



BUG-BYTES

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SOFTWARE REVIEW PICASA 3



Google released a new version of their popular photo organizer and editor, Picasa. They call it Picasa 3. As with past versions, Picasa is a free program from Google.

SO WHAT'S NEW IN PICASA?

Picasa 3 will handle up to a million photos. However, what is more important, I believe users will appreciate the many new and improved features in Picasa.

COLLAGE: This tool provides six different types of collages. You can even create custom contact sheets.

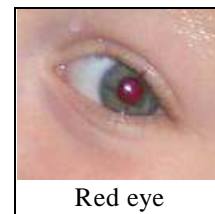
SYNC YOUR PHOTOS with Picasa web albums. Enabling Sync to Web automatically uploads your changes to your online albums. Share your albums with family and friends.

RETOUCH your photos to remove unsightly blemishes. This feature can be also used to restore old photos that have water stains, scratches, and other blemishes.

PREVIEW IMAGES in Picasa's viewer without having to open the full program. Picasa helps you customize your photo file associations as seen in this screen shot.

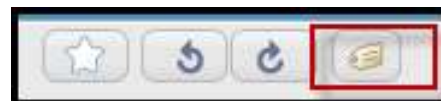


AUTO RED-EYE CORRECTION. Click this feature and it automatically detects faces and corrects red eyes. Red eyes are those glowing red eyes in photos where your flash bounces off the back of the subject's retinas. In earlier versions of Picasa you had to click on each eye in turn to create a small rectangle that encompassed each red eye. The program then corrected for the blemish.



CROPPING your photos was never easier. Picasa now offers three manual cropping suggestions and ten presets based on the photo's size and ratio. You can fine tune what you crop by dragging a corner diagonally, or one of the sides. Preview the changes before you make them permanent.

Add **MULTIPLE WORD TAGS.** Tags help you to group similar photos, and to aid finding photos based on the words you store in the tags. Press Ctrl-T to tag, or click on the Tag button (it looks like baggage tag) next to the photo tray at the



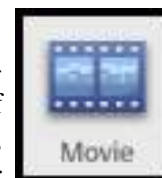
bottom of the Picasa screen as show below.

IMPORT PICTURES by the day or event connected with a group of pictures. With the group of pictures selected, hover the clock icon over the group of pictures to see the time stamp.

SLIDESHOW adds new features. Now you can combine photos and videos in one slideshow. You can zoom in with a magnifying glass to highlight details as part of your slideshow. New slide transitions have been added to add extra drama to your shows.

CREATE AND EDIT MOVIES

Combine selected photos into a movie complete with sound, video, and your choice of transitions. Share your movie with friends, and even upload it to YouTube. Select your photos and click on the Movie button.



PRINT CAPTIONS



If you wish, include captions with your photos as you print them, or include the filename. Add a border as part of the print.



In the picture above the text “Computerbugs meet here” was added to the photo in Picasa. As an option, I could either show or suppress the text when I print or display the picture.

CAPTURE your screens and immediately import them into Picasa.

EXIF DATA

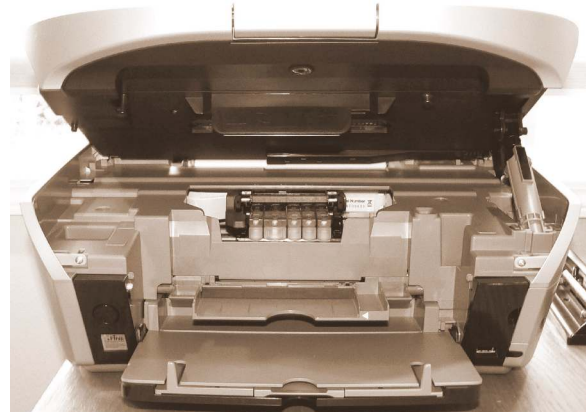
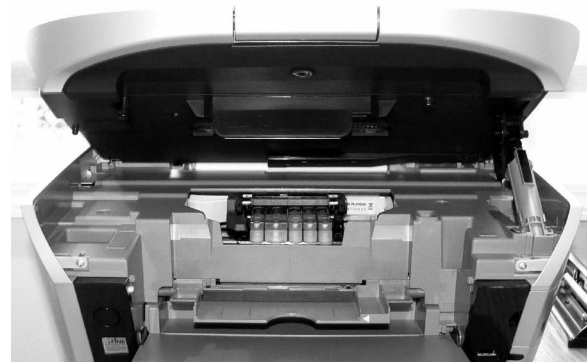
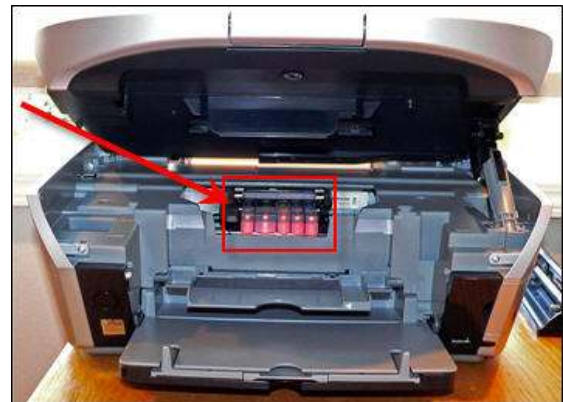
Picasa 3 displays even more information about your photos. Digital cameras capture data about how you took each photo. We call this data EXIF data.

Property	Value
Dimensions:	2159 x 1563 pixels
Camera make	Panasonic
Camera model	DMC-FZ20
Camera Date	2007:05:20 18:35:15
Resolution	2159 x 1563
Orientation	Normal
Flash	Used
Focal length	6.0mm
35mm equivalent	36mm
Exposure time	0.077s (1/13)
Aperture	f/2.8
ISO	400
Exposure bias	0.00
White Balance	Flash

I show a sample of EXIF data above. This is only part of the data. For example, it shows the camera that I used to take the picture and that I used flash. It also shows the size of the stored image. In Picasa, Right-click on a photo and select Properties to see the EXIF data.

EXPERIMENT WITH PICASA

Picasa is a WYSIWYG (pronounced wiz-e-wig) program. That is what you see is what you get. You can fearlessly experiment with different effects, and click the “Undo” button if you don’t like the current effect. For example, creating a black and white picture from a color picture is easy, or to turn the picture into an old-time sepia tone picture as shown in the following example. The photo is an inside view of a Canon MP500 all-in-one printer. The arrow is pointing to the five separate ink cartridges.



HOW TO IMPORT AND EXPORT MAIL MESSAGES AND SETTINGS



The process for saving your e-mail settings and messages is similar for XP and Vista. In both products you open your mail program, click on File, and then on Export or Import. Then you select the message or address book options you want from pull-down menus. I'll walk you through the process for XP and then for Vista.

EXPORT

This option lets you save copies of your e-mail messages and your address book (contacts). It is always a good idea to save backup copies of your messages and address book. Your hard drive could crash, you could experience a system failure, or you could accidentally delete or corrupt your important e-mail data. Restoring your data is easy in case something goes wrong. To restore your data, you click on Import and your most recent backup of your e-mail data. Outlook Express in XP will export messages to Microsoft Outlook or to Microsoft Exchange. *See Express Assist for a way to backup OE so you can import the messages back into XP at a later time.*

AJSYSTEM EXPRESS ASSIST 9

Is there a more elegant and complete backup solution for Outlook Express, Windows Mail, and Windows Live Mail? Yes! The answer is Express Assist from www.ajsystems.com.

Express Assist, abbreviated EA9, gives you complete control over the following:

- Backup all of your mail including attachments
- Save or restore only the mail folders that you select
- Save all-important registry settings
- Save your stationery
- Easily restore your mail and mail settings after a system failure
- Backup your OE, WM, WLM e-mail accounts and settings
- Backup your message rules, options, and preferences

Find messages in your backup that are not in your current message folders. Thus, you can retrieve a single message.

Search for and view messages in your backup files without restoring them.

Backup your Windows contacts (**address book**)

Backup non mail related files, such as documents, desktop items, and Firefox settings

Backup Now! This is a one-click program that remembers your previous backup preferences.

There is an automatic backup reminder based on the number of days that you select.

Retrieve backed up messages in plain text.

Transfer mail from older e-mail systems to Vista or vice versa.

Schedule automatic backups.

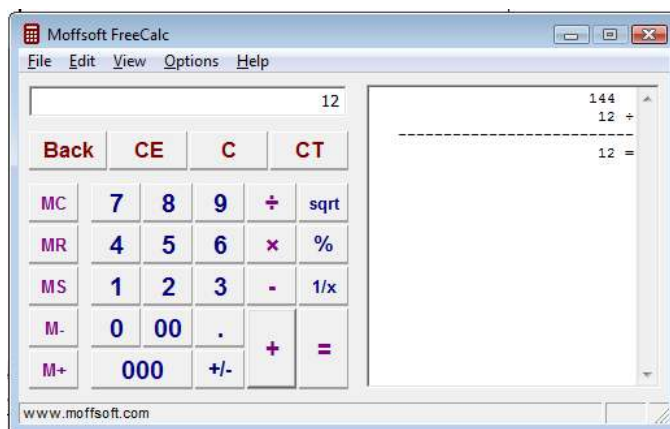
Works with Win98, 2000, XP, and Vista.

Try the program free for 15 days. If you buy the program, the vendor will send you a license key which will remove the 15-day evaluation restriction. The evaluation product is full featured so you see exactly what you get in the paid product (\$39.95).

SOFTWARE REVIEW

MOFFSOFT FREECALC

For an easy to use free software calculator, with an adding tape display, try FreeCalc from www.moffsoft.com.



HOW CAN I SEND VERY LARGE FILES?

CUTESENDIT TO THE RESCUE

As you know, e-mail chokes when sending or receiving really big files. Recently, I discovered a really neat way to send big files for free. It is a service of www.globalscape.com called CuteSendIt. Save the following link as a desktop shortcut to go right to the CuteSendIt Lite program.

<http://www.cutesendit.com/selectPlan.php>

As a test, I sent myself a very large file. See the screen shot below. It shows you what you can do with the free Lite version. For most folks, it is all that they will need. Note that you can send up to a 100 MB file with the Lite version.

See the first column for what you can do with the free Lite plan.

From time to time, you may want to share a very large file with a friend or family member. Some files are much too big and your ISP or even your security software will block sending the large file in e-mail.

The way CuteSendIt™ works is that it uploads your file to their server and it sends a message to your recipient so they can download the file for up to three days. The large file will upload and download quickly depending on the speed of your internet service.

Globalscape makes some useful software programs, one of which is CuteFTP.

FTP stands for File Transfer Protocol. CuteFTP makes the routine transfer of files to a web site extremely easy. I am currently using their *CuteFTP Lite* as my FTP product of choice.

I had used their professional version for many years as a means to upload files to web sites that I maintain.

The screenshot shows the 'Create My Account' page on the CuteSendIt website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for Home, Create My Account, CuteSendIt Wizard, How It Works, and Help. Below this, the 'Create My Account' section is active, showing a 'Choose My Plan:' dropdown menu set to 'Personal' and a 'CONTINUE' button. A note states: 'No long term contracts, no sign-up fees, no cancellation fees.' Below this is a pricing table with the following data:

Feature	Lite	Personal	Professional	Business	Corporate
	Free	\$2.99 per month \$29.99 per year	\$7.99 per month \$79.99 per year	\$24.99 per month \$249.99 per year	\$79.99 per month \$799.99 per year
Number of users	1	1	1	2	5
Sends per month	10	25	50	250	Unlimited
Total bandwidth per month	1 GB	10 GB	40GB	200GB	Unlimited
Maximum file size	100 MB	500 MB	4GB	4GB	4GB
Long-term online storage		500 MB	2GB	6GB	20GB
Downloads per file	5	50	500	Unlimited	Unlimited
Files removed after	3 Days	5 Days	14 Days	14 Days	14 Days
File delivery tracking	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Secure 256-bit SSL		✓	✓	✓	✓
Add your company logo			✓	✓	✓