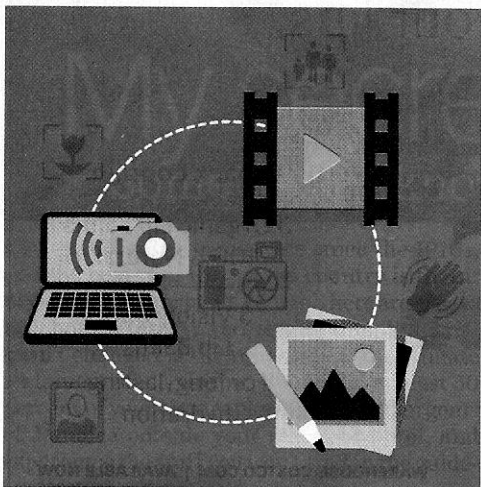


Preserving memories

Organizing tips for your summer photos



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SUMMER IS WRAPPING up (boo!), and now it's time to figure out what to do with all those photos and videos you captured—on your smartphone, camera or POV (point of view) adventure cam. After all, you don't want those memories to remain stored on your device, where they can't be easily viewed, shared and appreciated.

As you might expect, you've got a lot of options. Here are the answers to some of your questions on the topic.

Q *I have too many videos on my smartphone, so much so that I have run out of storage space at the worst of times. I have moved these videos to my computer, but do you know of any free software I could use to create a DVD to show my family?*

A You've successfully accomplished the first step, which is to transfer the videos to a computer. That's great. The next step is to create a slideshow you can upload to social media or burn to a disc and play on your TV or computer.

While it's not part of Windows any longer, you can still download Windows Movie Maker (Google "Windows Essentials" to find and download it). With Movie Maker, it's easy to drag and drop the photos and videos into the desired order and then add transition sequences, special effects, music, captions and, perhaps, narration. There are other highly rated moviemaking programs, too, including Freemake Video Converter, Smilebox and Animoto, that are free or free to try. If you are a Mac user, Apple's own iMovie may already be preinstalled on your computer.

Make sure you have a DVD burner to create the disc. An option is to copy the video to a USB thumb drive and plug it into a TV (if it has a USB port), or upload it to YouTube or Facebook. Be sure to back up your photos and home videos by uploading them to a free cloud provider (like OneDrive, Dropbox, iCloud or Google Drive) and/or by copying them over to an external hard drive or USB thumb drive.

Q *I'd like to organize my photos from this summer's vacation. Can you explain "tagging" photos and how I do that?*

A Most photo programs let you "tag" photos and videos, which means adding helpful information to them. These are the electronic equivalents of the old "write all the details on the back of the photo" approach taken by our parents and grandparents. These identifiers, or tags, make the photos and videos easy to organize—and easier to find in your files later when you want to show them to family and friends. All you do is search for them with keywords like "kids" or "beach."

Many photo programs will pull the "metadata" information, such as date and location, from the photo file itself; in fact, many modern cameras automatically add this information to the file when you take the shot, and they can organize your photos and videos accordingly. Some programs go a step further with options to label photos. With these, you can manually type names, locations and other keywords for your photos—one by one, or in a group of photos (called a "batch" job)—such as "John Smith," "Miami Beach," "2017," "Summer" and "Grampa."

How you add tags to photos depends on which program you're using. In Photo Gallery, for example, which ships with Windows 10, you can click or tap on the "Descriptive" tab at the top of the screen to add or manage keywords. Beside that tab is the "People tag," which lets you add the name of someone in a photo ("Mary Jones" or "Mom"). Finally, with the "Batch people tag" option in Photo Gallery, the program can scan all your other photos to look for the same face and tag it for you (this can really save time). If it's unsure of someone, the program might ask you to confirm who it is with little thumbnails of the person.

Descriptive and photo tags are just as easy to add using Apple's Photos, which is included in the latest macOS platform. Of course, face detection is nothing new when it comes to digital photography—even sites like Facebook use it—but it's getting much more accurate. **C**