Resizing digital images

This info is based on a Windows 10 operating system but the principles will be applicable to any device.
It is aimed at u3a members who want to put images online, say in a website.

It may also help you produce documents and slide shows that are not huge file sizes.

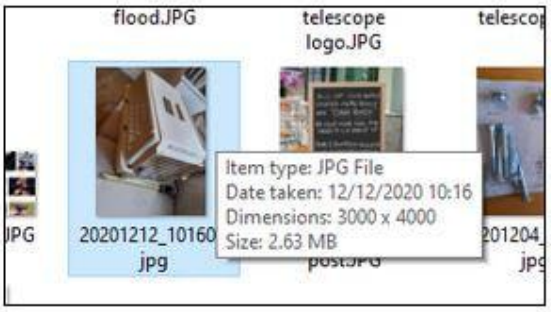
Keep your originals safe

If you intend a fine printed document, like book illustration, or a high quality slide, you need to use large image sizes, so rule one is **keep your originals in their own folder and don't over-write them**

Size matters

Check the 'pixel size' of the photos you intend to use. This is not the same as the size they seem to occupy!
To understand this, open your picture folder and hover over an image. A label will pop up telling you various bits of information, including its 'real' dimensions.

If you look at these images you can see the real or actual dimensions of images, compared to the way they appear in a browser.



A tiny thumbnail of my pet carrier is 2000 x 3000 pixels

The thumbnail of an army cap badge looks the same size, but it really only measures 532 x 407 pixels

Advice

- the more the pixels, the longer it will take for your end-user to load up your web page
- Some websites enforce size limits on photos you caan upload
- There are many ways to make a new copy of an image, with a smaller pixel size
- You cannot successfully give an image a bigger pixel size than its original.

Got all the images in a Word doc? You need to save them in a folder

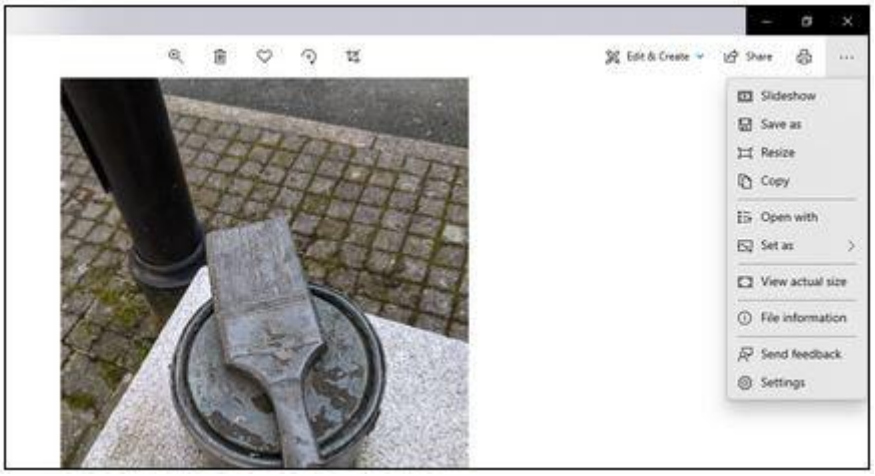
- Right-click on each image and choose 'save image as'
- Make sure you give the image a name you will remember

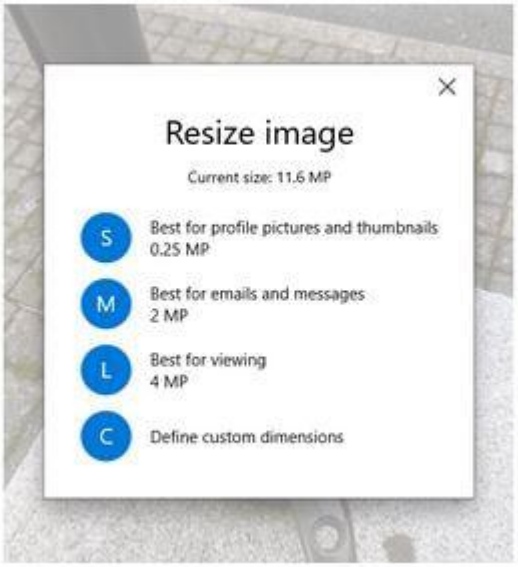
- It will help if you put them all into their own folder. Give the folder a distinctive meaningful name such as ‘Aldingham 2021’

Use simple programs (apps) to resize photos

These might come bundled with your operating system eg **Microsoft photos.**

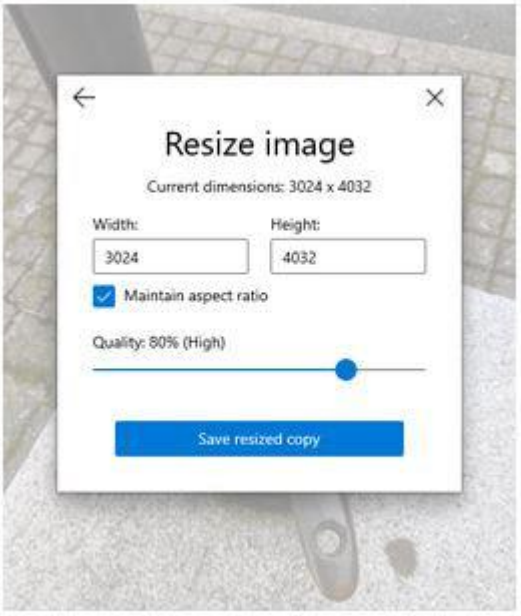
- Open a photo in Microsoft Photos, as below
- Click on the 3 dots top right of the screen
- Choose ‘resize'



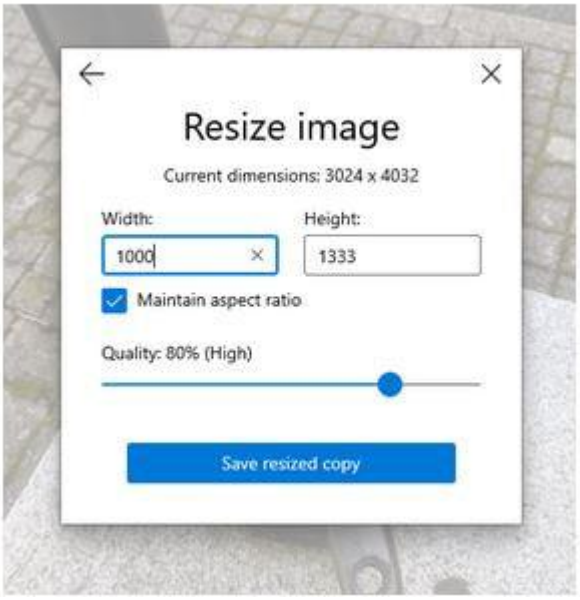


In this instance you can see a range of choices

Try choosing ‘define custom dimensions’



You can see the present pixel size of the image - 3024 x 4032 pixels



Reducing the width to 1000 px will save a huge amount of loading time for your users

The height adjusts automatically

'save'

Note that using the Microsoft photos resizing feature will remove 'EXIF' data (see below) fro the resized image.

Geolocation information in photos

The code inside digital images contains information about where the photographer was standing, on what date. This is called 'EXIF' data.
This enables a photo to locate itself automatically on a digital map.
Sometimes owners turn off this feature on their phone or camera, so in these cases the photos will have no EXIF data.

Resizing batches of photos

If you have lots of photos to resize, use a free resizing tool, such as Fotosizer https://www.fotosizer.com/

I have used the free program for a long time without problems. I checked at 20/07/2021 and the free version still gives you all the features I will demo here.

When you have downloaded the program, open it and click ‘continue’. You do not need to buy the product to use it.

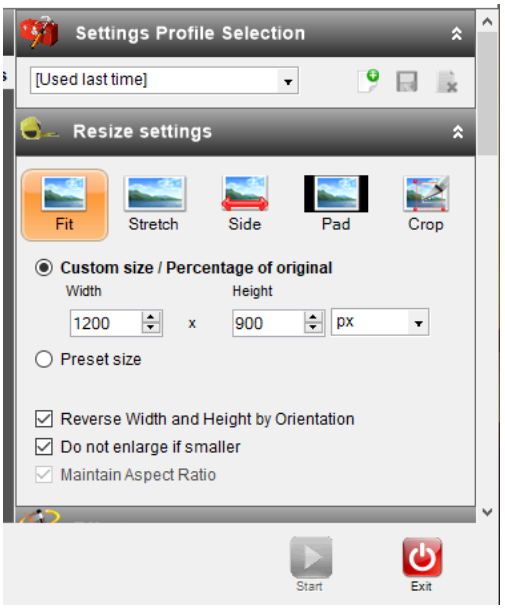
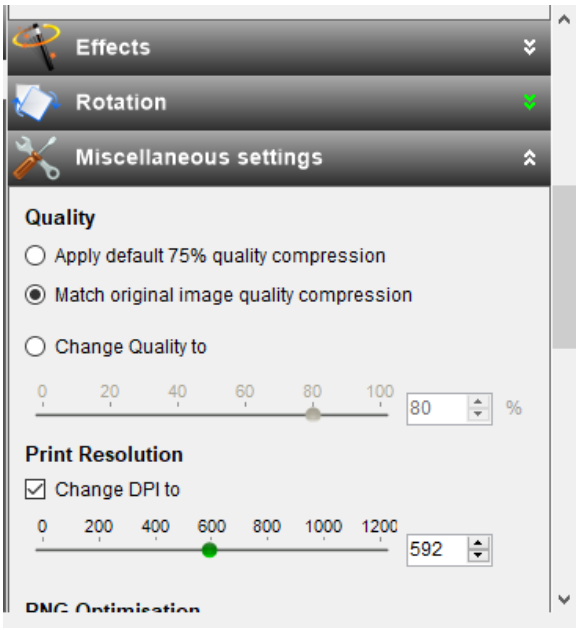
This program remembers the settings you chose, so for example if you are resizing a lot of photos for a project, you only need to pick the settings once.

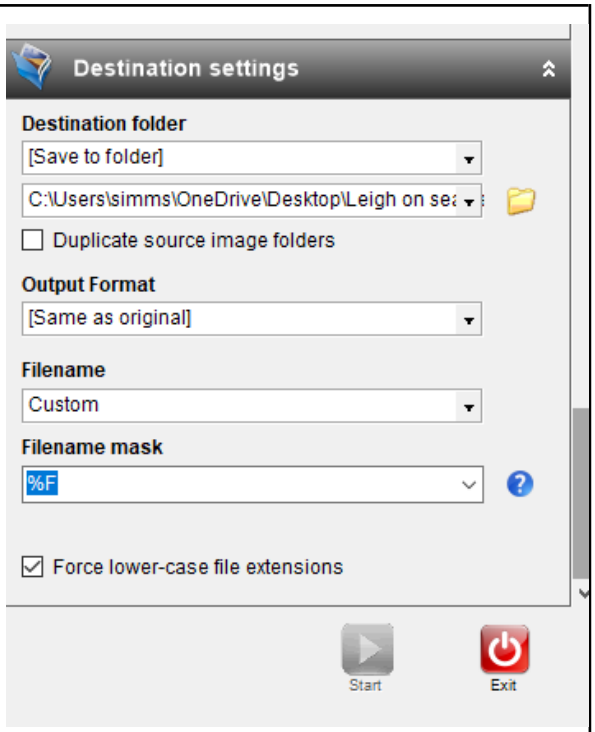
Top Tip: Keep your eye on the ‘destination folder’
Create and name a new ‘destination folder’ for each batch of photos

1. Get started: pick the settings on the right hand side of Fotosizer
2. Load the images you want to resize on the left hand side
3. Then press ‘start’

Step 1: Picking the settings you want in Fotosizer

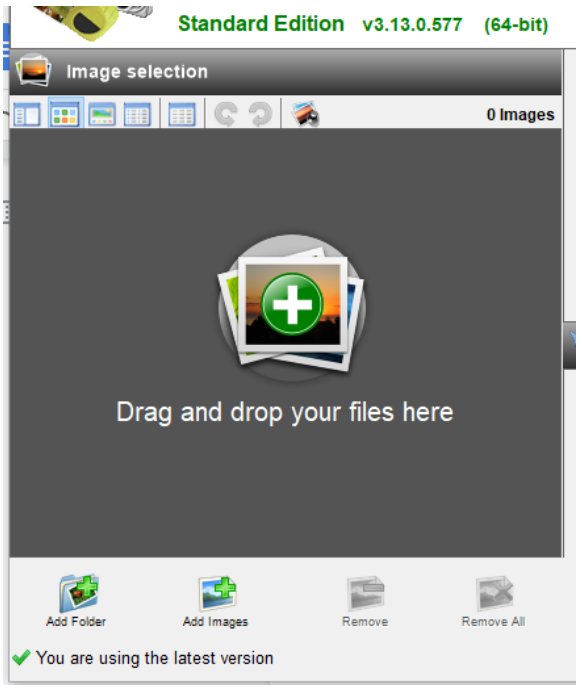
Working with the right -hand side of Fotosizer

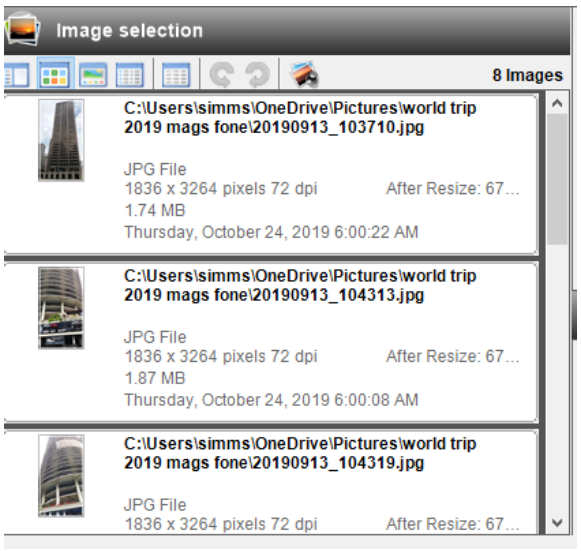
In this instance the image size I have chosen is 1200 x 900 pixels (px) You can also choose from preset sizes if you wish	
Effects - gives jazzy effects to photos, if that's what you want….. Rotation - useful if you have taken thousands of photos landscape, but want them to appear portrait But most practical to go straight to 'miscellaneous settings' Here I have chosen 'match original compression' and a 600 dpi print resolution	

The really important part is to make sure you have a new folder for your resized photos If you have not created one already, you can do it by clicking on the yellow folder That will take you to your file explorer where you can either pick or create a folder You can leave the rest of the choices 'as default' **This is the only section you need to check every time you use Fotosizer** **The question is, 'which folder will I look for those photos in?'** **If the folder you used last time is OK - then no change** **But I recommend you get in the habit of 'new batch, new folder'**	

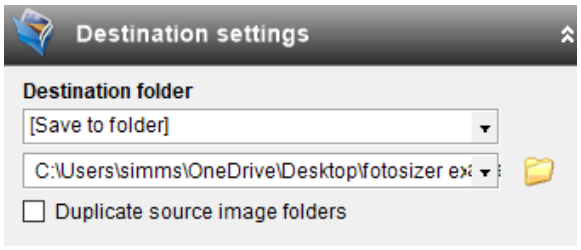
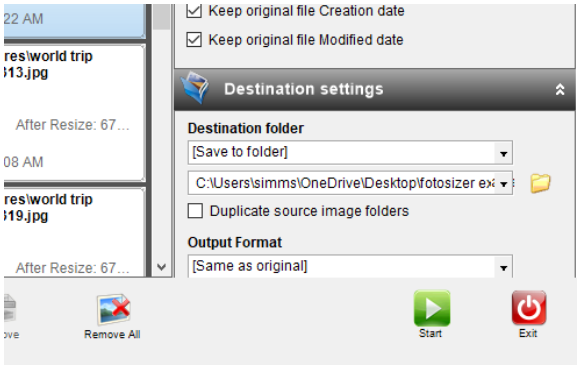
Part 2: Load up the photos you want to resize

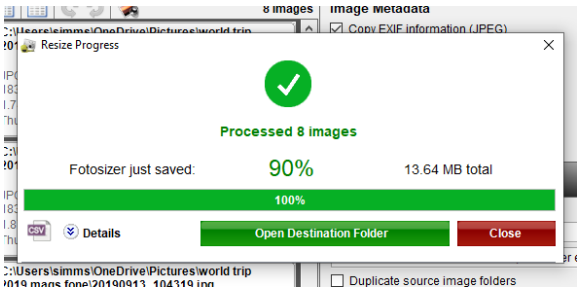
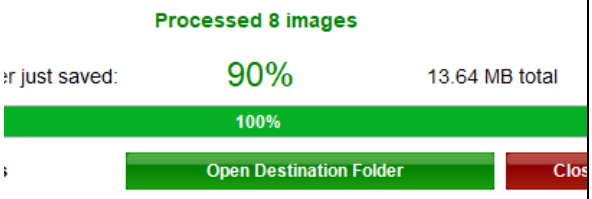
Working with the buttons at the bottom, and the left-hand side of Fotosizer

	You can drag and drop photos into the space Or you can click 'add folder', and add a whole folder Or you can click 'add images' to add individual images All will work equally well

<table>
<tr>
<td> 
</td>
<td>Here I have added 8 sample images

Notice it is stating the file information including size and date

I have not yet experienced Fotosizer saying ‘too many photos to process’ at this stage!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td> 
</td>
<td>I have made a destination folder called ‘fotosizer example’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td> 
</td>
<td>Then click ‘start’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td> 
</td>
<td>Fotosizer does its stuff</td>
</tr>
</table>

	And that's it. All the resized photos are in the new folder
	Your website manager will be very pleased …. You saved 13MB of data storage space.