**Topics:**

There are many things to consider when posting your pictures online:

* Privacy
  + Be mindful and respectful of others when taking pictures. Street Photography is still popular, but many people prefer not to have their picture taken and how that picture will be used.
  + Posting pictures of your time away from home, say on a vacation, can lead to someone breaking into your house while you’re gone. Someone may see those pictures online, realize you’re not at home, and bam – a break-in occurs.
  + Posting pictures of children should come with much caution. Posting a picture of a child and then stating the child’s name, location and/or day/time the picture was taken can lead to problems. There have been reported cases where pictures of a child posted playing in a park on such-and-such mornings has led to problems with abduction.
  + If possible, ask for permission when taking pictures of people. A couple sitting on the bench at sunset may offer a great photo opportunity, but that couple may not want their pictures taken.
* Security
  + Again, this is one where you need to be careful while taking pictures of others. There have been many reported cases where photographers have been attacked when taking pictures of others. Lately, protestors have been in the spotlight for doing this very thing.
  + <https://www.rd.com/article/why-you-shouldnt-post-protest-pictures-online/>
  + Like to take a picture where your keys are in the picture? Be careful with that! Yes, with 3D printers available – a key can be reproduced simply from a picture. Someone can reproduce your keys and then have access to your home, your car or whatever.
    - <https://nighthawkstrategies.com/why-you-should-never-post-pictures-of-your-keys-online/>
* Cost
  + Many photo sharing websites offer free storage ---- to a point that is. You may get 15GB of storage for free, but anything more and you’ll have to pay for it. This can be a modest fee or it can be expensive. Many companies will offer tiered storage in that 100GB is one price, 500GB another price, 1TB another price and so on.
  + Be careful not to do what many photographers do – use multiple online photo sharing websites to store photos for free. If you’re doing it to separate things like family photos versus business photos and so on – fine, but using multiple companies to avoid paying that tiered premium cost only complicates things for you. Are you organized enough to know that these sets of photos are on one site and those sets of photos are on another site. Then, consider how you might do searches on pictures – you may have to log into more than one website to find what you’re looking for.
  + Many websites offer more than just file storage. They provide some basic photo editing features that can be used. None of these features from any company will match that of a photo editing application on your computer or phone, but it’s a nice thing to have.
  + Here is a breakdown of some companies and the cost to you for storing your pictures. NOTE: These prices may not be current as I took them from a few websites and did not log into each photo sharing website, but you’ll get the idea.
    - 500px
      * Free – up to 2,000 photos
      * Three tiered levels: $3.99 per month, $5.99 per month or $13.99 per month
    - Adobe Portfolio
      * Free – this isn’t available
      * Subscription - $120.00 per year for 20GB of storage (this includes the applications of Photoshop and Lightroom)
      * Top-Tier plan is $52.99 per month for 100GB of storage and includes all of Adobe’s applications (Illustrator, InDesign, Photoshop, Premier Pro, After Effects, Lightroom, and more)
    - Amazon Prime
      * Only for Amazon Prime members, which at the time of this writing is $12.99 per month or $119.00 per year.
      * There are discounts to many groups of people and you should check on them if you’re interested. They include students, seniors, AARP members, if you have Medicaid, military and more.
      * Amazon Prime offers many more things that just the photo storage so the cost may well be worth it.
      * Unlimited storage for your photos.
      * Up to five people can also receive free photo storage on your account by using the Family Vault.
    - Apple iCloud
      * Free – up to 5GB of storage
      * Subscription - $12.00 per year for 50GB of storage
    - Dropbox
      * Free – up to 2GB of storage
      * $9.99 per month for 2TB of storage, $16.58 per month for the Pro plan and 3TB of storage
      * There are many other features to Dropbox than just photo storage
    - Facebook
      * Free – unlimited storage
      * Compresses pictures
      * Terms of Service state they have the right to use YOUR pictures in any way they want
    - Flickr (owned by SmugMug as of April 2018)
      * Free – 1,000 photos limit
      * Pro – Unlimited photos and features for $50.00 per year
    - Google Photos
      * Free – up to 16GB of photos (that’s a lot of photos by the way)
      * Subscription - $12.00 per year for 50GB
    - ImageShack
      * Free – this isn’t available
      * Subscription - $3.99 per month or $37.99 per year for unlimited storage
      * There is a Pro plan for $29.99 per month and a Premium plan for $99.99 per month. They add extra bandwidth for users to view and download your photos and dedicated support.
      * Photos are limited to 25MB in size.
    - Instagram
      * Free - unlimited
    - PhotoBlog (a blog in addition to photo storage)
      * One picture and blog post per day
    - Photobucket
      * Free – limited to 250 photos (comes with intrusive ads, including annoying pop-ups that obscure your photos)
      * Subscription – (all ad free) include Beginner $5.99 per month for 25GB of storage, Intermediate $7.99 for 250GB of storage, and Expert $12.99 per month for unlimited storage.
    - SmugMug
      * Free – this isn’t available
      * $7.00 per month or $55.00 per year for the Beginner plan and $360.00 per year for the Pro plan, with several plans in between
    - Here’s a complete list with much information. Obviously, many more articles can be found online.
      * <https://www.tomsguide.com/best-picks/best-photography-sites>
* Your intended audience
  + Pictures are shared for many reasons. Family gatherings, holidays, events, photo outings and much more.
  + When sharing a link to a set of photos, say an album, be sure that link is shared to the appropriate set of people who will enjoy and appreciate them.
* Where to post
  + A Website – yours or someone else’s
  + Email
    - <https://www.computerhope.com/issues/ch000887.htm>
  + Forums
    - <https://www.photographytalk.com/help/how-to/how-to-add-a-photo-to-a-forum-post>
  + Photo Sharing Sites
    - 500px
      * <https://500px.com>
    - Adobe Portfolio
      * <https://portfolio.adobe.com/?red=a>
    - Amazon Prime
      * <https://www.amazon.com/Amazon-Photos/b?tag=georiot-us-default-20&ie=UTF8&node=13234696011&ascsubtag=tomsguide-us-5075678327482222000-20>
    - Apple iCloud
      * <https://www.icloud.com>
    - Dropbox
      * <https://www.dropbox.com/?landing=dbv2>
    - Flickr
      * <https://www.flickr.com>
    - Google Photos or Google Drive
      * <https://www.lifewire.com/post-pictures-on-google-4585090>
    - Imageshack
      * <https://imageshack.com>
    - Imgur
      * <https://imgur.com>
    - Photobucket
      * <https://imageshack.com>
    - SmugMug
      * <https://www.smugmug.com>
    - YouTube
      * <https://www.youtube.com>
  + Social Media
    - Facebook
      * <https://www.facebook.com>
    - Instagram
      * <https://www.cnet.com/how-to/how-to-post-to-instagram-from-pc-or-mac-tricky-workaround/>
    - Pinterest
      * <https://www.pinterest.com>
    - Twitter
      * <https://twitter.com/?lang=en>
* Tips for taking good pictures for posting online
  + Just say no to the zoom feature (smartphone)
  + Natural lighting will never let you down
  + Online editing tools and apps are your friend
  + Take photos that serve as a backstage pass to your business
  + Consider the Rule of Thirds
  + Take pictures at community events that you are involved or participating in
  + Add text to your photos
  + Know a good photo opportunity when you see one
  + Experiment with different angles
  + Take a picture that tells a story
  + <https://screenshot.net/post-pictures-online.html>
  + <http://thestorytelleragency.com/goodreads/10-quick-tips-for-taking-good-pictures-for-posting-online>
* How to post online
  + There are some things to consider when posting pictures online, using any of the aforementioned methods. These include:
    - Image Size – you may be limited in the size of your picture by some websites. Some companies will not allow large-sized photos to be uploaded. Consider too that a picture with a larger file size will take longer to download on the viewer’s computer. Someone with an older computer and/or poor bandwidth and/or other factors may find that pictures take too long to download and simply give up on you.
    - Color – Ensure your pictures look good with things like saturation, contrast, and more. The better the picture uploaded means the better the picture being viewed online. Remember, many websites may not show your picture in the same way as you uploaded. This can be for many different reasons, but uploading the best picture possible will ensure a better picture online.
    - Sharpening – like the color just mentioned, sharpening a picture will mean better chances of your picture looking good online. Some websites compress your uploaded pictures and this can mean that they don’t look all that hot online.
    - Protecting your images online –
      * Many websites do not provide very good security to the photographer. So, it’s easy for pictures to be stolen from those websites.
      * Some websites prevent pictures from being downloaded unless paid for, but that may not stop someone from doing a very simple screen print of a picture.
      * A watermark is a nice way to protect your image, but there again, watermarks can be eliminated from pictures easier than you think. A simple cropping can eliminate that watermark in the corner of your picture. Watermarks splashed across the picture can be eliminated using photo-editing software. If someone wants to remove a watermark on your picture – it can be done.
      * Did you know that some websites strip the metadata from your pictures? Facebook does that! Some programs, such as Adobe Lightroom or Adobe Bridge will allow copyright information to be placed in the metadata. But again, some websites strip that metadata away. Why you ask? Read the Terms of Service from Facebook or Google. Once you upload YOUR picture to them, they have every right to use YOUR picture in any way they want. You’ve basically granted those websites ownership over YOUR pictures.
    - <https://www.amateurphotographer.co.uk/technique/expert_advice/preparing-images-for-online-4370>
* To copyright or not to copyright
  + Copyright Fair Use and How it Works for Online Images
    - <https://www.socialmediaexaminer.com/copyright-fair-use-and-how-it-works-for-online-images/>
* Selling your pictures online
  + How to Successfully Sell Your Photos Online as a Photographer
    - <https://graphpaperpress.com/blog/sell-photos-online/>

**Resources:**

Where to post my pictures, movies, or other files online for free

<https://www.computerhope.com/issues/ch000755.htm>

The best photo storage and sharing sites in 2020

<https://www.tomsguide.com/best-picks/best-photography-sites>

10 Free Image hosting Sites for Your Photos

<https://www.lifewire.com/free-image-hosting-sites-3486329>