
Shrink Your Digital Pictures

Typically, the high-resolution setting for most digital cameras creates images using uncompressed TIFF or very little compressed JPG formats. The highest resolution is usually set as the default resolution as there is a large demand for better quality images. Unfortunately, higher resolution means larger file sizes, making these images difficult to share via the web or e-mail. You do have a few options to share these files at a more reasonable size, though. Any one of the below will help. Just choose the best option for the task at hand depending on your situation.

1) Reduce the quality settings on your digital camera. This usually isn't the best bet if you want to maintain good quality master images, but if you don't want to worry about compressing the pictures using software or have a need for better quality images, this will reduce the file sizes of all images you take. For specific instructions on doing this, I'll refer you to your camera's user manual since each camera is different.

2) Let Windows XP or Vista do it for you while you're e-mailing images. Just right-click an image file from Windows Explorer. Then, choose "Send To" and "E-Mail Recipient" from the shortcut menu that appears. In the next box, the "Make My Pictures Smaller" option is selected by default. It's not uncommon for this to reduce an image file from being 2000 KB down to 54 KB, making the recipient much happier with e-mail or webpage download times, not to mention helping him or her avoid the nasty "your mailbox is over its limit" messages.

3) Use an image editing program. There are several included with other software or available for free download. Just use the program of your choice to reduce the image resolution (and thus reduce the file size) or convert the image file to a completely different type that will reduce the size in the process (such as converting from a TIFF to a GIF). Some commonly used programs are Microsoft Office Picture Manager (available with some versions of Office) and IfranView, a free editing program. As with reducing the quality settings on your camera, specific instructions on doing this will depend on which program you choose to use. So, I recommend choosing one with a good Help menu or online support. Even the best of us refer to any available help resources when working with new programs.

About Desktop Resources, Inc.

Desktop Resources, Inc. was founded in 1995 by Tony Schafer, and is a leader in helping organizations couple their business initiatives with the technology to address those needs. DRI's "InformIT" managed services offerings proactively manage client infrastructure and strive to prevent problems before they occur. For more details, contact DRI at (317) 596-3650 or <http://www.DesktopResources.com>