

Re: rearranging photos

Source:

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.photos/2004-08/0720.html>

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Yes you can. You simply need to understand how XP lists (or sorts) file names, then place the thumbnails in the order you want them and then rename the files so they will stay in the order you placed your thumbnails.

If you need to batch rename and number, you can do this easily with XP.

Make a new folder on your hard drive.

Name it something easy to remember and search for: year, month, event, separated by underline. For example:

2004_09_Summer Vacations

Copy the photos files you want to place in a particular order into this new folder. You can copy photos to this new folder from any photo folder you have, to make a new collection.

Once the photos are copied in this new folder, open the new folder. Hold the Ctrl key down and press the letter A. This will select (highlight in blue) all the files in the folder.

Right click on the first file (important to right click on the first file because renaming will start from there).

Click on Rename on the opening menu.

Type in the name you want, to replace the current name. Any system will work, such as year, month, day, event. For example type in:

2004_09_02 Virginia Beach Vacation (1).jpg

and press Enter.

XP will automatically rename all the files (1), (2), (3), etc. and they will open (be listed or sorted) in the order (1), (2), (3), etc. If you copy them to a CD, this order will be maintained.

Two important things when renaming using the above method.

1. Look at the name of the above file, you must include a space between the last character of the file name and (1)
2. When you rename, don't forget to add .jpg after (1). If you forget, XP will warn you, so enter .jpg after this warning. If you don't, you will not be able to open the file. If you still do not enter .jpg after the warning, don't worry. Rename again and enter .jpg

You can rename any time and as many times as you want. You are not dependent on the camera wizard to rename.

You can rename groups of files in a folder (in the example above, the date can be 02, 03, 04, etc for each day of your vacation) just select the group you want and right click on the first one in the group and rename from there.

You can do even better than this. Suppose you want a slide show and you want the last three pictures taken to be the first three or in between some other photos, or re-order the photos in any way. Easy to do. Open the folder in thumbnail view, use your mouse to place the thumbnails in the order you want. Select all the photos and rename. The (1), (2), (3), etc will be added in the order you placed the thumbnails. They will stay in this order if you copy to a CD because XP lists (or sorts) by file name only on a CD.

If you have many pictures in this new folder and all you want is to order them in chronological order, moving thumbnails in the correct order is tedious. Let XP do this for you. Change the View from Thumbnails to Details. In the Details view, right click on the column header "Name". This will open a list. Click on More at the bottom of the list. A list will open, check the box "Date Picture Taken". This will add the column Date Picture Taken in the Details view. Then you click on the column header "Date Picture taken" and XP will now change the list of files from the name of the files (the default) to listing files in chronological order. Now, change the View to Thumbnails and they are in chronological order. Select them, rename them using the above procedure and you are in business.

Convenient if you want to make a slide show of pictures from different folders. Just make a new folder, copy the photos you want in the new folder, place the thumbnails in the order you want and rename.

You are not restricted to only one name (you use one name for one group of picture, another for the next group, etc.) and you can control the order in which each group will open, by placing a number up front of the file name for each group. You may have photos of Christmas, Easter, New Year etc. and of different years. Once you have the thumbnails in the order you want, select the first group, right click on the first thumbnail in the group and rename:

1_2002 Easter (1).jpg

Then select the second group and rename

2_2002 Christmas (1).jpg

Placing 1_, 2_, etc in front will control the order of each group and (1) controls the order within each group.

If you want to add another group later and you want the photos of this group to be, say between 1_ and 2_, use 1a_ in front of the file name.

You may also want to add some more photos in a particular group at a later time, say your Christmas group. No problem. Copy the files you want to add in the folder, move the thumbnails in the group you want to add them to where you want them. Select all the thumbnails in the group, right click on the first one and rename. When you rename, you must change the name in order for rename to take place. Add something like XYZ after Christmas. Once renaming is done, select the same files again and rename again. Remove the XYZ and you will be back to the original name.

Note: There is a disadvantage to changing the original name of files. This is why I recommend at the start to make a new folder and copy your original files in the new folder before renaming. The disadvantage is this. Many have the option of video out from the camera to display the pictures from the memory card to a TV for a slide show. If you change the file names and copy the files back to your memory card to display on your TV (or even to just look at them on the LCD of the camera) your camera will not be able to read the files. You can always rename, using the same format (8 characters) that your camera uses, but now you have to rename each file. So, be careful what you do with your original files.

Note: Although I recommend making a new folder and copying your files there before renaming, there is also another way to do this and you may prefer this once you are comfortable with renaming. Here is how to do it.

Open the folder to see your files. Hold the Ctrl key down and press the letter A to select (highlight in blue) all the files. Hold the Ctrl key down and press the letter C. This makes a copy of all the files to your clipboard. Hold the Ctrl key down and press the letter V. This copies (pastes) all the files back in your folder. The file names will be the same, but the words "Copy of" will be in front of the file names. You then rename Copy of files.

This way your original files and renamed files are in the same folder.

This is also very useful when you want to edit a photo with software. You always edit "Copy of", never edit your original file.

You can also use the free Irfanview software to batch rename, available here: <http://www.irfanview.com/>

Note about irfanview (version 3.92): as you will read below, XP has a "new way" of sorting files and there is the "old way", the last version of irfanview will give you both renaming options. It is important to understand how the XP way works vs the old way if you want to read files in devices using the old way instead of the XP way.

Here is the explanation.

When you use the above batch renaming system on XP, everything will work fine as long as you are on XP. This means your XP hard drive, copy to CD etc. However if you go out of XP you will encounter some problems. For example, you made a photo CD on XP using the above renaming system and you now play this CD in your DVD. Your DVD player will not play the files in the same order as displayed on your XP computer. You made the files:

Image (1).jpg

Image (2).jpg

Image (10).jpg

Image (20).jpg

They will be displayed in this order on XP but your DVD player will display them this order:

Image (1).jpg

Image (10).jpg

Image (2).jpg

Image (20).jpg

If you want to upload these files to a Web site, some server will refuse files with () in the file name while others will accept them but will display them the same way as your DVD player will as shown above.

So, what are you supposed to do with this conflict between XP and everything else.

This is what I do.

1. Rename with XP with the system given above.
2. If I want to copy to a CD to play to a DVD or upload to a Web site, I then use Irfanview. With Irfanview I rename my XP files using the default in Irfanview (the "old way"):

001.image

002.image

etc.

Since Irfanview does not actually rename your original XP file names, it only adds new file names in the same folder, I now have two sets of names for the same files. I simply copy the Irfanview set of file names to a CD to play on a DVD player or to upload to a Web site and once done just delete them. When you delete them, they go to the Recycle bin. Open it and delete them from the Recycle bin. Or, after you select them for deletion, hold the Shift key down and press the Delete key. Holding the shift key down will prevent the files to go to the Recycle bin.

All this renaming may seem a little complicated, but you can really manipulate things very well by just sitting down and understanding the system. With a little practice you can get what you want.

However, before renaming, make sure you make a new folder and copy some photo files there so you can practice with no danger to your original files.

"Hal" <anonymous@discussions.microsoft.com> wrote in message news:21ee01c48d77\$cd7a3760\$a301280a@phx.gbl...

- > *How can I rearrange my photos to play as a slide show in*
- > *the order I specify? Can this be done with the XP "My*
- > *Pictures" folders?*
- > *Hal*