**Photos & Clouds**

Sending photos is easy as you take them. Saving many to another place requires connecting your phone to a computer. You can connect your iphone even to a PC with Windows.

Remove the charging block from the end of the cable you charge with. The cable end is a USB that you can plug into your computer/laptop. Once it is connected you will notice that your computer asks what you want to do. Tell it to open to view files. Then you can copy the photos to your computer. If you do not know how to copy files to move them around you will need individual help to learn.

Once you have moved the files onto your computer you will be able to print them, email them, or simply save them in your picture folder.

A word of caution. Sometimes your phone may tell you you are running out of iCloud space and offer to sell you more for a monthly fee. You may want to move photos off your phone so that iCloud is not full. iCloud but if you delete them on your phone they will delete on iCloud as well. This problem can be catastrophic.

Use Google Photos to store your photos from your phone in a cloud that will keep them and not delete photos if you remove them from your phone.

It is fine and easy to purchase additional storage space from Apple. It increases the amount of storage space you have for photos in iCloud. iCloud + costs $0.99/mo. It increases your storage space 10 times from 5 GB to 50 GB. In 40 GB you can store 8,000 to 20,000 pictures.

Google Photo comes with 15 GB, but this is shared with GMAIL and Google Drive storage needs. You can increase Google storage with Google One, which costs $1.99 month. It increases your storage space from 15 GB to 100 GB. In 80 GB you can store 16,000 to 40,000 pictures.

Android phones often come with a photo gallery or other photo app that is specific to the manufacturer of the phone, such as LG or Samsung. Even thought Android is a Google system it does not automatically mean you are using Google Photo.

You can use Google Photo along with iPhoto and Samsung Gallery and with OneDrive. All four of these products are “Clouds” maintained by the company that provides them.

Sharing/Sending photos

Sharing/sending photos generally happens from the photo or photo app. The symbol for sharing/sending is one of the following.

 

From an open photo you can click on the share/send icon. It will change the screen to show you all the ways and places you can share the photo. To text choose the text message icon

  

Or you can choose the email app icon you use, either for GMAIL, or Mail, or

  

More recently, iPhones and some Androids allow you to “attach” or “call in” photos from inside the app you want to use to send the picture. In these apps you look for the small icon that shows a camera or is a circle with plus sign – signifying “add”. When you click on these very small icons you often can choose from a list of items you could choose to send. Look for the choice called Photos or Pics or Gallery or Google Photo. You can trust your judgment. There is no harm in clicking something. If you decide it’s not what you intended to get then just don’t send the text message.

Both of the methods described above. Adding from the photos or from inside the text/email apps will get you the same result. The best approach is the one you find easiest to remember.

Saving photos to other devices

iPhones, Mac laptops, and iPads are all connected to iCloud. The benefit of iCloud on all your apple devices is that you can view the photos on each of the devices that are stored on them. So you can look at your phone pics from you Mac laptop or iPad, or see your iPad photo of the sleeping cat on your iPhone. It’s a nice feature. But the problem is if you delete the photo on one device it is GONE from all of them. iCloud holds but does not store you photos.

To save and protect photos you need to store them on other devices that are unaffected by deleting photos from your phone. One way to accomplish this saving is to connect your phone directly to your laptop. To connect them you use the power cord you use to charge the phone. You separate the end of the cord from the charger plug. The cords end with a USB. The USB will look like either of the following:

 which is a USB-A OR 

These ends will allow you to plug your phone into your laptop or desktop computer – as long those devices have an outlet place for a USB-A or USB-C.

You also can connect a special flash drive to the place on your smartphone where you typically plug in the charger cord. These flash drives can be ordered online or bought at stores like Staples or Best Buy. Walmart also carries them. Remember, with flash drives, you get what you pay for. Good brands are important in this case. Good drives are made by Sandisk, Lexar, Verbatim, Apple. The way to choose online is to look at the star ratings and the number of people that have rated the product. If the rating is 4 or more stars and you see that 15K – thousands of people – have rated the product you can feel more confident. I won’t hurt to have more than one flashdrive. These small sticks are hardy but the magnetic material inside does breakdown over time. If you are hoping to leave the photos for a family member to look at in 20 years it’s unlikely the flashdrive will live that long with out error.

Photo files

Photos are saved in different file formats. Like computer documents, some files are .doc, some are .xls, many are .pdf. All are read by different apps. The same is true for photos. Photo files can have many formats, jpg, gif, png, heic. These are all ways to make photos exist in devices. But they each require a different app to view them. HEIC photo format is unique to Apple. It is a format used by iPhones, iPads and Macs. But you can convert HEIC formats to JPG or PNG, formats more often used by Windows PCs. A variety of apps allow you to convert the HEIC to JPG.

Organizing photos

Organizing pictures used to be easy. We had photos printed by mail to Kodak, or went to Walmart, CVS, Walgreens and used the little kiosk to printout our pictures. Then we could put them in albums. Others of us had photos printed and put them in Rubbermaid tubs, with good intentions of putting them in albums. Either method involved having one photo in one location. Smartphones and photo apps have turned that reality on it’s head. In your phone the photo app you use has all the photos in one large library. You cannot empty the library of pictures. But you can use Albums to organize the mess for viewing collections of photos that go together.

You can start a new album by selecting one photo. Use the menu icon, circle with three dots . . .

Tap the dots. Choose album, Add to Album or the name of an existing album that the app suggests for you.

The photo is assigned to that album. But, you also can assign the same photo to more than one album. You could put all the photos of your grandchildren in one album. And, you could put the same photos together with their parent into a son’s family album. The same is true for Christmas photos. You can make albums of Christmas by year. And you also can make an album of Christmas trees over the years. Both albums can have the photo “assigned” to it.

Don’t be afraid to explore your photo app. You do not need to worry about damaging the photos. As long as you do not choose DELETE from a list you have the ability to look around in the screens.