

Resizing Photos

3/26/15

Reasons for resizing:

1. Reduce size for sending by email. Receiver gets a picture that fits their screen.
2. Faster upload times both for email and photo sites or cloud storage
3. When including photos in documents or Powerpoint presentations that you send to others

For example, let's use a fairly fast internet speed of 20 Mbps download. It will have a much slower upload speed, probably around 2 Mbps. Mbps is short for millions of **BITS** per second. Comcast has a very fast connection of 60 Mbps download. However, their upload speed is 2.4Mbps

A full quality jpeg (or jpg) picture can be 18 MB in size. MB is short for millions of **BYTES**. A byte is 8 bits, so 18 MB is really 144 million bits. At 2 Mbps upload speed, it will take at least 72 seconds to upload that picture (60 seconds at 2.4 Mbps). If you had a large number of those pictures, you can see the reason for resizing.

The full quality jpg picture is 5180 X 3448 pixels. A typical PC screen is 1366 X 768, so you can see there are way more pixels in the picture than are needed for a good quality screen viewing. Even an HD TV screen will be about 1920 X 1080 pixels. If we resize that 18 MB picture to 1052 X 700, the file size shrinks significantly to .31 MB. This will take 1.2 secs to upload.

When should you not resize? When the receiver wants to print it. Resizing reduces the print quality.

How to resize

External Resizing: A good free program for resizing (or basic editing) is Irfanview (www.irfanview.com). You can do single resizing or do batch resizing. Using Irfanview you would resize the photos before you get ready to send or upload them.

Within some email programs:

Gmail: You can resize a picture using gmail tools **IF** you have inserted the picture into your email. You can right click on the photo (the bottom edge of the photo must be visible to see the options) and then choose the size. If you just attach the picture, no resizing options are available.

Hotmail/Outlook: You can resize a picture using tools similar to gmails tools **IF** you have inserted the picture into your email. You can left click on the photo and then choose the size. If you just attach the picture, no resizing options are available. There is a 25MB maximum for the total amount of attachments per email.

Yahoo Mail: Can only attach pictures, No resizing options.

Microsoft Outlook: You can view your picture with Microsoft Photo Viewer. Then click on the Email Button, choose the picture size and click on Attach. Outlook will open with the resized picture attached. Windows 7 Live Photo Gallery has same options. For this to work, there has to be an association in the Default Programs control panel. This seems to be set up if you have Outlook.

There is a Gmail Notifications feature that is supposed to make this the connection from the Windows Photo Viewer or Photo Gallery to a gmail account. I haven't been able to make this work, I'll leave this assignment up to you to try. 😊

Note: Depending on what you use to open the email, the options for handling the picture will be different. For example, if I open a gmail email using Microsoft Outlook, I don't get the download option.