you do NOT want to use in the Slideshow screensaver, you may wish to create a New Folder and add only those pictures that you wish to be shown.

6. After selecting the folder that contains only those pictures for the screen saver slideshow, click "OK" .
If you want to have a look into the preview click "Preview" and see what happens.

7. In the WAIT: box enter the time when the screen saver should begin.
8. Click Apply and Ok.

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Screen Saver Fix in XP

This issue might occur due to sleep mode option timing is set to a shorter period than the screen saver timing that is causing the PC to directly going to sleep instead of to screen saver mode. Therefore, to isolate and resolve the issue, I recommend you to perform the steps provided below:

1. Right-click the desktop background, and select Properties.
2. Select Screen Saver tab.
3. Select the screen saver to be used from the screen saver menu list.
4. Select the number of minutes to WAIT until screen saver activates.
5. Click Apply and OK.
6. Click Power to go to the Power Management screen.
7. In the Power Options window, next to 'Turn off the Display', dropdown to a time that you want that is greater than the Screen Saver wait time or set to Never.
8. Also, next to 'Put the Computer to Sleep', dropdown to a time that you want that is greater than the Screen Saver wait time or set to Never.
9. Save the changes and close all the windows.

This will disable the sleep mode time to increase and let the screen saver work properly.

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Save System Information using BELARC ADVISOR.

 You can download a the free program at http://www.belarc.com/free_download.html
When you run this software, it will take a snapshot of your system and display a Web page providing a complete summary. The data resides on your local system and is not sent to a Web server.   The report provides information on all hardware and software you are running. It even tells you the version number. And it's all free, for personal use, and supports Windows 95/98/ME/NT4/2000/XP.

Revised 4/5/2013

Info from Belarc

It's best to get the latest version of the Advisor from
  http://www.belarc.com/free_download.html

If you are finding that your browser is not showing your PC's Belarc Advisor profile please try the following steps:

1. Open Internet Explorer
2. Select File>Open
3. Select Browse, then navigate to the following directory:

        c:\program files\belarc\advisor\system\tmp

4. In this directory you will find a file named like (computer_name).html. Please highlight this file and select Open.

When you don't see your PC's profile, that's caused by Windows being mis-configured so that it doesn't use your web browser to open files with the .html file extension. This usually happens when you switch the web browser you use, or install an application that helps view or edit web content. You can fix this in the Folder Options Control Panel. On the File Types tab, select the HTML extension and click the Change... button to set your browser to be used for HTML files.

Jmax

Jmax's Website   http://www.jmaxbits.com/
Jmax Bits Newsletter is now posted each Monday & Thursday on the website. You have the option for a .pdf or a .rtf file.

1.For help with a computer problem, put HELP in the subject line and give me info about the computer you're using, if you know it.

2.To view or print Jmax Bits Good Services List in the Villages area, click link www.jmaxbits.com

3. To sign up for the non-computer newsletter, send an email to VLGSClassifieds@aol.com. Put SUBSCRIBE in the subject line. To send an Ad,

place AD in the subject line.

4. The Villages Computer Club's web page: Click here: Welcome To The Villages Computer Club
To add your name to the VCC announcements list, send email to TheVCC-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

5. Fred Benson's website www.thevillagescomputerbasics.com