

Double Trouble

The Problem of Duplicate Images

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A Google search of "duplicate images" returned 498,000 results.

It appears many people are overwhelmed trying to find and eliminate multiple image copies. This problem mysteriously continues to grow like compound interest on a credit card. Duplicates silently punish us by eating up space on our hard drive we could be



using for other things. So we spend more money buying bigger external hard drives that eventually make the problem worse by allowing us to have more duplicates.

In my experience talking with hundreds of computer users I'd conservatively estimate that most users have one third of their hard drive space filled with duplicate images.

Rorschach IQ Test - Do you see one big face above? If not - you are spending too much time in front of your computer. *Take a break.*

How do we get so many duplicate images?

The problem stems from the concept of linking to photos which is supposed to save space. In reality it does just the opposite. Why?

Does this sound familiar? You can't find a photo because you forget where you saved it so you create another folder and add the same photo. You think this will make it easier to find next time. This inefficient process continues to repeat itself creating a steady and dependable stream of duplicates.

Another way uninvited duplicates arrive is from relatives sharing more photos. It's impossible to remember all the photos you have already received from relatives. To be safe you copy all the photos to new folders on your hard drive creating more duplicates. You vow, but never find time to compare all the photos to remove the duplicates.



Yet another way duplicates sneak in is via scanning. Remember the days of double prints?

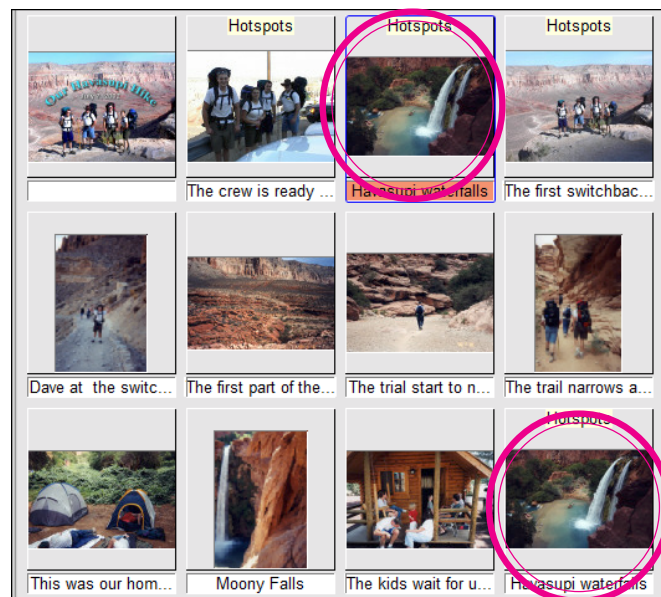


We always made double prints so we could share. In time all the photos got mixed up. When you scan this disorganized mass of photos there is no efficient way to identify the duplicates, so you scan them again.

What Can You Do? - *that's easy*

1. Delete Duplicates in Collections.

Import images into collections using Heritage Collector. This will make it much easier to spot duplicates as your organization improves.

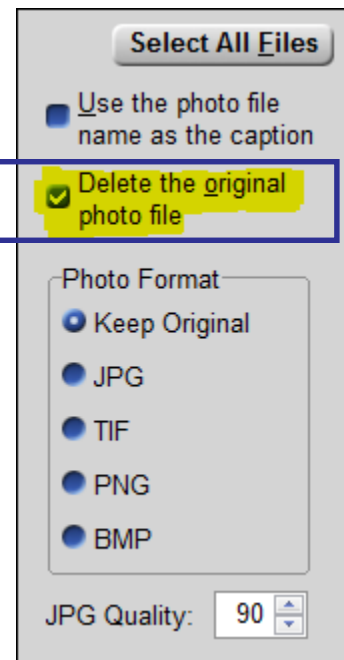


2. Stop Creating Duplicates.

When importing, use the option to Delete the original photo file. •

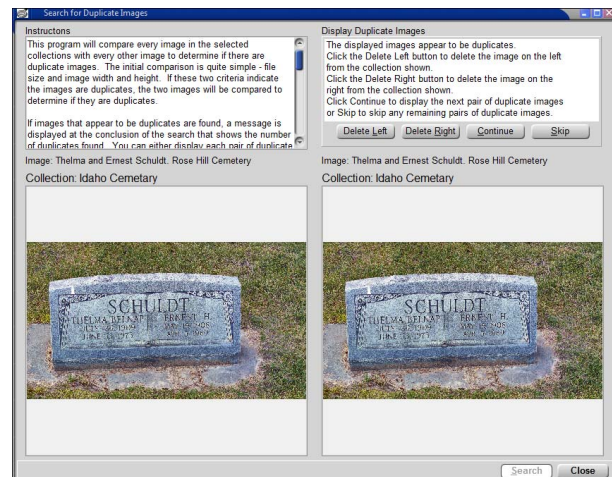
NOTE: Deleting the original photo file will break links other software programs have to the file being deleted.

Tip: Use this function to delete images off your camera card as you import. When you are finished importing your card will be empty and ready for more photos.



3. Find and Delete Duplicates.

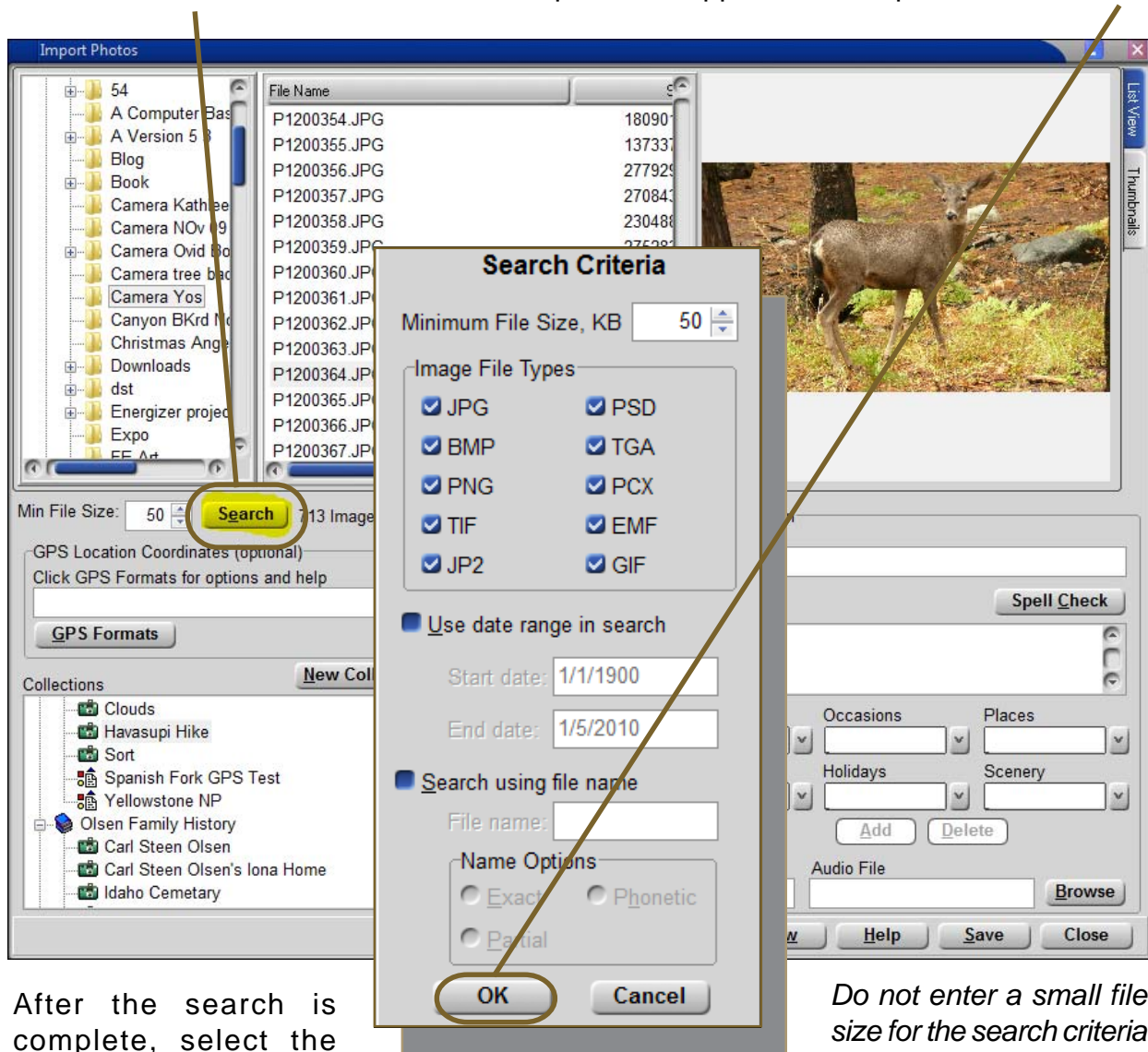
Periodically use Heritage Collector's Duplicate Image Search option to eliminate duplicate images from all your collections. Consult your manual or click the Help button for instructions.



4. Deep Cleaning - Find ALL Hidden or Lost Images

Use the special search option in the Import function to find all the photos on your computer hard drive.

Click the Search button. Search Criteria options will appear. Select options and click OK.



After the search is complete, select the option to "Delete the original photo file" option mentioned in step #2.

Be careful not to import and delete the small images associated with other software programs. Take the time to view each image before it is selected to be imported and deleted when you click the Save button.

Do not enter a small file size for the search criteria since there are thousands of little images used in the software programs on your computer.

This search may take a long time depending on the search criteria selected and the size of your hard drive.

Run a duplicate search (Step #3) after you have imported images into collections

One final note to put a smile on your face. You can continue to procrastinate eliminating duplicates by telling yourself that duplicates are another unofficial way to backup your images. The problem is not all of your images are duplicates!