PICASA3 DIGITAL IMAGE MANAGER/EDITOR

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for the PC Users Group

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CONTEXT

- Photography is not my main focus:

  - point and shoot for most images
  - basic image editing usually sufficient
  - occasional heavy editing (Photoshop, ?), stitch (Autopano Pro), de-noise (Neat Image)

- Lots of images that are:

  - JPG files ex Canon A710 IS camera or web
  - JPG files ex old slides,film strip, photos - scanned using Epson V700 Perfection
  - 37 GB, 11,000 files

- Mac OS X; some use of XP SP3 on VMware Fusion 3 virtual machine

- Infrequent printing on Canon Pixma iP4200

PICASA VERSIONS

- Picasa - freeware from Google at :
  http://picasa.google.com/

- Version 3.6.* runs on Mac OS X (3.6.7), XP (3.6.0/105.67.0), Vista, Win7

- Mac OS X version and Windows version have very similar functionality
  - Mac 'preferences' <--> MS 'tools'
  - Windows version has Geotagging

- Linux "beta" version available

- I do not use iPhoto

COMPARISON WITH OTHER APPLICATIONS

- Can undertake image management with a number of other apps (e.g. Irfanview, Microsoft Live Photo Gallery, Adobe Photoshop Elements, iPhoto)

- Can undertake image editing with numerous other apps

- Some editors much more powerful (e.g. Photoshop, Paintshop Pro, Aperture, Gimp)

- Some apps better at specialised work (e.g. albums - Proshow, My Album MS Photo Story [?])

- Some apps have about the same multi-functionality (e.g. Windows Live Photo Gallery, iPhoto)

WHY I USE PICASA

- I have used it for ages
- Interface quite easy to comprehend and use
- Excellent image management
- Excellent find engine
- Basic image editing meets most of my needs
- Easy creation and uploading of web album
- Easy emailing
- Stable, well-developed
- Regular enhancements
- Price ($0)
- It is NOT Microsoft

WHAT I WANT IN AN IMAGE MANAGER - 1

- No requirements for structure or location of folders and files and their names – WATCH, not force location

- Edit folder names

- Rename files sequentially and meaningfully (not good)

- For files and folders:
  - Tracks name changes
  - Tracks location changes
  - Tracks deletions/additions

- Delete files and folders

- Split folders

- Handle all common image types: JPG, TIFF, PNG, BMP, RAW, movies, GIF

WHAT I WANT IN AN IMAGE MANAGER - 2

- Manage large number of images

- Find location of files and folders

- Find images quickly using:
  - folder name and/or
  - keyword/s and/or
  - caption and/or
  - file name

- Keywords as metadata

  - embedded in pics (not application-specific) as IPTC (International Press Telecommunications Council) field

- Captions as metadata

WHAT I WANT IN AN IMAGE MANAGER - 3

- Easy shell out to more powerful editor/s then back in

- Inclusion of images in an Email, with resizing during creation

- Creation of virtual collections (Picasa "albums") to be used for other purposes

- Upload albums to web with resizing during creation
  - plus associated web album manager

- Import images easily - from scanner, camera, memory cards, flash drives

WHAT I WANT IN AN IMAGE MANAGER/ EDITOR - 4

- Create slideshow on CD or DVD:

  - Automatic resizing of pics
  - Captions on pics, not file names*
  - Group pics into "albums"
  - Ordering within albums
  - No sound
  - Simple transitions
  - Not fancy

- Created CD/DVD easy to run
  - Autoexecuting
  - Self-contained - all executables on the CD
  - Slide show speed controllable
  - Suitable for all monitors

WHAT I WANT IN A QUICK IMAGE EDITOR

- Easy, effective editing, especially:
  - crop
  - rotate, straighten
  - retouch
  - fill lighting, highlighting, shadows, colour temperature
  - redeye removal
  - sharpen

- After editing, retain original image file without loss

- De-noise

- Stitch - panorama

WHAT I DO NOT USE IN PICASA

- Face tagging
- Geolocation tagging, Geotagging
- Printing
- "Movie" creation
- Blog
- Collage
- Text overlay
- Export as web pages
- Poster
- Backup

LINKS

- Picasa: picasa.google.com

- Picasa Web Albums: picasaweb.google.com

- Neat Image de-noiser for PC: www.neatimage.com

- Neat Image de-noiser plugin (Photoshop, Aperture)

- Autopano Pro for PC, Mac, Linux www.autopano.net/en/

- Autostitch for Windows

  http://cvlab.epfl.ch/~brown/autostitch/autostitch.html

- Canon Photostitch for PC, Mac:

  http://www.usa.canon.com/consumer/controller?act=DownloadIndexAct

PRESENTATION HARDWARE AND OPERATING SYSTEMS

- Macbook:
  - 13"
  - 2.26 GHz Intel Core 2 Duo
  - 2 GB RAM

- OS X 10.6.4

- XP Pro SP3

- VMware Fusion 3 (V3.0.1 215242)