

Role Of Photos In The Association

The U.S. Coast Guard Academy Parents Association (CGAPA) encourages the sharing of photos as a means of fostering communication and support among parents of cadets. It's hoped that this sharing will help folks "break the ice" and communicate directly amongst each other. These images offer a glimpse of a son or daughter often missed and reminds us to support them as well as each other – and that's what it's all about.

While a picture may be worth a thousand words, it is not a substitute for the more traditional forms of support. Most parents find a great deal of support through e-mails, and their local chapters, leading to direct contact and friendships built over time. These relationships continue to build a group with purpose, leading to action, and support of our cadets and the Coast Guard. Perusing posted photo albums is a source of pride -- to see the dedication and service constantly demonstrated by the Coast Guard.

The [CGAPA web site](#) provides a list of WWW links to relevant CGAPA activities and other Coast Guard related sites. The [CGAPA Photos Page](#) is a page within this site dedicated to supporting access to various photo albums shared among cadet parents. Additional information is contained to assist parents in getting photo information to other CGAPA members and is also available through the modest effort and support of [Jim Buckley](#), the CGAPA Photomaster.

Additionally, we are in need and will seek help in locating good photos of the Eagle and the Academy itself. We may ask if some pictures could be utilized for USCGA and/or Parents Association publications. Submissions of pictures for CGAPA or USCGA use can be made via [Dave Haley](#) – The National CGAPA Gallery Coordinator. Pictures can be submitted to Dave for inclusion in the Gallery.

Below are instructions for posting your own collection of pictures for sharing with other CGAPA members.

Steps For Posting Your Pictures

The steps for making your pictures available may be summarized at a high level as:

1. **Gather** your pictures as files on your computer (explanation of this below). These should be organized into sets for one or more photo albums you would normally create.
2. **Establish** an account with a web site, which offers photo storage and viewing services. (See Appendix for a listing of example sites providing such services). This only needs to be done once. Such an account can be used for as many photo albums or purposes you choose.
3. **Create** a photo album on the site selected, and upload your pictures to the album. The means to do this will vary slightly among the various sites, which offer photo storage and viewing services.
4. **Go** to the CGAPA photos web page and record the location of your new photo album. The location and a link to it will be made available through the CGAPA web site by submitting your album information on the [Parent Photo Album](#) form. This central point is a convenience to CGAPA members, permitting an easy way to find relevant photo albums like the one you've set up.
5. **Accept** accolades from other parents

The last 3 steps are repeated for as many photo albums you wish to create.

That's all there is to it! (For those of you who don't believe that statement, congratulate yourselves). The following sections will discuss each of these steps in some more detail. The above steps assume you already have your pictures digitally stored in files on your computer. For those of you not familiar with using graphics files on your computer, the photo services listed in the Appendix also provide development and scanning services that may be used for digital conversion of your pictures.

Gather Your Pictures Into Graphics Files

Getting your pictures into a digital form is a matter of scanning an existing photograph into a graphics file, or, if you're lucky enough to have a digital camera, downloading the pictures from the camera into files on your computer. If you are the user of a digital camera, we will assume you've read the instructions on how to copy and edit graphic files (pictures) on your computer. For the remainder of us, we will assume we are working with film.

On-line photos are a means of displaying an electronic version of your developed film. The mechanics of scanning a photo into a graphics file will be left to another discussion, however I will pass on the following recommendation:

Ensure your images are in "JPEG" ([definition](#)) format. The definition of JPEG has been shamelessly copied below. Most popular image editing software can produce files in a myriad of formats. The most common, suitable format for our purposes would be the JPEG format. These types of files can be readily identified as files with names ending in ".jpg" or ".jpeg".

JPEG Files

JPEG (jay-peg) is the best choice to use with photographs on the Web. JPEG stands for "Joint Photographic Experts Group." (Bet you could have gone all week without knowing that!) JPEGs used to be supported only as external images, but today Netscape and other major browsers support them as internal images.

While JPEGs set no limit on the number of colors and generally result in smaller files of a photo image than do GIFs ([definition](#)), GIFs remain the best choice for line art and simple

images with large blocks of a few colors. The type of compression used in JPEGs just doesn't lend itself to large blocks of the same color.

When converting to JPEG format with a program such as Photoshop you will get a choice that is essentially a trade-off between image quality and compression. You can have relatively little compression and high image quality and lots of compression and low image quality, or anything in between. The best way to see what happens with any given photograph is to experiment. Right now (January 1996) compression is very important to speed up the delivery of an image. I usually take a middle ground when creating JPEGs, giving moderate compression and moderate image quality. With faster delivery system this may not be very important in the future.

Picture Resolution

Another factor that greatly impacts picture quality is the resolution at which the picture image is recorded. Much like the resolution on your TV or computer monitor, the number of lines of resolution or the number of pixels (dots) used to compose the image, dictates how clear an image can appear when viewed or printed. The greater the resolution – often defined in terms of “dots per inch” (DPI), the more defined and clear the image may appear.

Of course the greater clarity comes at a price. This price is paid in terms of the size of the file required to hold the image file containing your picture. The larger the file, the longer it may take for you to upload, and other to download (view), your picture.

Scanning developed photos

For those of you scanning pictures in for posting, a normal setting of **150** dpi (dots per inch) is more than satisfactory for casual viewing and sharing of images. If you wish to share pictures with others for the purpose of others to download and print your pictures, other considerations should be made.

For high-quality printing, pictures should be scanned at a higher resolution. I would recommend starting with a resolution of **300** dpi and experiment with various scanner settings to see which produces the best results for your equipment and goals. By simply doubling the resolution, the resulting file will probably **quadruple** in size (that's right, 4 times the size).

Other factors affecting scan quality is the “color depth”. This is the number of different colors that can be represented by each dot scanned in the image making up your picture. Again, I would recommend starting with your scanners default value, which is likely to be labeled “**TrueColor**” or “**24-bits**”. This setting provides the ability for any single dot on the image to be one of approximately 16 million colors! The most equipment used by home users can take advantage of this depth of color and provides a good smooth appearance to the electronic image. Lower values can certainly be used for saving space (file size). Again, some experimentation would be in order but start with the default values!

Photo-editing for improved quality

Once your pictures are scanned, or otherwise obtained into digital graphics files, you've one more opportunity to make adjustments before posting them. Often a good graphics-editing program can make fine adjustments and improvements to your image files. While I will not go into the details of any of the specific programs on the market, many are quite good and reasonably priced. If you have a scanner, it is more than likely an image-editing program was provided with your scanner.

Programs range from the professional image editing software such as [Adobe](#) “Photoshop” (\$500-600!) to much simpler fare such as the free software provided with most scanners. The low-end software should be fine for most folks if it can perform the following basic functions:

- Enlarge or Shrink the image (to save space and up/download time)
- “Red-eye” reduction (getting rid of that space-alien look in many flash photos)
- JPEG file optimization (fine-tuning the rate of compression of JPEG format files)
- Modification of color balance (fixing color problems in photo development)

Each of these features can be found in almost all, basic image-editing software. For the more advanced features, you quickly move into more serious money. I personally use “Paint Shop Pro” from [JASC Software](#). The software can be downloaded for a free limited time trial and the package is low to mid-ranged price. It has a tremendous range of features – some say approaching Adobe Photoshop – for a hundred bucks (\$100). I’ve used it for years and have been quite happy with it. I have **not** done an exhaustive search but have used both of the above packages somewhat extensively. Photoshop is the Cadillac of image editors and is “the” standard for image editing professionals / artists. It is not for the faint of heart, nor thin of wallet.

Establish An Account With A Selected On-Line Photo Site

Unless you have a web site of your own and are willing to put the time into creating a page or two for viewing pictures, you will most likely need to use one of the web-based services noted in the Appendix. As with most web sites, the content and features of these services vary greatly. The services relevant to our needs will entail some or all of the following:

- Ability to collect and edit pictures in the context of a photo album
- Ability to review all pictures in an index to review the entire set and selectively enlarge targeted photos.
- Develop film and convert (or scan) final pictures into graphics files
- Provide additional CD of images (photos) from developed film.
- Service to scan developed pictures mailed to the service provider, into graphics files.

An excellent source of information I found regarding current on-line photo album is at <http://www.andromeda.com/people/ddyer/photo/albums.html>. This site lists the sites I’ve tried and many, many more. This site is a page from www.Andromeda.com’s photo services business and therefore includes lots of info concerning their site. The presence of lots of links to other services makes this page worth a look!

Most of these sites are in business to develop your film. In addition to the delivery of your actual prints or slides, they offer on-line storage and viewing of the developed pictures. I’ve not tried these development services however I use the free services for the posting of prints I scan directly. Please note that I make no recommendations or critique of any of these sites, simply a description of how I utilize some services.

The two sites I have tried with success are:

PhotoPoint sample album sample picture	storage	scans	image size	upload	album links	viewer	prints etc.
	10 photos free, or 250 photos for basic membership @ 19.95/yr	Yes	photos are normally, scaled to web size, but that can be overridden. 2600x2600 maximum.	email, browser, ftp, compupic	direct links to albums, deep links to individual photos (good for ebay!)	fit to various sizes, including Original images.	4x6 0.49 5x7 0.99 8x10 2.99 prints by shutterfly
	<p>April 7, 2001: Photopoint announced their intention to become a paid service as of June, 2001. Information above reflects the proposed parameters for their subscription scheme. Their online viewer is good. New photos arrive in an "inbox" album after an unpredictable delay for processing, and then must be moved to other albums using a simple web interface.</p> <p>The sign-up procedure is minimal - they don't even try to collect demographic info about you. Uploaded images can be downloaded using ftp. If you are a fan of their system, epson.com and Canon Hyperphoto are "powered by" photopoint site that's still free.</p> <p>Platform Notes: Macintosh users are supported by iview</p>						
Webshots sample album sample picture	free storage	scans	image size	upload	album links	viewer	prints etc.
	not stated	no	1600x1200	browser, email, album manager	direct links to albums, direct links to images.	thumbnails, medium size, full size	4x6 0.49 5x7 0.99 8x10 2.99 prints by Ofoto
	<p>Webshots features basic storage and viewing capabilities. This site is affiliated with excite.com.</p>						

My personal choice is [Webshots.com](#) insofar that the service is free and I store other albums there and I like using what I am familiar with. Your mileage may vary. Please take the time to assess your own needs and compare them with the great array of really good service providers out there.

To begin we must inform the site of who we are, establishing an identity with the on-line photo service. Virtually all of these services require we provide some "personal information" so no one else can manipulate our own photo albums. While we can permit public viewing and downloading (copying) of the pictures in our albums, we do not want others making any modifications to them. Only the owner of the photo albums can make modifications.

The manner in which you establish an account with an on-line photo service will vary depending upon the services and whether or not there are periodic fees for their service.

Create Your On-Line Photo Album

Once you've established an account with a service, you will need to follow the directions for this service to create a photo album (a collection of picture, or ".jpg" files). The means to do this varies greatly among the services. All offer ability to manager your photo albums with a web browser while the better ones provide a small windows program to do it more easily and effectively.

Creating a photo album is usually as simply as clicking a button to add the album and giving it a name. Once the album is created, files may then be uploaded to the on-line service where upon each picture file is then associated with the specified photo album. Once the files are attached to a photo album, most services provide a modest capability to manage the photos in an album. Photos can be added, removed, sorted within or among photo albums. Additionally photos can

have comments or captions associated with them – very helpful for us viewers to understand which cadets may be in the picture, or the action taking place.

An important piece of information about a photo album is its “URL Link”. This is the “Universal Resource Locator” string (or address), which the service designates for your photo album. Various services provide this information differently. It is **important to note** that this URL is needed in the next step – posting this URL (or “Link”) on the [CGAPA Photos Page](#). Once your photos are posted, arranged the way you want them, and you’ve obtained the URL for your photo album, you are ready for the next and step.

An example set of instructions is included in following sections, describing the steps to set up a photo album on [WebShots.com](#).

Posting Web-Site Link To National Web-Site Album

Others will need to know how to find your photo album. This is done by posting a link to your photo album via “[Add a Parent Photo Album Link](#)” page of the [CGAPA Photo Page](#). This page requests all the detailed info on labeling and accessing your photo album for other CGAPA members:

- Name
- e-mail
- Your Cadet
- Location taken
- Date of Photos
- Name of Photo Album
- URL of Photo Album – This is the most important piece of information insofar that it provides the internet link to which members will point their browser. This will be displayed as a link with the other information above so members can quickly and conveniently access your photo album.
- Optional comments

Once this information is posted, all you need to do is collect the accolades from appreciative parents who get an opportunity to see the Coast Guard and their cadets!

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

As this document is new, it is difficult to find “frequently” asked questions just yet. Below are some questions that are likely to be asked in the near future and are equally likely to be answered in the next edition of this document – stay tuned!

What types of pictures can be shared?

Is a digital camera required to use pictures on a computer?

What makes picture files so large?

Size of the image

Number of colors in the image (color depth)

Amount of compression applied to the file

Issues Regarding Photos

This section will be for ongoing issues encountered by members of the Parents Association. Below are some issues that may be expanded upon in a future edition of this document.

Publishing Guides For Posting Photos

All pictures should be of a positive nature

Some Net Pictures Are Too Expensive

The Internet Is Public Domain

Posted pictures are not private

We may ask if some pictures may be utilized for USCGA publications

Appendix - Listing of On-Line Photo Sites

The following information was shamelessly copied from <http://www.andromeda.com/people/ddyer/photo/albums.html>. For the latest and updated information, please contact the site above.

Canon Hyperphoto (sample album)	free storage	scans	image size	upload	album links	viewer	prints etc.
	50mb	No	up to 5mb	email, browser, browser-based uploader	direct links to albums, deep links to individual photos (good for ebay!)	fit to various sizes, including Original.	4x6 0.49 5x7 0.99 8x10 2.99 prints by shutterfly
	This is apparently an official clone of photopoint site, so runs similar software. Their online viewer is good.						
Platform Notes:							
Cartogra.com sample album 50 Free prints as a promotion.	free storage	Scans	image size	upload	album links	viewer	prints etc.
	100 mb	No	5mb file size	browser, photo manager	direct links to albums. Cookies required.	thumbnails, zoomable slide show	4x6 0.49 5x7 0.99 8x10 3.99 prints by Ofoto
	This site is associated with Hewlett Packard. It seems to have the good set of standard features. Their photo manager/uploaded is based on ACDSee .						
Club Photo sample album sample photo sample unenhanced scanned roll sample enhanced scanned roll	free storage	Scans	image size	upload	album links	viewer	prints etc.
	inactive albums are deleted after 90 days	yes \$1 prepaid mailers.	less than 4kx4k	browser, album manager, uploader application	direct links to albums, direct links original image.	thumbnails, medium size, original image. Slide show.	4x6 0.45 5x7 0.99 8x10 3.99 print quality: good
	A good site. They have a good model for maintaining a private collection on your home machine, along with a parallel published version on the web. Living Album , is good management software (free), with an inexpensive upgrade available. Mailed-in film appeared on the web amazingly fast: 2 days after dropoff. Scans are the usual 1536x1024 picture disk resolution, but appear to have been sharpened to the limit of acceptability, and other wise "enhanced", which may account for the strangely colored sand in the sample roll. Club photo offered to rescan the negatives without enhancement, so you can judge for yourself. It's possible to download the scanned images one at time through their interface, or buy a CD for \$4.69. Some prints have a slight blueish cast, and macbeth chart yellow was curiously defective (just like shutterfly).						
Platform Notes: Macintosh users are supported by iview							
DigitalFridge.com	free	Scans	image	upload	album	viewer	prints etc.

<p>sample album</p>	<table border="1"> <tr> <th>storage</th> <th></th> <th>size</th> <th></th> <th>links</th> <th></th> <th></th> </tr> <tr> <td>not stated</td> <td>No</td> <td>1.4mb</td> <td>browser</td> <td>direct links to albums are possible.</td> <td>thumbnails, medium size. Original image..</td> <td>no</td> </tr> </table> <p>This site is associated with Kensington, who sells digital frames. The site a a pretty minimal feature set, but the presentation is fairly clean and simple, and it works.</p>	storage		size		links			not stated	No	1.4mb	browser	direct links to albums are possible.	thumbnails, medium size. Original image..	no
storage		size		links											
not stated	No	1.4mb	browser	direct links to albums are possible.	thumbnails, medium size. Original image..	no									
<p>DotPhoto.com sample album 60 Free prints as a promotion.</p>	<table border="1"> <tr> <th>free storage</th> <th>scans</th> <th>image size</th> <th>upload</th> <th>album links</th> <th>viewer</th> <th>prints etc.</th> </tr> <tr> <td>unlimited</td> <td>free.</td> <td>6mb</td> <td>browser, email, snail mail, Windows IE plugin. Original Images can be downloaded.</td> <td>direct links to albums</td> <td>thumbnails, small size.</td> <td>4x6 0.29 5x7 0.95 8x10 2.95 12x18 9.99 print quality: excellent</td> </tr> </table> <p>This web site is a little harder to use, and lacking in some features most other sites have. They mainly seem to want to sell prints and enlargements; and their print quality is exceptionally good. If you're primarily interested in getting prints made from your digital photos, this might be the right place. Besides free storage and pay-per-print pricing, they are selling what amounts to prepaid print service. If you anticipate buying a steady stream of prints, it might be worthwhile. The other unique feature of this site is to store accompanying sound clips with photos.</p> <p>Platform Notes: Macintosh users are well supported.</p>	free storage	scans	image size	upload	album links	viewer	prints etc.	unlimited	free.	6mb	browser, email, snail mail, Windows IE plugin. Original Images can be downloaded.	direct links to albums	thumbnails, small size.	4x6 0.29 5x7 0.95 8x10 2.95 12x18 9.99 print quality: excellent
free storage	scans	image size	upload	album links	viewer	prints etc.									
unlimited	free.	6mb	browser, email, snail mail, Windows IE plugin. Original Images can be downloaded.	direct links to albums	thumbnails, small size.	4x6 0.29 5x7 0.95 8x10 2.95 12x18 9.99 print quality: excellent									
<p>Eframes.com sample album</p>	<table border="1"> <tr> <th>free storage</th> <th>Scans</th> <th>image size</th> <th>upload</th> <th>album links</th> <th>viewer</th> <th>prints etc.</th> </tr> <tr> <td>not stated</td> <td>No</td> <td>not stated</td> <td>browser</td> <td>direct links to albums</td> <td>thumbnails, medium size, full size.</td> <td>4x6 0.49 5x7 0.99 8x10 2.99 11x14 4.99 also available framed and in combo pages with multiple images in various sizes on a single print. print quality: excellent</td> </tr> </table> <p>This site seems to exist to sell you framed prints, although unframed prints are available in standard sizes up to 11x14; and also in "gang" format with multiple prints of the same photo on an 8x10. Uploading and ordering are a bit cumbersome for multiple photos. My test prints had a slight blue bias, but were otherwise excellent.</p>	free storage	Scans	image size	upload	album links	viewer	prints etc.	not stated	No	not stated	browser	direct links to albums	thumbnails, medium size, full size.	4x6 0.49 5x7 0.99 8x10 2.99 11x14 4.99 also available framed and in combo pages with multiple images in various sizes on a single print. print quality: excellent
free storage	Scans	image size	upload	album links	viewer	prints etc.									
not stated	No	not stated	browser	direct links to albums	thumbnails, medium size, full size.	4x6 0.49 5x7 0.99 8x10 2.99 11x14 4.99 also available framed and in combo pages with multiple images in various sizes on a single print. print quality: excellent									
<p>EZPrints.com sample album</p>	<table border="1"> <tr> <th>free storage</th> <th>Scans</th> <th>image size</th> <th>upload</th> <th>album links</th> <th>viewer</th> <th>prints etc.</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	free storage	Scans	image size	upload	album links	viewer	prints etc.							
free storage	Scans	image size	upload	album links	viewer	prints etc.									

				java applet), ftp-like uploader, mail-in CD	direct links to photos are possible.		
<p>This site seems primarily interested in selling prints, with viewing and sharing as afterthoughts. Particularly, there is only one album per account, though you are encouraged to create more accounts; Their uploader application <i>only</i> uploads images for printing;. Viewing is limited to thumbnail sized and full sized images, with nothing in between.</p>							
<p>Fotango sample album</p>	free storage	Scans	image size	upload	album links	viewer	prints etc.
	not stated	Free	no apparent limit	browser	two-click access to albums	thumbnails, medium size.	4x6 £0.49 5x7 £0.99 8x10 £1.99
	<p>This site is based in the UK, with plans to expand into the rest of the EU. Prices for full sets of prints from scanned images are substantially better than the single print prices.</p>						
<p>Fotki.com sample album sample image</p>	free storage	Scans	image size	upload	album links	viewer	prints etc.
	not stated	No	not stated, but seems to store full res.	browser, copy web URL, compupic	direct links to albums, direct links to original image .	thumbnails, web size, original image	none
	<p>This site seems to be still under construction - no documentation of their policies or features is provided - but the essential features seem to be present and working.</p>						
<p>FotoTime sample album sample image</p>	free storage	scans	image size	upload	album links	viewer	prints etc.
	unlimited	no	no apparent	browser, album	by invitation	thumbnails, medium	4x6 0.49 5x7 0.99
	<p>This site is relatively uncluttered, and provides the basic services. Their online viewer is good. They're primarily oriented to maintaining a your site through</p> <p>Platform Notes: Mac users are supported by iview a third party album manager.</p>						

	<p>Platform Notes: Mac users are supported by iview a third party album manager.</p>						
<p>Free sites: sample album</p>	free storage	scans	image size	upload	album links	viewer	prints etc.
	varies, usually multiple megabytes	no	your choice	ftp	your choice	your choice	none
	<p>There are many places to get generic free web space these days. They're not photo sites per se, but any web site could be a photo album with the right HTML. I found a nifty free program called Albumatic that makes it really easy to create an "album" web site using any of these free services, or for that matter any web space you happen to have access to. Albumatic automates the process of importing a batch of photos into an album, making thumbnails, adding captions, and exporting the whole shebang to the web site.</p>						
<p>GatherRound sample album 25 Free prints as a promotion.</p>	free storage	scans	image size	upload	album links	viewer	prints etc.
	50 mb. Inactive albums are deleted after 1 year	no	By default, pictures are scaled to web size. This can be overridden with ftp upload.	browser, ftp-like	direct links to albums	thumbnails, larger thumbnail, medium size	4x6 0.49 5x7 0.99 8x10 2.99 prints by Ofoto
	<p>This is another pretty basic site. Pictures are stored at screen shot resolution, probably only about 50 in their basic free service level. There is a free album manger that can upload groups of photos, but it is pretty slow when handling large images. The online album viewer is primitive, but functional.</p>						
<p>Geofoto sample image</p>	free storage	scans	image size	upload	album links	viewer	prints etc.
	20mb	soon	2mb	browser,	direct links to full original photos are possible.	thumbnails, medium size, Original images .	Yes, prices in Singapore \$, checks only.
	<p>This site is based in Singapore. interface is somewhat confusing, but works once you figure it out. The upload tool is unresponsive to inputs while uploading, but works.</p>						
<p>GroveStreet.com sample album sample image</p>	free	scans	image	upload	album	viewer	prints etc
	not	no	2mb	browser.	direct	thumbnails.	no

	<table border="1"> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>images</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="7"> <p>The basic features you expect are here, and the owner/operator is obviously putting a lot of thought and effort into making a site which is not just a me-too to all the other sites. Best of all, he seems to read and respond to his email.</p> </td> </tr> </table>											images			<p>The basic features you expect are here, and the owner/operator is obviously putting a lot of thought and effort into making a site which is not just a me-too to all the other sites. Best of all, he seems to read and respond to his email.</p>						
				images																	
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<p>ImageEvent.com (sample album) (sample image)</p>	free storage	scans	image size	upload	album links	viewer	prints etc.														
	50 images free. \$19.95/yr for 1500	no	5mb	browser, browser based uploader	direct links to albums are possible. Direct links to images are possible.	thumbnails, small size, other intermediate sizes up to Original images.	4x6 0.45 5x7 0.95 8x10 2.95														
<p>This site works pretty well and has some nice customization features, but the limit of 50 images will limit its usefulness except to paying customers.</p>																					
<p>Imira.com sample album</p>	free storage	scans	image size	upload	album links	viewer	prints etc.														
	20 mb	no	2mb. Uploader defaults to an image reduced to web resolution.	browser, ftp-like.	direct links to albums, direct links to photos are possible.	thumbnails, full size	not yet														
<p>This site is associated with Ulead software. It's very rudimentary at the moment. Their uploader/browser, Ulead Photo Explorer, is mostly excellent, but insists on mangling photos upon upload. Defaults produce web resolution images, and it's not possible to fully override the defaults.</p>																					
<p>InfoPics.com (no sample album)</p>	free storage	scans	image size	upload	album links	viewer	prints etc.														
	6 images.	no	100k (yes, 100K)	browser	no	full size	no														
<p>Not really useful as an album site due to the size and number of pictures they permit (server down 4/14/2001).</p>																					
<p>Kodak (no sample)</p>	free storage	scans	image size	upload	album links	viewer	prints etc.														
	pay for what you	yes																			
<p>I have to mention Kodak, even though it is NOT free: you pay for the scanning, or for "blank rolls" of space. You pay again for long term storage. You pay <i>again</i> to download hires versions of <i>your own images</i>. However, they do have one</p>																					

	film you have developed, and have your developed photos posted to Kodak's web site and delivered on a photodc, in addition to traditional developing and printing.						
<p>LogUSinc (no sample album)</p>	free storage	scans	image size	upload	album links	viewer	prints etc.
	this site seems to be not yet operational, but someday they'll have albums, photo gifts, and high tech toilets (not a joke!).						
<p>MSN communities sample album</p>	free storage	scans	image size	upload	album links	viewer	prints etc.
	30 mb	no	no	browser	direct links to albums	thumbnails, full size	none
	Microsoft's community web site. Nothing special, but linked to their other services.						
<p>Nikonnet.com sample album sample image</p>	free storage	scans	image size	upload	album links	viewer	prints etc.
	unlimited	no	3mb	browser, browser drag-n-drop,email	direct links to albums, direct links to original image .	thumbnails, web size, original image	4x6 0.59 5x7 2.95 8x10 7.95
	This site is "powered by" Photolsland						
	Platform Notes: Macintosh users are supported by iview						
<p>Ofoto sample album sample photo (medium size) sample scanned roll 15 Free prints as a promotion.</p>	free	scans	image	upload	album	viewer	prints etc
	unlimited	Yes	10mb	browser,	direct	thumbnails,	4x6 0.49
	Ofoto has the basics. and everything that is there works. Their uploader						

	<p>images, so it's hard to evaluate the quality of the scan.</p> <p>Platform Notes: Macintosh users are well supported.</p>						
<p>PBase.com sample album</p>	free storage	scans	image size	upload	album links	viewer	prints etc.
	unlimited	no	unlimited	browser, single files or zipped collections	direct links to albums, direct links to images	thumbnails, medium size, large, original image	no
	<p>This site is a quirky, personal effort. It's also adamantly noncommercial, no banners, no products. Pbase also gives you more control over the presentation than most sites.</p>						
<p>photo.Epson.com (sample album)</p>	free storage	scans	image size	upload	album links	viewer	prints etc.
	not stated	no	not stated	email, browser, ftp-like, ftp	direct links to albums, deep links to individual photos (good for ebay!)	fit to various sizes, including Original images.	4x6 0.49 5x7 0.99 8x10 2.99 prints by shutterfly
	<p>This is apparently an official "powered by" photopoint site, so runs similar software. Their online viewer is good. New photos arrive in an "inbox" album after an unpredictable delay for processing, and then must be moved to other albums using a simple web interface. Not an advertised feature, but you can upload photos directly using FTP to ftpelson.photopoint.com, and you can also download your online photos there.</p> <p>Platform Notes:</p>						
<p>PhotoAccess.com sample album</p>	free storage	scans	image size	upload	album links	viewer	prints etc.
	accounts dormant 1 year may be deleted.	no	10Mb per image. Unaltered originals can be downloaded.	browser, ftp-like.	direct links to albums.	thumbnails, small image, medium size image.	4x6 \$0.45 5x7 \$1.09 8x10 \$2.95 print quality: poor. 35mm slide 3.95 slide quality: good
	<p>Their prints are lower resolution than other services, poor (and inconstant) color rendition, and poor exposure control. Think K-Mart!. Slides were rendered slightly yellow, and resolved about 22 lpm. Album owners can download the original images.</p> <p>Platform Notes: Macintosh users are well supported.</p>						
<p>PhotoASA sample album</p>	free storage	scans	image size	upload	album links	viewer	prints etc.
	10mb	no	your choice	browser, album	direct links to	thumbnails, chosen size	no

		choice	album manager	links to albums	chosen size		
<p>This seems to be mainly a demonstration site for the host company, hoping to attract customers who want similar sites. Everything works, but it's all very basic stuff.</p>							
<p>Photochannel (no sample album)</p>	free storage	scans	image size	upload	album links	viewer	prints etc.
	not stated	yes	4mb	browser, uploader plugin	direct links to albums	thumbnails, medium size, 800x600	4x6 0.49 5x7 0.99 8x10 2.99
	<p>This site seems to be generally at an embryonic stage.</p> <p>Platform Notes: Broken using Netscape</p>						
<p>Photocountry.com sample album sample image</p>	free storage	scans	image size	upload	album links	viewer	prints etc.
	not stated, approximately 25mb	no	no apparent limit	album manager	direct links to albums, direct links to original image	thumbnails, original image	no
	<p>This site is lacking many basic features, but is apparently still under development.</p>						
<p>PhotoIsland sample album (password is ddver)</p>	free storage	scans	image size	upload	album links	viewer	prints etc.
	50mb	no	no apparent limit	browser, drag-n-drop, ftp-like, compupic	guest password required	thumbnails, medium size, original image	4x6 0.49 5x7 0.99 8x10 2.99
	<p>This site provides the basic organizing, viewing, and photo gift features. It has a particularly good set of upload options,</p>						
<p>Photoloft sample album sample picture</p>	free storage	scans	image size	upload	album links	viewer	prints etc.
	0 mb	no	no apparent restrictions	browser, ftp-like, email, album manager	direct links to albums, direct links to pictures	thumbnails, medium size, full size, zoomable viewer	4x6 0.49 5x7 1.99 8x10 3.99 print quality: very good.
	<p>March 23, 2001: Photoloft now requires paid membership at rates in the range of \$2/mb/yr, which seems pretty unrealistic considering the competition, which includes <i>themselves</i>: Studioavenue runs from the same site, for free, sponsored by Jasc.</p> <p>Their viewer is the best for viewing single images, but is inconvenient if you want to scroll through images at larger than thumbnail size. Uploading can be</p>						

	<p>want to scroll through images at larger than thumbnail size. Uploading can be done from a browser, email, or small ftp-only application, or using Compupic a more elaborate album manager application. Their upload application is a little buggy, but usable. Overall reliability of the site has been marginal. Their prints are perfectly exposed, but their color is a little bluish and some prints were not as sharp as they should be.</p>														
<p>PhotoPoint sample album sample picture</p>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>storage</th> <th>scans</th> <th>image size</th> <th>upload</th> <th>album links</th> <th>viewer</th> <th>prints etc.</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>10 photos free, or 250 photos for basic membership @ 19.95/yr</td> <td>yes</td> <td>photos are normally, scaled to web size, but that can be overridden. 2600x2600 maximum.</td> <td>email, browser, ftp, compupic</td> <td>direct links to albums, deep links to individual photos (good for ebay!)</td> <td>fit to various sizes, including Original images.</td> <td>4x6 0.49 5x7 0.99 8x10 2.99 prints by shutterfly</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>April 7, 2001: Photopoint announced their intention to become a paid service as of June, 2001. Information above reflects the proposed parameters for their subscription scheme.</p> <p>Their online viewer is good. New photos arrive in an "inbox" album after an unpredictable delay for processing, and then must be moved to other albums using a simple web interface.</p> <p>The sign-up procedure is minimal - they don't even try to collect demographic info about you. Uploaded images can be downloaded using ftp. If you are a fan of their system, epson.com and Canon Hyperphoto are "powered by" photopoint site that's still free.</p> <p>Platform Notes: Macintosh users are supported by iview</p>	storage	scans	image size	upload	album links	viewer	prints etc.	10 photos free, or 250 photos for basic membership @ 19.95/yr	yes	photos are normally, scaled to web size, but that can be overridden. 2600x2600 maximum.	email, browser, ftp, compupic	direct links to albums, deep links to individual photos (good for ebay!)	fit to various sizes, including Original images .	4x6 0.49 5x7 0.99 8x10 2.99 prints by shutterfly
storage	scans	image size	upload	album links	viewer	prints etc.									
10 photos free, or 250 photos for basic membership @ 19.95/yr	yes	photos are normally, scaled to web size, but that can be overridden. 2600x2600 maximum.	email, browser, ftp, compupic	direct links to albums, deep links to individual photos (good for ebay!)	fit to various sizes, including Original images .	4x6 0.49 5x7 0.99 8x10 2.99 prints by shutterfly									
<p>Photos.Lycos.com (sample album)</p>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>free storage</th> <th>scans</th> <th>image size</th> <th>upload</th> <th>album links</th> <th>viewer</th> <th>prints etc.</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>not stated</td> <td>no</td> <td>5mb</td> <td>browser</td> <td>direct links to albums are possible.</td> <td>thumbnails, small size, Original images.</td> <td>no</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Viewing "small size" image actually loads the full size. Not very smart.</p>	free storage	scans	image size	upload	album links	viewer	prints etc.	not stated	no	5mb	browser	direct links to albums are possible.	thumbnails, small size, Original images .	no
free storage	scans	image size	upload	album links	viewer	prints etc.									
not stated	no	5mb	browser	direct links to albums are possible.	thumbnails, small size, Original images .	no									
<p>Photoworks sample scanned album</p>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>free storage</th> <th>scans</th> <th>image size</th> <th>upload</th> <th>album links</th> <th>viewer</th> <th>prints etc.</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>not stated</td> <td>yes</td> <td>unlimited, but re-compressed</td> <td>ftp-like</td> <td>direct links to albums</td> <td>thumbnails, small size, medium size</td> <td>4x6 0.25 5x7 0.95 8x10 1.95</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Photoworks is the new name for Seattle Filmworks, a well-known (if not well respected) low cost player in the traditional mail order film processing business. Analog prints from the scanned roll were good, but the scans are awful (greenish, overexposed: see scanned album) and half the resolution of other services. Digital images can only be added using their uploader program, which recompresses the images, and is not available for Macintosh or Windows NT.</p>	free storage	scans	image size	upload	album links	viewer	prints etc.	not stated	yes	unlimited, but re-compressed	ftp-like	direct links to albums	thumbnails, small size, medium size	4x6 0.25 5x7 0.95 8x10 1.95
free storage	scans	image size	upload	album links	viewer	prints etc.									
not stated	yes	unlimited, but re-compressed	ftp-like	direct links to albums	thumbnails, small size, medium size	4x6 0.25 5x7 0.95 8x10 1.95									
<p>PictureTrail sample album</p>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>storage</th> <th>scans</th> <th>image size</th> <th>upload</th> <th>album links</th> <th>viewer</th> <th>prints etc.</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	storage	scans	image size	upload	album links	viewer	prints etc.							
storage	scans	image size	upload	album links	viewer	prints etc.									

	10 mb	yes	scaled to selectable size, or unscaled. limit of 400K	browser	direct links to albums, direct links to individual photos	thumbnails, uploaded size	none
<p>Their albums are basic and limited to very small image files, but the site is easy to use and works well. This site was originally known as EasyFoto</p>							
<p>PrintRoom sample album sample picture</p>	free storage	scans	image size	upload	album links	viewer	prints etc.
<p>200 mb. inactive albums are deleted after 6 months</p> <p>no</p> <p>no apparent limit</p> <p>browser, drag-n-drop plugin, mailed CDs, uploader</p> <p>direct links to albums, direct links to photos are possible</p> <p>thumbnails, medium size, original image</p> <p>4x6 0.39 5x7 0.99 8x10 2.99 print quality: good</p> <p>This site provides basic free album upload and viewing capabilities, and would especially like to sell you prints at reasonable prices. Their print ordering service seems well organized. All the analog characteristics of their prints are good; Exposure was precise, saturation a little low for my taste but within the range of preference (rather than error), and color just a shade bluish. However, digital scan line and moiré artifacts were visible in large monochromatic areas, especially in large prints.</p>							
<p>SeeMeSmile.com sample album</p>	free storage	scans	image size	upload	album links	viewer	prints etc.
<p>not stated</p> <p>no</p> <p>500k file size</p> <p>browser</p> <p>direct links to albums</p> <p>thumbnails, small size</p> <p>not yet</p> <p>New site with basic services only, so far.</p>							
<p>Shutterfly sample album 15 Free prints as a promotion.</p>	free storage	scans	image size	upload	album links	viewer	prints etc.
<p>not stated</p> <p>Free</p> <p>no apparent limit</p> <p>browser, drag-n-drop plugin, desktop uploader</p> <p>you can issue invitations to view arbitrary sets of images.</p> <p>thumbnails, small pictures</p> <p>4x6 0.49 5x7 1.99 8x10 3.99 print quality: very good.</p> <p>Yet another site still under development. The viewer is rudimentary, and the general site organization is confusing. They have some interesting options to add effects to images. Their prints are very good (not as good as ofoto) but have one consistent, flagrant flaw with yellows (see notes). Prints include text printed on the back, which some of the partners let you control. Scanned images are the standard 1536x1024 scans, but because of the tiny viewing size and the inability to download, it's very hard to access the quality or use scanned images for any other purpose.</p>							
<p>Snapfish</p>	free	scans	image	upload	album	viewer	prints etc.

(no sample album)	storage		size		links		
	not stated. Inactive accounts deleted after 6 months.	yes	not stated	browser	registration required for viewing	thumbnails, medium size	4x6 0.59 5x7 0.99 8x10 2.99
<p>Snapfish will develop, scan, print and ship your prints and negatives for a \$3.98 per roll. Not quite free, but the cheapest way I know to get prints and scanning. A sample roll sent to Snapfish, at a nearby location, took 18 days to reappear as negatives and prints in my mailbox; and the online notification of the prints arrived the same day. Apparently, some extra-ordinary delay was involved, because Snapfish automated communications (not in response to a complaint) apologized and contained additional freebies in compensation. Print quality of the analog prints is standard "drug store" quality; a little uneven in exposure, but quite satisfactory color. There is no way to get high res digital versions of scanned photos.</p>							

<p>Sony ImageStation sample album sample picture 50 free prints as a promotion</p>	free storage	scans	image size	upload	album links	viewer	prints etc.
	unlimited	no	2mb	browser, email, drag-n-drop plugin	direct links to albums, direct links to original images .	thumbnails, medium size, original image	4x6 0.49 5x7 0.99 8x10 3.45 prints by Ofoto
	<p>Sony has apparently abandoned their earlier, proprietary effort and decided to buy into the business of offering free stuff. Their album management is from Zing, and their prints from Ofoto.</p> <p>Platform Notes: Macintosh users are supported by iview</p>						

<p>Studioavenue.com sample album</p>	free storage	scans	image size	upload	album links	viewer	prints etc.
	50 mb	no	no apparent restrictions	browser, ftp-like, email, album manager	direct links to albums, direct links to pictures scaled to various sizes.	thumbnails, medium size, full size, zoomable viewer	4x6 0.49 5x7 1.99 8x10 3.99 print quality: very good.
	<p>Studioavenue is a sponsored clone of Photoloft Their viewer is the best for viewing single images, but is inconvenient if you want to scroll through images at larger than thumbnail size. Some of the upload options from photoloft don't seem to be available here, but the online viewing software seems to be identical.</p>						

<p>WebPhotos sample album</p>	free	scans	image	upload	album	viewer	prints etc.
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	not stated	no	no apparent limit	browser	direct links to albums are possible.	thumbnails, original image	no
<p>Uploads to this site are strictly one-at-a-time. Their viewer downloads the full sized images in a medium sized space, so you wait to download the whole image, then get to see only a small version. Dumb!</p>							
<p>Webshots sample album sample picture</p>	free storage	scans	image size	upload	album links	viewer	prints etc.
	not stated	no	1600x1200	browser, email, album manager	direct links to albums, direct links to images.	thumbnails, medium size, full size	4x6 0.49 5x7 0.99 8x10 2.99 prints by Ofoto
<p>Webshots features basic storage and viewing capabilities. This site is affiliated with excite.com.</p>							
<p>Yahoo Photos sample album first print order (15 prints) free</p>	free storage	scans	image size	upload	album links	viewer	prints etc.
	15 mb	yes	your choice	browser, any URL	direct links to albums, direct links to photos are possible.	thumbnails, full size.	4x6 0.49 5x7 1.99 8x10 4.99 prints by Shutterfly , quality: very good.
<p>This site is developed for yahoo by shutterfly. Everything works but there's nothing fancy here. Scanning service is by Photoworks (formerly Seattle Filmworks).</p>							
<p>YourPhotos.com (no sample album)</p>	free storage	scans	image size	upload	album links	viewer	prints etc.
	not stated	No	no apparent limit	browser	No	thumbnails, medium size, original image	4x6 0.49 5x7 0.99 8x10 2.99
<p>Uploads to this site are strictly one-at-a-time. There's no apparent provision for sharing or links.</p>							