Some database querying tools that you might find useful

■ DxO PhotoLab   ■ Tutorials, tips & tricks

freixas   3 ✏   18d

I have developed a few tools that extract information from the Photolab database. You may find some of these tools useful.

The tools are written in a database language called SQL. You don't need to know SQL to use them. Just follow these steps:

1. Download and install DB Browser for SQLite (DB4S), This is available for both Windows and Macs from Downloads - DB Browser for SQLite. Or use any other equivalent software.
2. Start DB4S and open the Photolab database **in read-only mode** .
3. Go to the Execute SQL tab.
4. Copy one of my SQL scripts into this tab and execute it (right-pointing triangle in the tool bar).
5. Copy the resulting table, into a spreadsheet or a text file.

The tools only query the database—they don't change it in any way (and they can't since you opened the database in read-only mode).

I have Windows and Mac versions of the tools.

I am not following this thread, and will not see any comments posted here. DM me if you have questions, concerns, and suggestions related to SQL scripts.

The SQL scripts are in these ZIP files:

⬇ Windows SQL Tools.zip (3.5 KB)
⬇ Mac SQL Tools.zip (3.6 KB)

The tools are:

- **getKeywordPaths**—displays the entire keyword structure.
- **getKeywordPathsWithCount**—same as above, but also displays a count of the number of images associated with each keyword.
- **getAdobeKeywords**—displays the entire keyword structure in a format that can be imported into Adobe Bridge.
- **getIncompleteHierarchies**—displays a list of all images with missing parent keywords (e.g. the image is tagged with keyword A|B|C, but not A|B.
- **findImagesWithoutKeywords**—displays a list of all images that have no keywords assigned.

Each script includes further documentation.

1 ♡   ⊘   ⋯   ↩ Reply

572   9   8
views   likes   users   24 min read   ☰ Top replies

platypus Canon & Mac (Intel and M1)   18d

I suppose that these SQLs work with a DB from PhotoLab for *Windows*.
The DB of PL (Mac) has a different structure. Maybe I'll adapt the SQLs...
or DxO could add import and export functionality to PhotoLab 😉

♡   ⊘   ⋯   ↩ Reply

freixas   18d

> 🖼 platypus: ⌄ ↑

> The DB of PL (Mac) has a different structure

What are the differences?

It would be crazy to design totally different structures for the two OSs. My SQL doesn't deal with every table or even field in a table, so there may be nothing to adapt.

> platypus:
>
> or DxO could add import and export functionality to PhotoLab

The second sentence of my post states that I think this is unlikely. I gave up waiting for DxO to provide much help with keywords.

1 Reply ⌄   👏 1   ♡   ⍜   …   ↩ Reply

Joanna Joanna Carter   18d

> F freixas:
>
> What are the differences?
>
> It would be crazy to design totally different structures for the two OSs.

One important difference for the Mac DB is that its schema is auto-generated using the CoreData designer, from an object-oriented model. This means that, if DxO were to change the O-O model, the corresponding RDBMS model would change and could cause problems.

Not forgetting that the keywords are stored, not only in the database but, also, in an XMP sidecar for RAW images and the DOP sidecar for all files. These could need synchronising, depending on your preferred metadata storage. Any hierarchical keywords are also stored in an inconsistent manner between the DOP and XMP files as well as the database.

♡   ⍜   …   ↩ Reply

F **freixas**   18d

> Joanna:
>
> One important difference for the Mac DB is that its schema is auto-generated using the CoreData designer, from an object-oriented model.

This doesn't tell me what the structural differences are. For all I know, the DxO people generate the schema on a Mac and then use that same schema on Windows.

DB4S can display the structure. It's the first tab. A screenshot of that tab would go a long way toward answering my question.

> Joanna:
>
> This means that, if DxO were to change the O-O model, the corresponding RDBMS model would change and could cause problems.

I should have highlighted that the scripts are currently only tested for PL8 on Windows. They probably work on PL 7 as well. For many software tools, DB changes occur only when the major version number increments. These SQL scripts may or may not work on PL 9. However, the scripts don't make any changes to the DB, so the worst that happens is that they don't work.

> Joanna:
>
> Not forgetting that the keywords are stored, not only in the database but, also...

True, but irrelevant. The tools I provided only operate on the database.

I should perhaps have added that the tools only operate on DxO's database. If you use another tool for managing keywords (as you do), nothing I provided will be of any use to you.

I think I'll edit the OP to reflect some of these points.

♡   ⊘   …   ↩ Reply

BHAYT Bryan [WIN10, PL8, VP4, FP7, G9 & EM1 Mkii, RTX 3060]   3 ✎ 16d

> Ⓕ freixas: ∨ ↑
>
> I should have highlighted that the scripts are currently only tested for PL8 on Windows. They probably work on PL 7 as well

@freixas Thank you for providing the scripts they may well prove useful. But the schema for the Mac database, regardless of how it was/is generated, has a number of differences to the Windows schema, not least the naming convention!?

So it will be possible to create the Mac equivalent scripts @platypus but the current ones won't work.

PL8 has a slight difference in schema from PL7 (with PL8 on Windows), the order of fields in 'Folders' was changed in PL8 and an additional index or two was added to one structure or another (sorry I have forgotten exactly which ones).

> Ⓕ freixas: ∨ ↑
>
> True, but irrelevant. The tools I provided only operate on the database.

In the meantime, I have been working with the DOPs where SQL certainly isn't going, to help, except maybe to compare results between outputs from the scripts and outputs from the DOPs, but I have managed this so far in PureBasic

```
2025/06/03_09:29:03.518 @ line      1   Sidecar = {
2025/06/03_09:29:03.518 @ line      2   Date = "2025-06-01T15:55:50.6298766Z",
2025/06/03_09:29:03.518 @ line      3   Software = "DxO PhotoLab 8.6",
2025/06/03_09:29:03.518 @ line      4   Source = {
2025/06/03_09:29:03.518 @ line      5   CafId = "C61004c",
2025/06/03_09:29:03.518 @ line      6   Items = {
2025/06/03_09:29:03.518 @ line      7   {
2025/06/03_09:29:03.518 -------------------------------------------------------------
2025/06/03_09:29:03.518 @ line      8   Albums = "",
2025/06/03_09:29:03.529 @ line      9   CreationDate = "2025-05-29T09:41:02.0233595Z",
2025/06/03_09:29:03.529 @ line     13   Keywords = {
2025/06/03_09:29:03.529 Keyword = A
2025/06/03_09:29:03.529 Keyword = A|B
2025/06/03_09:29:03.529 Keyword = A|B|C
2025/06/03_09:29:03.529 Keyword = A|B|C|D
2025/06/03_09:29:03.529 @ line     39   Name = "P1102026_Neutral (nt V2).RW2",
2025/06/03_09:29:03.529 @ line     41   OutputItems = {
2025/06/03_09:29:03.529 @ line     45   Rating = 0,
2025/06/03_09:29:03.530 @ line    317   ColorLookupPath = "",
2025/06/03_09:29:03.531 @ line    504   Overrides = {
2025/06/03_09:29:03.531 @ line    616   Version = "19.5",
2025/06/03_09:29:03.531 - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - -
2025/06/03_09:29:03.531 @ line    621   Uuid = "6A9404D6-3FD0-459E-B164-8DC08F223AD3",
2025/06/03_09:29:03.531 {Album_count = 1 Uuid_count = 1}
2025/06/03_09:29:03.531 -------------------------------------------------------------
2025/06/03_09:29:03.540 -------------------------------------------------------------
2025/06/03_09:29:03.540 @ line    625   Albums = "",
```

The 2 read passes are necessary only with DOPs from the Mac where it appears that the actual presentation of 'Albums' (copies) in the DOPs is not in order, which it is for Windows DOPs, i.e. with Windows the order of presentation in the DOP is always [M]aster, VC[1] etc. (according to my tests)

To achieve correct ordering with Mac DOPs the 'Albums' need to be sorted on 'CreationDate', hence the first pass to obtain the 'CreationDate' followed by a sort and

that provides the data to mark or present the 'Albums' in the "correct" order.

The analysis program from which the screen grab was taken is just a vehicle for experimentation but the code from it is being added to programs intended for a more serious purpose, e.g. locating images that have not been assigned a keyword by the user in DxPL, which is impossible with the current 'Search' facility in DxPL @RAGING_FURY

> R Please make all Reject/Pick Tags in Photo library for all photos visible (also colour markers)
>
> Would you have any idea how I can show any photos in a floder taht have not yet been tagged (keyworded)?

The times shown are from the one of the two log files created (a User Log and a Debug Log) and it outputs to the Debug screen as well and it takes 33 milliseconds to process a single pass (all that is necessary for Windows),

So processing a directory of 1,000 images would take 33 seconds (on my 5900X but taking a single core)) and on Windows no second pass is necessary.

If the 'Pick'/'Reject' flag is not included in the selection criteria only the first 50 lines need to be processed so it will take even less time!?

To do the same in SQL I would need code added to select a directory ('Folders'), locate an image ('Sources' and thence to 'Items') and check for the 'Items' in 'ItemsKeywords', if absent (not found) then there is a candidate for an un-keyworded image.

My program will also be able to find any combination of keywords (including no 'Keyword' at all), and with 'Rating' and/or 'ColorLabels' and even the 'Pick'/'Reject' flag thrown in for good measure, if I can be bothered to provide an appropriate user interface(?).

The selected (located) images can then be passed back to DxPL as an External Selection (stored as a form of 'Projects' entry in the database.) which can easily be converted to a real 'Project' by the user, if necessary.

3 Replies ⌄   🔗 ✏️ ••• ↩ Reply

R **RAGING_FURY**   16d

This is a nice initiativve, thankss. But some one at DXO needs to address this, they maybe a small company but it is not as if they are giving away their software for free. (not to mention the sneaky money grab 'you need to buy filmpack to get luminocity masking scam')

Not too impressed, hope some effort goes into the next version - we will not know until then as any development efforts are treated as state secrets.

All very well developing the headline stuff, but some focus on basic functionality and keeping users happy, would go a long way.

Of course I know it is unlikely anyone from DXO reads this, nevermind acting upon it.

♡ 🔗 ••• ↩ Reply

BHAYT Bryan [WIN10, PL8, VP4, FP7, G9 & EM1 Mkii, RTX 3060]   3 ✏️ 16d

> R RAGING_FURY: ⌄ ↑
>
> Of course I know it is unlikely anyone from DXO reads this, nevermind acting upon it.

@They may well read it but these days don't respond and I am afraid that finishing what they started does not seem to figure in their 'raison d'être'.

You may "rant and rage", I have since I first started testing with PL5, but it is like "banging your head against a brick wall" it only get better when you stop!

So I have mostly given up the forum, but have turned my attention to coding (having been coding since I buttoned in my first program into the console of an ICT 1301 in 1965, at the start of my degree course) to get some intellectual stimulus.

I started with Python (somewhat different from COBOL, which I used for 36 years) and had an online tutorial with my Grandson on Sunday as he prepares for his mock GSCEs but then turned to PureBasic, which allows me to create .exes.

So I can release anything I write but realised I have a potential trust issue, i.e. how do I prove that I am not going to cause damage, deliberately or even accidentally?!

The PureBasis compiler is released with some limitations to any one who wants access with no time limit but a code limit of 800 lines. So if I can stay within those limits I could release the source code and the .exe and any potential users could have both and choose which they want (trust) to use!?

I was hoping @RAGING_FURY that you would test my 'No keyword' version of the program when it is finished. That might be reasonably soon given that we are due some wet weather, which will make gardening somewhat difficult/unpleasant!

Regards

Bryan

ⓒ ✎ … ↩ Reply

BHAYT Bryan [WIN10, PL8, VP4, FP7, G9 & EM1 Mk...   3 ✎ ➔ Ⓡ RAGING_FURY   16d

@RAGING_FURY Thank you I will use DM once I have a releasable version and keep the code between us for the time being and we can test not only the program but what it could/should contain in the way of features and how the process of interacting between the developer (me) and the client (you) in this case can/should be conducted.

ⓒ ✎ … ↩ Reply

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freixas   16d

> **BHAYT:**
>
> But the schema for the Mac database, regardless of how it was/is generated, has a number of differences to the Windows schema, not least the naming convention!?

Thanks to @platypus , I've been able to look at the Mac database. My SQL will work if I rename the tables and fields. When I get around to it, I'll try to post Mac-compatible versions if someone doesn't beat me to it.

> **BHAYT:**
>
> PL8 has a slight difference in schema from PL7 (with PL8 on Windows), the order of fields in 'Folders' was changed in PL8 and an additional index or two was added to one structure or another (sorry I have forgotten exactly which ones).

With regards to my SQL, the order of the fields and the presence or absence of an index doesn't matter.

> **BHAYT:**
>
> To do the same in SQL I would need code added to select a directory ('Folders'), locate an image ('Sources' and thence to 'Items') and check for the 'Items' in 'ItemsKeywords', if absent (not found) then there is a candidate for an un-keyworded image.

The SQL shouldn't be hard to write (if you know SQL). It will be order of magnitudes faster than getting the info from DOP files. You could probably do a database of 100,000 images in 30 seconds or less.

1 Reply ⌄   ♡   ⌀   ⋯   ↩ Reply

F   **freixas**   16d

> 🖼️ BHAYT: ⌄ ↑
>
> locating images that have not been assigned a keyword by the user in DxPL, which is impossible with the current 'Search' facility in DxPL

I went ahead and wrote the SQL for this (for Windows only right now, sorry). One problem is that, if you delete or rename files or folders from outside Photolab AND you didn't assign keywords to the renamed images before the rename, then the original filenames for these images will show up in the results.

Performance is good. For ~71,000 source files, the query took about 12 seconds.

If you just want to check a specific folder, add this line between the WHERE line and the ORDER BY line:

```
AND filename LIKE 'D:/Users/.../%'
```

where the "..." part is filled in with the full path to the file. Note that even though Windows uses "\" is a path separator, you have to use "/" here. Also, to match the exact folder name, you need to end with "/%".

```
/*
 * Get a table of image files which have no keywords assigned.
 *
 * The result rows also include a UUID. Virtual copies of an image
 * will have the same filename but different UUIDs.
 *
 * This may take a few seconds to run. If everything is OK, it should
 * return 0 rows.
 */

WITH RECURSIVE

  /*
   * Create a table that matches folder IDs to the full path of the
   * folder it is associated with.
   */

  fullFolderPath AS (
    SELECT Id, Name, ParentFolderId, Name AS path FROM Folders
    WHERE ParentFolderId IS NULL

    UNION ALL

    SELECT Folders.Id, Folders.Name, Folders.ParentFolderId, fullFolderPath.path || '/
    FROM Folders, fullFolderPath
    WHERE Folders.ParentFolderId = fullFolderPath.Id
  )
```

1 Reply ⌄   ♡   ⌀   ⋯   ↩ Reply

F   **freixas**   16d

As I'm going out of town for a few days, if anyone wants to try running these for a Mac, here are the translations:

- Globally, Id → Z_PK
- Globally, Name → ZNAME
- Sources → ZDOPSOURCE
- Items → ZDOINPUTITEM
- Items.Source → ZSOURCE

- Items.Uuid → ZUUID
- Keywords → ZDOPKEYWORD
- Keywords.Value → ZTITLE
- Keywords.ParentId → ZPARENT
- Folders → ZDOPFOLDER
- Folders.Name → ZNAME
- Folders.ParentFolderId → ZPARENT
- ItemsKeywords → Z_8KEYWORDS
- ItemsKeywords.ItemId → Z_8ITEMS
- ItemsKeywordsKeywordId → Z_10KEYWORDS

When I say "globally", I don't mean you can replace any occurrence of "Id" with "Z_PK". I mean you can replace the exact word "Id" with "Z_PK". The difference is that the former will change "KeywordId" to "KeywordZ_PK" and the latter won't.

Let me know how it works.

♡   🔗   ⋯   ↩ Reply

BHAYT Bryan [WIN10, PL8, VP4, FP7, G9 & EM1 Mk...   2 ✏   ➰   Ⓡ RAGING_FURY   16d

> Ⓕ freixas: ∨ ↑
>
> The SQL shouldn't be hard to write (if you know SQL).

@freixas
I wrote this earlier but didn't post it

"If you know SQL" is the key part of your statement, I started using databases while SEQUEL was still a "twinkle in someone's eye" and managed to survive without learning it until know, hence my unsubtle hint to someone who knows SQL, i.e. you!

PureBasic can actually submit SQL commands to an SQLite database (with a maximum of two databases open at any one time) and I can actually submit SQL commands individual requests

@freixas Thank you for your efforts, I will get to your script either later today or first thing tomorrow.

@Joanna I think that this is the first time I have seen you offering your application in the forum (I apologise if that is not the case).

Sadly it is Mac specific and uses features not available on the PC.

The DOP analyser program I am working on will work on both the PC and the Mac. PureBasic has compilers for Windows, MacOS, Linux and the Pi and all versions are included in the one licence fee as is the rights to sell, giveaway the programs compiled with it...

But, although I have considered buying an old, second-hand Mac, currently I only have personal access to PCs.

However, my comments about being able to use PureBasic with a trial licence on programs of less than 800 lines ,covers all the languages I listed above, with certain limitations on the facilities available.

If only the "threat" of publishing "adjunct" software would spur DxO to finish at least some of what they started it would be a win-win (or mac-mac) situation!

👍 2   🔗   ✎   ⋯   ↩ Reply

BHAYT Bryan [WIN10, PL8, VP4, FP7, G9 & EM1 Mkii, RTX 3060]   2 ✏   14d

@freixas Thank you for your SQL scripts, I have tried all of them and I also changed the last to use "EXISTS" in place of "NOT EXISTS" when I ran the script on a test database...

```
FROM potentials
  JOIN Items ON Items.Id = potentials.ItemId
  JOIN Keywords ON Keywords.Id = potentials.KeywordId
  JOIN Sources ON Sources.Id = Items.SourceId
WHERE NOT EXISTS ( SELECT 1 FROM ItemsKeywords AS ik WHERE ik.ItemId = potentials.It
ORDER BY filename, keywordpath
```

The database I used has the vital statistics which I output from a PureBasic program I wrote, that uses SQL commands to interrogate the PhotoLab SQLite database to obtain the counts etc...

As part of the test I Loaded 1,000 test images, a mixture of RAW (RW2) and JPG images and set the first 500 of the 1,000 with the same two keywords and got this as part of the output from your original "NOT EXISTS" script

i.e starting from "00501.ORF" the images have been flagged as not keyworded.

1 Reply ∨   🔗 ✏️ ⋯ ↩ Reply

🙂 It's been a while since we've seen TomS — their last post was 6 months ago.

T TomS   13d

My thoughts about keywording.
I indexed old picture folders using DxO Photolab. That added a lot of keywords without hierarchy. I don't know if hierarchy exists in old picture. Or DxO can read it.
So I have a lot of keywords to organize.
First problem. I can only move one keyword at time with mouse. There is no option to select many keywords at time.
Second problem. I can't move keyword if exists the same keyword in destination place in hierarchy. There is no option to merge the same keywords and mark pictures with it.
I can open DxO database and change manually ParentId in Keywords table. But I have the same keyword many times in hierarchy then in DxO Photolab.

1 Reply ∨   ♡ 🔗 ⋯ ↩ Reply

F freixas   13d

Thank you for your SQL scripts, I have tried all of them and I also changed the last to use "EXISTS" in place of "NOT EXISTS" when I ran the script on a test database...

You said that you tried them all, but you didn't say if they worked. I think the implication is that they all worked, but it's unclear.

Do you have a thread for your PureBasic tool? If not, could you start one and ensure that all discussions about your tool take place there and not here? Thanks! I realize my thread title was generic, and I've edited it. I'd like to restrict this thread to using SQL scripts through DB4S (or equivalent).

@BHAYT , @RAGING_FURY The gardening talk might be better done through direct messaging.

> **Joanna:**
>
> If it is of any interest, I have written a full blown macOS app to manage Keywords, Star Ratings, Finder Tags, Descriptions, etc.

First, congratulations for finally reaching the point that you are willing to offer this tool for others! Do you have a thread for this? If not, I have the same request for you as for Brian: could you delete your announcement in this thread, and post it elsewhere? I apologize for making my original thread title a little too general. Your work certainly deserves a thread of its own.

Your comments about the Mac database are completely relevant—no issues there. Thanks for the feedback.

2 Replies ⌄   ♡   ⌗   …   ↩ Reply

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freixas   13d

> **TomS:**
>
> First problem. I can only move one keyword at time with mouse. There is no option to select many keywords at time.
> Second problem. I can't move keyword if exists the same keyword in destination place in hierarchy. There is no option to merge the same keywords and mark pictures with it.

I actually have tools to deal with this, but they directly modify the PL database, so I'm not releasing them. Nor are they simple SQL scripts.

> **TomS:**
>
> I can open DxO database and change manually ParentId in Keywords table. But I have the same keyword many times in hierarchy then in DxO Photolab.

I'm not sure what you're saying here, but it sounds dangerous. What you'd like to do probably requires a mix of SQL and coding (an SQL super-guru might be able to do it all in one SQL script, but it's beyond my abilities).

♡   ⌗   …   ↩ Reply

BHAYT Bryan [WIN10, PL8, VP4, FP7, G9 & EM1 Mkii, RTX 3060]   13d

> **freixas:**
>
> You said that you tried them all, but you didn't say if they worked. I think the implication is that they all worked, but it's unclear.

Yes they all worked but I was mostly interested in the one you wrote subsequently which I commented on and showed the report in action.

⌗   ✎   …   ↩ Reply

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freixas   13d

> **BHAYT:**
>
> Yes they all worked but I was mostly interested in the one you wrote subsequently which I commented on and showed the report in action

I appreciate the clarification.

F **freixas**   12d

> **Joanna:**   ∨ ↑
>
> > **F** freixas: ∨ ↑
> >
> > Do you have a thread for this?
>
> No, as I don't consider it polite to blatantly advertise, especially as I am still seeking beta testers rather than marketing it.

My point is that I'd rather not have you discuss your tool here. I don't see a problem in posting a thread asking for beta testers, which would be more polite than hijacking other people's threads.

♡   ⌀   …   ↩ Reply

F **freixas**   12d

Here are the Mac versions.

Get the Keyword Structure

Photolab doesn't have any method of importing/exporting the keyword structure. The tools below only export your existing structure. I'll give you three variants.

Version 1: Get the basic structure only

```
/*
 * Create a table of all keywords. Every keyword is written using a
 * full path. The results are in alphabetical order.
 */

WITH RECURSIVE

  /*
   * Create a table that matches keyword IDs to the full path of the
   * keyword it is associated with.
   */

  fullKeywordPath AS (
    SELECT Z_PK, ZTITLE, ZPARENT, ZTITLE AS path
    FROM ZDOPKEYWORD
    WHERE ZPARENT IS NULL

    UNION ALL

    SELECT ZDOPKEYWORD.Z_PK, ZDOPKEYWORD.ZTITLE, ZDOPKEYWORD.ZPARENT, fullKeywordPath.pa
    FROM ZDOPKEYWORD, fullKeywordPath
    WHERE ZDOPKEYWORD.ZPARENT = fullKeywordPath.Z_PK
  )

SELECT path FROM fullKeywordPath ORDER BY path
```

Version 2: Get the basic structure and counts

This version just adds an image count to each keyword. The count should match what you see when you view keywords in Photolab. It runs a *lot* slower than the version above.

```
/*
 * Create a table of all keywords. Every keyword is written using a
 * full path. The results are in alphabetical order. Each path is
 * followed by a count of the number of items associated with that
 * keyword. Getting the count slows the query a bit.
 */

WITH RECURSIVE

  /*
```

```
 * Create a table that matches keyword IDs to the full path of the
 * keyword it is associated with.
 */

fullKeywordPath AS (
  SELECT Z_PK, ZTITLE, ZPARENT, ZTITLE AS path
  FROM ZDOPKEYWORD
  WHERE ZPARENT IS NULL

  UNION ALL

  SELECT ZDOPKEYWORD.Z_PK, ZDOPKEYWORD.ZTITLE, ZDOPKEYWORD.ZPARENT, fullKeywordPath.
  FROM ZDOPKEYWORD, fullKeywordPath
  WHERE ZDOPKEYWORD.ZPARENT = fullKeywordPath.Z_PK
)

SELECT
```

Version 3: Get the basic structure in Adobe Bridge format

Adobe Bridge *can* import keyword structures. They use tabs to indicate the level of each keyword.

```
/*
 * Create a table of all keywords. If each row of the table is
 * converted into a line in a file, the file can be imported into
 * Adobe Bridge to create the same structure.
 */

WITH RECURSIVE

  /*
   * Create a table that matches keyword IDs to the full path of the
   * keyword it is associated with. Create a prefix that consists of a
   * tab for each level of depth of a keyword, with the top level
   * being level 0.
   */

  fullKeywordPath AS (
    SELECT Z_PK, ZTITLE, ZPARENT, ZTITLE AS path, "" AS prefix
    FROM ZDOPKEYWORD
    WHERE ZPARENT IS NULL

    UNION ALL

    SELECT
      ZDOPKEYWORD.Z_PK,
      ZDOPKEYWORD.ZTITLE,
      ZDOPKEYWORD.ZPARENT,
      fullKeywordPath.path || '|' || ZDOPKEYWORD.ZTITLE,
      prefix || char(9) AS prefix
```

Find Hierarchy Problems

When you tag an image with a keyword, you can set up a preference that ensures that all parent keywords are also tagged. Drag-and-drop changes and other things (an accidental cursor click) can screw up this scheme.

The code below will output any image name/keyword path pairs that should be enabled to maintain a complete hierarchy path, but aren't. It also lists a UUID.

The UUID can distinguish between an image and a virtual copy. You might have a problem in some and not others. It's tough to match a UUID to a specific image/virtual copy; if the tool reports problems with an image name/keyword pair and the image has one or more virtual copies, then check them all.

This script can be very slow if you have a lot of tagged images. I just ran it and it took 6 seconds to display any results. If it says "0 rows returned", then there are no problems.

```
/*
 * Get a table of each item/keyword pair that should be in
 * Z_8KEYWORDS in order to have complete hierarchies but is not. The
 * information is returned as filename and keyword path.
 *
 * The result rows also include a UUID. Each source file has a main
 * image and one or more virtual copies. Each is uniquely identified
 * by its UUID. If the same filename/keyword path appears more than
 * once, then the UUIDs will be different. This indicates there is a
 * problem in more than one version of the image. If a file/keyword
 * path appears only once, but there are virtual copies of the image,
 * then only one of the versions has a problem, but you will have to
```

```
* check them all to see which has the problem.
*
* This may take a few seconds to run. If everything is OK, it should
* return 0 rows.
*/

WITH RECURSIVE

  /*
   * Create a table that matches folder IDs to the full path of the
   * folder it is associated with.
   */

  fullFolderPath AS (
    SELECT Z_PK, ZNAME, ZPARENT, ZNAME AS path FROM ZDOPFOLDER
```

Find Images Without Any Keywords

This script was not part of the OP, but was added as a request. It outputs a list of all images that have no keywords.

```
/*
 * Get a table of image files which have no keywords assigned.
 *
 * The result rows also include a UUID. Virtual copies of an image
 * will have the same filename but different UUIDs.
 *
 * This may take a few seconds to run. If everything is OK, it should
 * return 0 rows.
 */

WITH RECURSIVE

  /*
   * Create a table that matches folder IDs to the full path of the
   * folder it is associated with.
   */

  fullFolderPath AS (
    SELECT Z_PK, ZNAME, ZPARENT, ZNAME AS path FROM ZDOPFOLDER
    WHERE ZPARENT IS NULL

    UNION ALL

    SELECT ZDOPFOLDER.Z_PK, ZDOPFOLDER.ZNAME, ZDOPFOLDER.ZPARENT, fullFolderPath.path
    FROM ZDOPFOLDER, fullFolderPath
    WHERE ZDOPFOLDER.ZPARENT = fullFolderPath.Z_PK
  )
```

These were tested on a small test database sent by @platypus . Let me know if you run into any problems using them.

2 Replies ⌄   ♡   🔗   …   ↩ Reply

Joanna Joanna Carter   12d

Please don't take what I am about to say as being in any way harsh, but my main concern with all this SQL "stuff" is that it doesn't interact directly in any way with either PhotoLab or any other app, without an in depth knowledge of BASIC, scripting, using the console and generally messing around manually with the file system.

I would like to ask a question - **how do I use it to find images that match a keyword search term and then open those images in PhotoLab?**

I referred to my app because, from the average photographer's point of view, it allows them to simply enter keywords (including in hierarchies) in a lookup list and manage them visually using drag and drop, add those keywords to images (without the requirement to use the PL database), transfer those files to any other app and then use the keyword list to populate searches. You don't even need to use PL. Once the search returns, it is a simple matter of double clicking on any of the included images to open them in PL.

But, whatever you do or don't do, don't use PL to modify metadata that is managed in an external app, even mine. That is one sure way to mess everything up.

As for the PL database, I don't even use it and, in fact, regularly delete it after changing the structure of my file storage.

Why am I so insistent on avoiding using the database for metadata? Because instead of using SPOD (single point of definition) PL manages to conflate multiple definitions in...

- the database
- DOP files
- XMP files
- it even reads keywords directly from RAW files.

As opposed to the sensible way of having a SPOD in either the original file or an XMP sidecar.

2 Replies ⌄   1 ♡   ⊘   …   ↩ Reply

F **freixas**   12d

> 🖼 Joanna: ⌄ ↑
>
> my main concern with all this SQL "stuff" is that it doesn't interact directly in any way with either PhotoLab or any other app

My thread is about extracting useful info from PL using SQL (since PL provides no formal hooks to its internal workings). The tools I have provided so far all deal with keywords.

If your keyword system is external to PL, then the tools are of no use to you. If you use PL's database for keywording, then they are. Arguments about which approach is superior are irrelevant in this thread. If you'd like to argue about the merits of one approach vs. another, please start your own thread on the topic.

♡   ⊘   …   ↩ Reply

Joanna Joanna Carter   2 ✎ 12d

> **F** freixas: ⌄ ↑
>
> My thread is about extracting useful info from PL using SQL

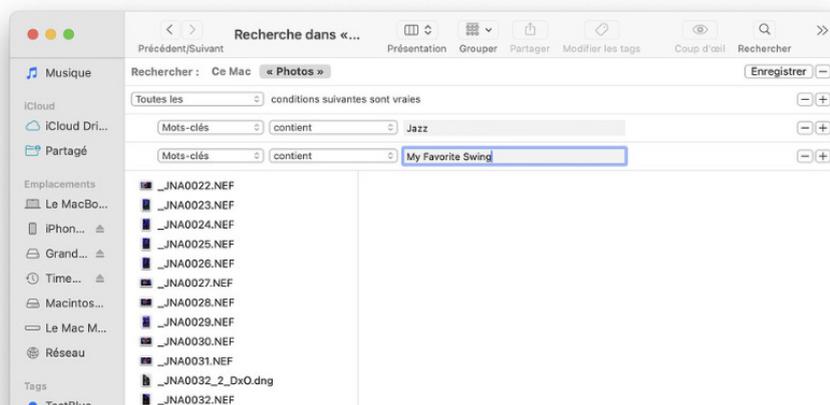Might I ask for what purpose? How do you intend that folks make use of what they have extracted?

> **F** freixas: ⌄ ↑
>
> The tools I have provided so far all deal with keywords.

But Mac users don't need such tools since Finder, with its Spotlight search mechanism can find files that match multiple keywords all on its own...

Or, just press Cmd-I on a file to see what keywords it contains...

Unless you use XMP sidecar files for metadata. In which case, both PL and a majority of other tools can access them without any reference to the database, which, as I said before can cause confusion.

Finally, how would you move the metadata to keep it in sync when you move images?

2 Replies ⌄   ♡ ⚲ ... ↩ Reply

F freixas   12d

> Joanna:
>
> Might I ask for what purpose? How do you intend that folks make use of what they have extracted?

Every script describes its purpose. People can use the information for whatever they want.

Nothing else in your post is relevant to this thread. You can DM me if you want to discuss these side issues with me.

♡ ⚲ ... ↩ Reply

---

platypus Canon & Mac (Intel and M1)   12d

> F freixas:
>
> Here are the Mac versions.

Thank you @freixas

I tested the sqls against a full import of the images that I have in Lightroom.
All sqls worked without errors.

Comparing the V1 export to Lightroom's direct export, I found that DPL's database is a few dozens of keywords short...due to files that DPL can't or won't read while indexing.

As of now, the sqls are informative and can serve to *check* indexing, e.g. in the case of exchanging DPL and LrC. Also, the lists could help to e.g flatten a hierarchical list of keywords (and vice versa), but after all, having a list does not link the keywords to the respective images. For that, we still need to fully import (or index) the respective photo archive and then, the keywords will be read, catalogued and, most importantly, linked to the respective images.

My current Macs index about 1000 images per minute and a direct DB-transfer would be much faster and comfortable ... if only DxO (and Adobe) provided and maintained such services. I'd wonder if any such possibility were provided by whoever is bold enough for this (fools?) errand.

♡ ⌐ ⋯   ↩ Reply

---

freixas   12d

> **platypus:**   ⌄ ↑
>
> I tested the sqls against a full import of the images that I have in Lightroom.
> All sqls worked without errors.

Thanks for the reply.

> **platypus:**   ⌄ ↑
>
> As of now, the sqls are informative

As long as you limit operations to read-only, informative is the best you get. The output from the SQL can be further manipulated for various uses, through spreadsheets or other methods, but it's still just information—the value being that it is information that PL doesn't provide.

> **platypus:**   ⌄ ↑
>
> I'd wonder if any such possibility were provided by whoever is bold enough for this (fools?) errand.

It's possible and it's the kind of thing I could do if I had copies of both programs and access to whatever database they used. But giving away tools that write into databases not directly under one's control is a risky proposition.

1 Reply ⌄   ♡ ⌐ ⋯   ↩ Reply

---

platypus Canon & Mac (Intel and M1)   12d

> **S Stenis:**   ⌄ ↑
>
> has very little to do with muscles at all. It is all about brains

...and the notion of "what our customers need" and the respective tendency to ignore the customers, "they keep paying anyways" ...

Take people like Dave Coffin, Phil Harvey and others. Their devotion has moved more ground than many a Dollar.

♡ ⌐ ⋯   ↩ Reply

platypus Canon & Mac (Intel and M1)   12d

> **F** freixas: ∨ ↑
>
> write into databases not directly under one's control is a risky proposition.

What's the risk? Having to do something for the rest of your natural live while your users yell at you because the new release was due out 7 hours ago - you know what I mean. Fool's errand. Bottomless vat, Sisyphus. Greetings from the hamster-wheel.

2 Replies ∨   ♡   ⊘   ···   ↩ Reply

F **freixas**   12d

> 🖼 platypus: ∨ ↑
>
> What's the risk?

I meant the risk to me. I could write code to transfer PL to Lr and back, but it's risky since I don't control either tool. Read-only SQL scripts aren't going to hurt anything.

1 Reply ∨   ♡   ⊘   ···   ↩ Reply

S **Stenis** Sten-Åke Sändh (Sony, Win 11, PL 6, CO 16, PM Plus 6, Xn... ↪ 🖼 platypus   12d

No, Frexas is right about this. Running a relatively simple SELECT query like this won´t harm anything in the database. If I understood Frexas his point is just to expose how simple it is to extract these keyword data from this database even if they happen to be structured.

Would it be too much to humbly ask DXO for an appropriate export-interface for this SELECT-query Freixas just have helped them with. All the competition has a function like that so it is really basic in the XMP-tool world.

2 Replies ∨   ♡   ⊘   ···   ↩ Reply

🖼 **Joanna** Joanna Carter   12d

Can I just reiterate, an export mechanism already exists, in the form of XMP sidecar files. When it comes to metadata, there is absolutely no need to use the database.

Why should DxO spend time and effort reinventing that particular wheel?

1 Reply ∨   ♡   ⊘   ···   ↩ Reply

F **freixas**   ↪ **S** Stenis   12d

> **S** Stenis: ∨ ↑
>
> No, Frexas is right about this. Running a relatively simple SELECT query like this won´t harm anything in the database. If I understood Freixas his point is just to expose how simple it is to extract these keyword data from this database even if they happen to be structured.

My point was to provide a tool that PL lacks. I wasn't "exposing" anything...

For DxO, the feature is not quite as simple. It requires capturing the SQL in code, writing the GUI, developing regression tests, etc. Compare to a lot of stuff, it's relatively simple, but it's not one-SQL-script simple.

There is a "Feature Request" forum that is appropriate for suggesting features you think are missing from PL. This particular feature may already be in the requested pile; if so, vote for it.

> **Joanna:**
>
> Can I just reiterate, an export mechanism already exists, in the form of XMP sidecar files. When it comes to metadata, there is absolutely no need to use the database.

For performance reasons, I don't keep the database and keywords in synch. I do have my personal tool to synch the files should I find it useful (PL is the master). You are welcome to choose a different way of working.

♡ 🔗 … ↩ Reply

---

freixas   12d

Note: Given the high amount of irrelevant content, I plan to delete this thread in a few hours. I will try to find alternative ways of providing SQL scripts to PL users who might find them useful.

2 Replies ⌄   ♡ 🔗 … ↩ Reply

---

platypus Canon & Mac (Intel and M1)   ↪ Ⓕ freixas   12d

Yes, I understood and was agreeing in a somewhat unusual way.

And even if you'd be able to do it, effort would probably still be bigger than waiting for an indexing run to finish.

♡ 🔗 … ↩ Reply

Joanna Joanna Carter   11d

> Ⓢ **Stenis:**
>
> Making XMP-files or embedded XMP is NOT a substitute for an Import-Export function. You might experience that the day you want to migrate otherwise the risk is high you will never understand what we are discussiong here (Joanna)

Unlike Adobe's offerings and other software, PhotoLab doesn't make use of a "catalogue". Instead, it uses DOP files to transfer editing steps and XMP files to transfer metadata.

Yes, PhotoLab does have a database, but it is a real mongrel with both editing and metadata in the one place - but also duplicated, but not necessarily synchronised in separate DOP and XMP files.

You might be able to "extract" metadata from the PL database but you can't easily import that metadata into other apps because they might not use the same tag names. e.g. DOP files and the PL database uses `keywords` only, but XMP compliant apps use a combination of `dc:subject` and `lr:hierarchicalSubject` tags. Which is what gets recorded in XMP files but not in the PL database.

1 Reply ⌄   ♡ 🔗 … ↩ Reply

BHAYT Bryan [WIN10, PL8, VP4, FP7, G9 & EM1 Mkii, RTX 3060]   11d

> Ⓕ **freixas:**
>
> **Note:** Given the high amount of irrelevant content, I plan to delete this thread in a few hours. I will try to find alternative ways of providing SQL scripts to PL users
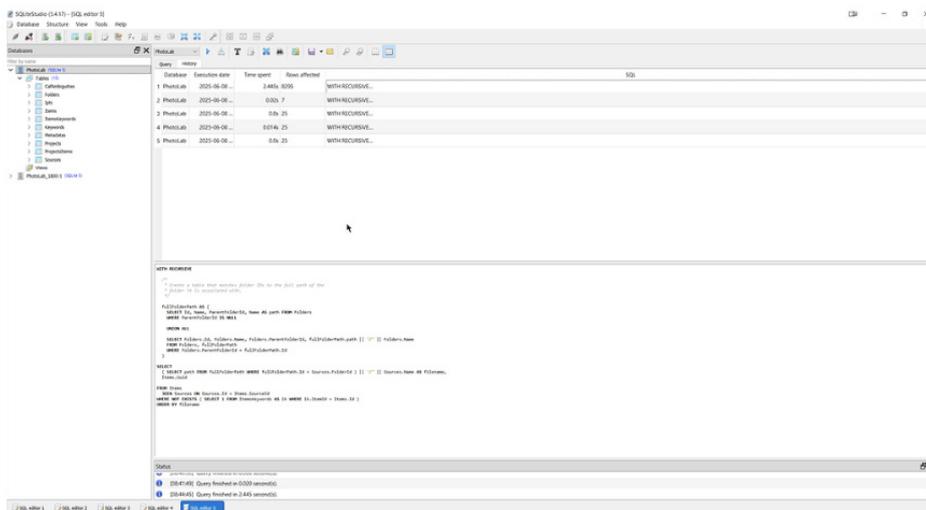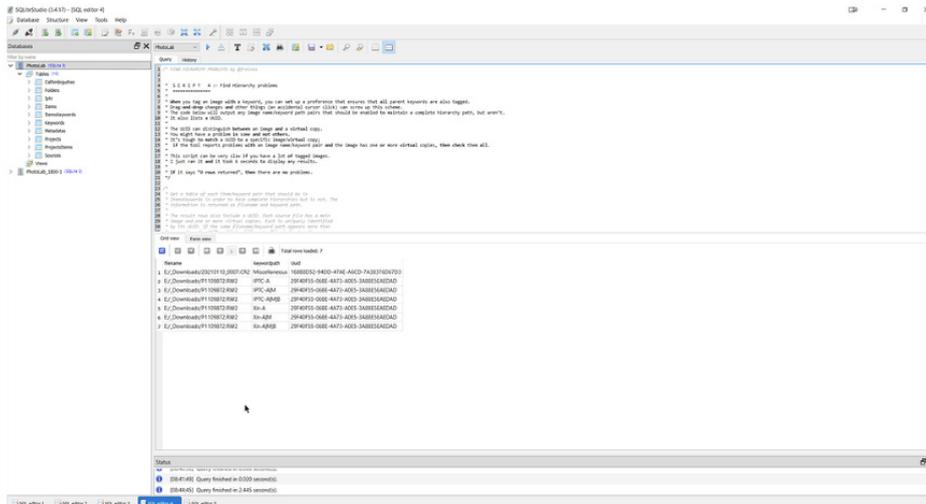
who might find them useful.

@freixas You should be aware by now of the way that the Forum works.

Unfortunately, as the author of the topic you will receive all the "traffic" that it generates, good, bad and indifferent, a fact of Forum "life".

Yesterday (actually before your "hiatus") I collected your scripts and saved them so that I could easily retrieve them when I wanted them, not necessarily to "protect" them

⬇ @freixas SQL Scripts.zip (5.3 KB)

I had also found a new "toy" in the shape of "SQLiteStudio" and ran the scripts through that program one after another and I could bore you with all the outputs but I have them if required and have included the outputs from the Script 4 test and the run history summary, the latter because it is a useful component of the program

My concern with script 4 is what the output is actually telling me and why!?

The database being used is just one against which I have run numerous recent tests, i.e. I have used the "_Downloads" directory and picked up images I have downloaded from Forum posts and tested in the past, and Script 4 has detected an issue or two.

But first one comment you made in your discussion about Script 4 went something like this (taken from my file of your script)

```
 * It's tough to match a UUID to a specific image/virtual copy;
 *  if the tool reports problems with an image name/keyword pair and the image has one o
 *
```
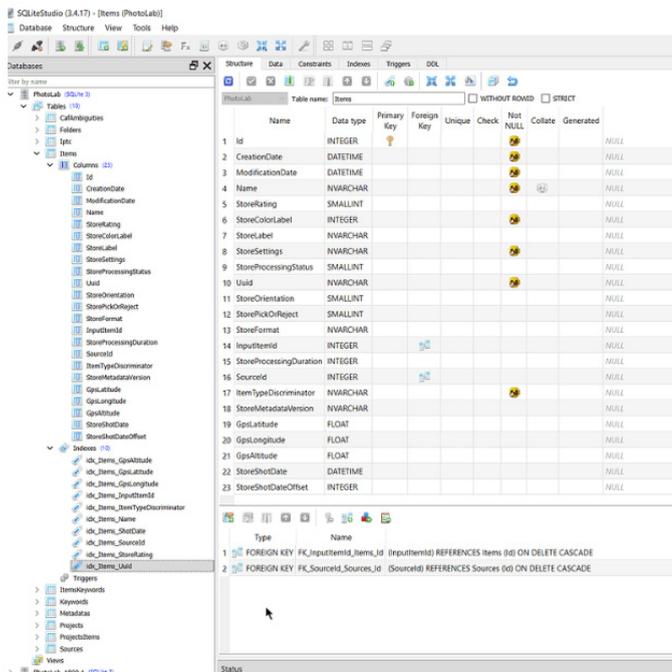
The statement is certainly true but what we discovered when checking data with @platypus , from his Mac, was that DxPL was almost certainly sorting the "Album" entries in the Mac DOP to re-establish the order and using the 'CreationDate' entry of

each 'Albums' in the DOP.

On the PC they are all arranged in the DOP in the expected order i.e. [M]aster, VC[1]m VC[2] etc, but that is not the case with Mac DOPs but the order can be determined by sorting the 'Albums' into 'CreationDate' order.

However, there is no such index in the database and no indicator in any structure about whether an item is a {M]aster or a VC, nor what the order actually is.

In fact, I believe it is on the 'Id' field, which is allocated when an image is discovered or a VC is created by the user and, as far as I can tell, the 'Id' is an ever increasing field with no re-use of "old" numbers, i.e. the order in which the entries were added to the database, first entry for the original image and then one for each VC as and when added.

but as you stated there is actually no way of knowing whether an image is the [M]aster or a VC simply by looking at the database entry.

@Joanna The XMP sidecar is not necessarily a useful "export" device because users are deliberately stopping DxO from updating the XMP sidecar for fear of it "re-formatting" their carefully crafted hierarchical keyword layout.

That "re-formatting" of keywords into the chosen DxPL format has always been there with PhotoLab but was restricted to the Export files which users seemed happy to accept until PL5, when it was extended to "adjusting" the keyword in the image (JPGs etc. or XMP sidecar for RAWs).

However, as a result I turned my attention to the one sidecar PhotoLab users do tend to keep, namely the DOP.

As for the process of making use of the outputs from the scripts or from my DOP analysis program (the new version is still under development @RAGING_FURY) the answer lies in a bit of coding somewhere to either take the output list from the scripts and run the list through a program that submits it as a command string to DxPL or, as in the case of my DOP programs, read the DOP directly and submit the located files to DxPL in a command line.

There may be issue with the number that can be passed at any one time, i.e. in the past I have managed up to 350 images at a time but the program can pass any number as a group of 300 at a time again and again and ...

> Joanna:
>
> Instead, it uses DOP files to transfer editing steps

@Joanna As I have stated above, the DOP contains **both** metadata (including the 'Pick/Reject' flag and edits, much to the chagrin of many users, you in particular

because it well and truly breaks the SPOD rule.

The "risk" is that the (latest) XMP sidecar file may not have been "absorbed" into PhotoLab, automatically or manually, but my program could easily be enhanced to interrogate the XMP sidecar file just to be on the safe side.

Any PureBasic program creates an exe file on Windows and any user could take the symbol file and compile it using the free version of PureBasic providing it is less than 800 lines long.

I am prepared to supply both if I decide to "publish" anything!

I want to avoid using ExifTool if possible, simply because of the added level of complexity right now, and your product would be off limits because it (potentially) pushes the metadata into the RAW image etc.

However, the Mac is off-limits anyway, for me at least, because I don't own a Mac computer

Weather is looking OK. so no coding till later today or tomorrow...

🔗 ✏️ ⋯ ↩ Reply

F **freixas**   11d

> 🖼 **BHAYT:**   ⌄ ↑
>
> But first one comment you made in your discussion about Script 4 went something like this (taken from my file of your script)
>
> ```
>   * It's tough to match a UUID to a specific image/virtual copy;
>   *  if the tool reports problems with an image name/keyword pair and the image has o|
>   *
> ```
> ‹ ──────────────────────────────────── ›
>
> The statement is certainly true but what we discovered when checking data with @platypus , from his Mac, was that DxPL was almost certainly sorting the "Album" entries in the Mac DOP to re-establish the order and using the 'CreationDate' entry of each 'Albums' in the DOP.

I know how to match a UUID to the main image or one of its virtual copies. What I meant is that it is difficult to do so in the SQL script that I provided.

> 🖼 **BHAYT:**   ⌄ ↑
>
> and, as far as I can tell, the 'Id' is an ever increasing field with no re-use of "old" numbers,

Yes, the Id fields are auto-incrementing fields. They start at 1 and increment with each new record added.

♡ 🔗 ⋯ ↩ Reply

🖼 **BHAYT** Bryan [WIN10, PL8, VP4, FP7, G9 & EM1 Mkii, RTX 3060]   11d

> **F** **freixas:**   ⌄ ↑
>
> I know how to match a UUID to the main image or one of its virtual copies. What I meant is that it is difficult to do so in the SQL script that I provided.

@freixas That was the point I was trying to make about there being an absence of data that identified the "Copy Number" of a particular 'Items' entry, i.e. there is nothing to ask SQLite to find.

A custom program on the other hand could do that, because that is exactly what DxPL does, and the DOP has that data already to hand in the Windows DOP and available after a Sort in the Mac DOP.

Once again, thank you for the scripts and for confirming the auto-incrementing Id.

PS:- The view count is at 331 in spite of or because of the dialogues contained herein sadly we can't tell which.

🔗 ✏️ …   ↩ Reply

---

platypus Canon & Mac (Intel and M1)   10d

> **F** freixas:
>
> **Note:** Given the high amount of irrelevant content, I plan to delete this thread in a few hours. I will try to find alternative ways of providing SQL scripts to PL users who might find them useful.   ↑

@freixas , I'd not delete the thread, others carry way more noise and still contain interesting information. It simply takes more digging to get to it, but such is the character of unmoderated forums.

As for the scripts, they'd be easier to access if they were saved as text files, Copying text out of a forum post is not complicated, but it's not comfortable.

For those interested:
⬇ Keyword SQLs MAC.zip (5.9 KB)

♡ 🔗 …   ↩ Reply

BHAYT Bryan [WIN10, PL8, VP4, FP7, G9 & EM1 Mkii, RTX 3060]   10d

@platypus The title of the topic has changed as has the first post from @freixas

Some database querying tools that you might find useful which now contains the scripts for both the Mac and Windows but thank you for including a Mac one here.

👍❤️ 2   🔗 ✏️ …   ↩ Reply

S   **Stenis** Sten-Åke Sändh (Sony, Win 11, PL 6, CO 16, PM Plus … 1✏️ ↪️ 🖼️ Joanna 10d

> 🖼️ Joanna:
>
> Might I ask for what purpose? How do you intend that folks make use of what they have extracted? (your remark to Freixas)   ⌄ ↑
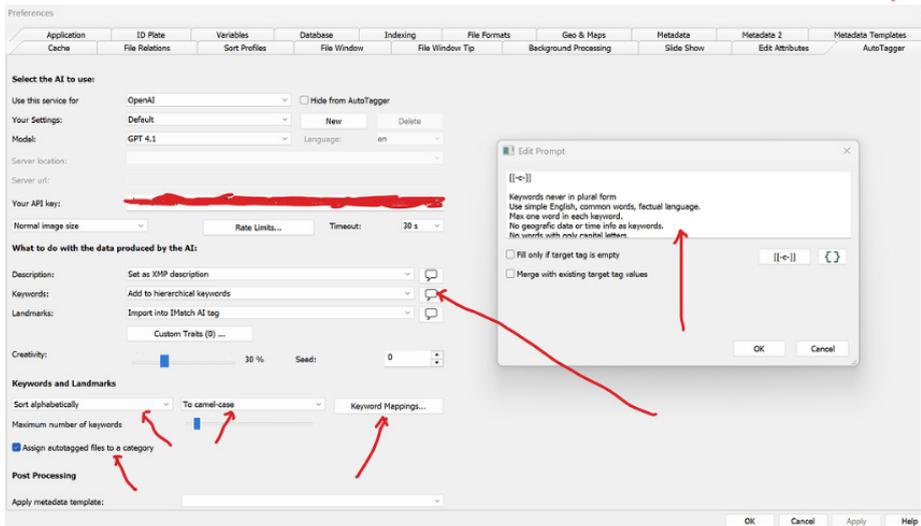
Why is it hard to understand Freixas SQL and why some people that know SQL might find it necessary to use it since DXO as it is now have locked them in if they want to migrate for example. Both Lightroom and Capture One can export

I can see several cases:

- First: As you might know there are organizations and companies using so called controlled vocabularies. They are impossible to use though with Photolab since there is no possibility to import one or export one. Just of that reason Photolab is not a serious Picture Library. I have myself once started using hierarchic keywords in PhotoMechanic just by importing one from a Lightroom-resource. The format was in TAB-separated text. This is the normal way to do this.

- Second: Since I found PhotoMechanic like all RAW-converters or Photo-DAM (except iMatch (will explain that exception) totally hopeless in maintaining hierarchic keywords manually, the only rational way I found was to export them all from PM PLus in TAB-formatted text - editing them in Excel and then reimport them. So I guess that since it really is terrible to maintain hierarchic keywords rationally most organisations and companies using them don´t alter them if they don´t have to.

- The need for exporting a vocabulary is that it might contain keyword structures that haven´t been used yet. So extracting them from the database records might not be sufficient right?

- AI, yes! That is fantastically efficient when it comes to handling even hierarchic keywords BUT it can also create a total mess if you just let it run without any control. Then we comes to how to handle that because you just can´t let a tool like the Autotagger lose without a thought. That is why the developer Mario Westphal has felt it necessary to build a lot of tools and processes to harness it.

Here the Autotagger is configured:

Number of keywords are specified, formatted and handled both through predefined user interfaces and through three different AI-prompts that controls the AI-services output (Descriptions, Keywords and Landmarks.

This is how my Keyword prompt looks like:

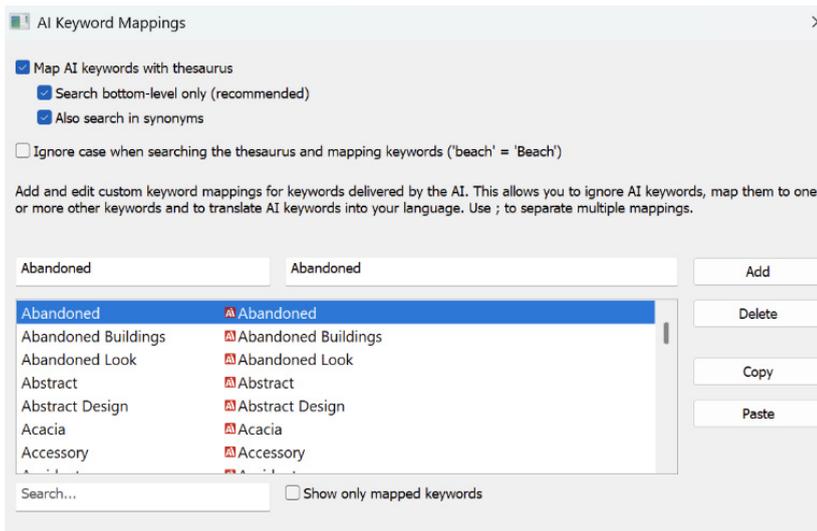(I have limited the maximum number of keywords above to eight.)

Prompt
[[-c-]]

Keywords never in plural form
Use simple English, common words, factual language.
Max one word in each keyword.
No geografic data or time info as keywords.
No words with only capital letters.

Write the specie of the animal, animal family name and scientific name in latin into Keywords.{File.MD.keywords}
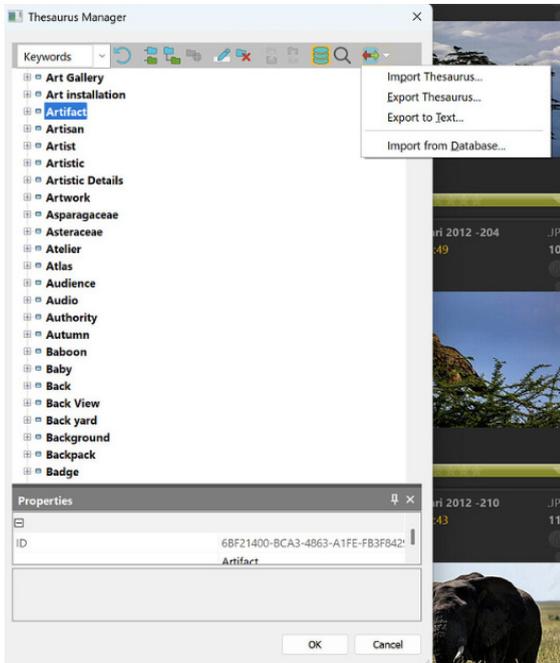If you cannot detect any animals, return.

Here you can totally control the behavior of this keywording-system and how the AI generated keywords are handled compared to your active vocabulary.

As you understand these tools are pretty unique to other softwares you might have seen before because unlike software like Photolab it is built with a real "holistic" engineering where very little is falling besides or between.
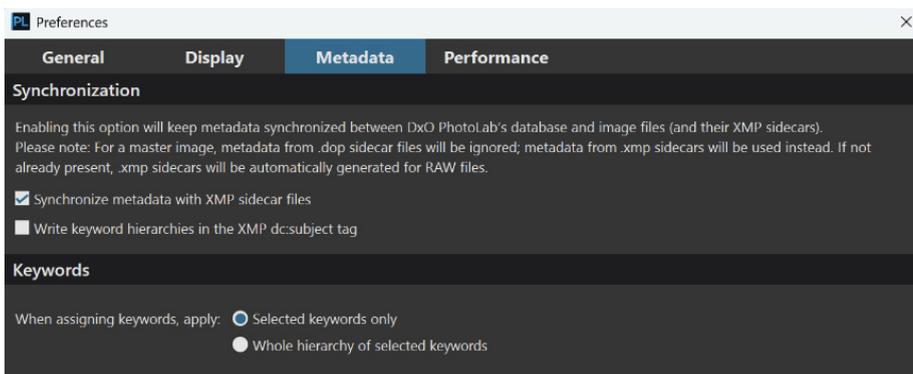

This is the "Thesaurus" or Keyword-list if you prefer that word and as you can see I don´t use any hierarchic keywords at all since I have handle that already via the keyword prompt.

As you can see there is an interface to support migration: the options to Import and Export Thesaurus. With the import from database you can import both all the plain keywords used on the pictures in the database or hierarchic ones if people use those instead.

To migrate the XMP-metadata to iMatch is a non-problem as long as it is OK for you just to let iMatch use the keywords-data that is stored in the JPEG-files embedded XMP or in the RAW-files XMP-sidecars. In that case you just import the pictures into iMatch and chose the function "Import from database". That will build a new Thesaurus in no time based on the keywords imported to the database.

If you are lucky you can use the same way to do it even with other softwares but there are issues when it comes to hierarchic keywords in some of them. You have to chose what works for your special case in the Preferences og Photolab.

Maybe at least some people understand there are far better alternatives to use if you want to build yourselves a really good picture archive with very little effort and it isn´t even expensive! So the days when there was a need for writing SQL-queries to extract

keywords from a Photolab-database or building your own keyword application are gone. It is just not worth it - unless you think it´s fun of some reason.

I´m fully convinced we will see AI-supported tools like the Autotagger in iMatch, even in RAW-converters with Photo-DAM solutions from other vendors than Photools in the future and if they are implemented they also have to take care of the keyword related problems that comes with it.

1 ♡   �Ⓒ   ⋯   ↩ Reply

maderafunk   9d

Thanks for this detailed explanation, iMatch looks quite interesting. I never used keywords myself and I wonder if keywords are even necessary at all with AI. I think instead many applications will include a direct text search, it is already included in Apple Photos, you can just enter a text description in the search box and it will list all the pictures that match that description. On the iPhone that does not work that well yet, but I guess that is the future with better models that run locally on the phone.

I can see the use for keywording for professional applications (which I would hope Photolab falls into), where you want to be sure not to miss any images, but for consumer grade apps I believe they can just skip the keywording step altogether.

♡   �Ⓒ   ⋯   ↩ Reply

Stenis Sten-Åke Sändh (Sony, Win 11, PL 6, CO 16, PM Plus 6, XnView)   9d

You are right about the limited need for keywords outside local environments like a personal archive or in smaller companies up to global enterprises or for that matter organisations of all sorts. BUT, they are absolutely essential when it comes to a rational and effecive way to handle a picture library. You just can't do without them. It is fantastic what a difference they make in a tool like iMatch for fast searches without the need for typing at all - just selections - where the keywords are used as so called "cathegories".

Doing something like that in Photolab would not be hard at all since almost all of it already is there in the interface.

So, I don't really believe in something spectacular will happen with the PictureLibrary in Photolab BUT that doesn't really matter because no other RAW-converter is a better and more seamless match with thirdparty DAM than Photolab and THAT is an indeniable strength, advantage and sellingpoint for Photolab. If you really want to scale up scale up and get a really efficient XMP-metadata workflow all the metadata maintenance tools are there in iMatch.

Nothing gives a better image quality today than Photolab and it is a seamless and rock-solid match for consuming and displaying iMatch XMP-data that have supported all but one of the 25 XMP-metadata fields/elements that I use right out default. Just update and maintain the metadata in iMatch or even in PhotoMechanic if you have your XMP-metadata life there and Photolab will instant display the changes by its excellent synchronization.

This really leaves the metadata maintenace environments both in Photolab PictureLibrary, Adobe Lighroom and Capture One is the historical dust from an ancient time.

There are a lot of people out there these days looking for alternatives to Lightroom and a ever more gready Adobe so I would love to see Photools and DXO join in a good and mutually benificial market partnership by offering attractive bundles with DXO products and iMatch. That could be a really European killer alternative to a technically tired Adobe and CameraBits that developes PhotoMechanic.

♡   �Ⓒ   ⋯   ↩ Reply

Stenis Sten-Åke Sändh (Sony, Win 11, PL 6, CO 16, PM Plus 6, XnView)   6d

After my latest posts in this DXO tread, it seems to have totally died. That was really not my intention.

I don´t know if people might have felt stupid about the level of that somewhat bizarre discussion that was going on here when I pointed out where the development-front around the keyword issues really lies today with iMatch and Autotagger as an example.

What's even more bizarre is the fact that these discussions have been going on for probably 4 years or more here at DXO Forums, not the least around the problems DXO Photolab previously had with the handling of hierarchical keywords (it has not always been fully compatible with, for example, PhotoMechnaic's handling of keyword data exchange between applications). So, it has far from just being a matter of being able to export and import vocabularies.

Mario Westphal the developer wrote a comment in the Photool community: "From the thread you posted, I learned what I already knew: Many people don't know what they are missing. This applies to both RAW processing and Digital Asset Management (DAM). Users often express surprise upon discovering that other RAW processors produce superior results compared to Adobe Lightroom!
Additionally, many learn about the subpar state of metadata in their files and how improving it—through keywords, controlled vocabularies, descriptions, AI-generated content, and standardized, interchangeable metadata via IMatch and ExifTool—can be beneficial."

I think that comment: "many just don´t know what they are missing" is spot on. Many of us including me have for long been stuck in a "bubble" where Photolab, Lightroom or for that matter Capture One has been our "whole" monolithic metadata management world and relatively few of us have taken the steps to scale up by using PhotoMechanic och iMatch and know what it really has to offer.

I also just find it astonishing what Mario Westphal just wrote: "I began working on AutoTagger in July 2024, delving into AI technologies and testing with OpenAI, Mistral, and Ollama. During this period of discovery, I encountered the dynamic nature of AI—vendors like OpenAI frequently updated their APIs to adapt and evolve, introducing new models that significantly enhanced previous offerings."

So, he hasn´t even spent a full year developing Autotagger (about 10 months?) to the state and full power and control it now empower the users of iMatch with, together with at least one on the AI-providers that Autotagger supports today. I think that is both pretty unique and remarkable not the least when it comes to how brilliant all keyword related tasks are handled and controlled in iMatch 2025. … and again, this not really a question about the need for enormous R&D resources and big AI-centered development teams to achive this but more about one single developers brilliant skills och totally focused Holistic Engineering. Until now it hasn´t either helped Adobe with all their billions or anybody else, has it? They might still be dreaming of doing what Mario Westphal already have done.

With Holistic Engineering I mean how both iMatch Face Detection and the Autotaggers handling of the AI-driven image analysis through the four different promps together manage to write so often very well written Descriptions and even hierarchical keywords to the pictures and on top of that even managege to automatically manage our Thesaurus to our liking totally automatically regardless if we prefer using "controlled vocabularies" or prefer our own hierarchical keywords or just unstructured ones. Keywords with "Zero Administration" who saw that coming a year ago. Did you?? I guess most people could not believe that even would be possible. Today this is already solved and have become a "non-issue" for the iMatch 2025 users.

It will be very interesting to see how both Adobe and the rest will react and respond to this because from now on old excuses will no longer be excused.

♡   🔗   ⋯   ↩ Reply

platypus Canon & Mac (Intel and M1)   6d

@freixas has started the thread with sharing an idea and a few scripts for us to use or not use.

We could test the ideas/workarounds/solutions and say thank you or propose improvements/extensions or simply go our ways.

But it is quite common that human reactions revolve around whether something is good, useful, nonsense or whatever qualities people want to tag things with, often based on preconceptions or hearsay. This speeds up discussions … unless someone else will reiterate the process of adding a tag to the new response etc. and the reason that created the thread gets lost in the process.

Elephants can lift tree trunks, but when it's about toothpicks, elephants are probably not the preferred solution.

Having said that, let's return to the topic of the thread. We can always start threads about trees and toothpicks separately.

Let those, who want to discuss these, open a respective thread.

♡ 🔗 …   ↩ Reply

S   **Stenis** Sten-Åke Sändh (Sony, Win 11, PL 6, CO 16, PM Plus 6, XnView)   2 ✏️ 4d

> 🔵 platypus: ⌄ ↑
>
> @freixas has started the thread with sharing an idea and a few scripts for us to use or not use.
>
> We could test the ideas/workarounds/solutions and say thank you or propose improvements/extensions or simply go our ways.

I don´t see what you see Patypus. Freixas has edited his first post three times and in the first version I saw something like this script which I have copied from Bryans post #16 :

FROM potentials
JOIN Items ON Items.Id = potentials.ItemId
JOIN Keywords ON Keywords.Id = potentials.KeywordId
JOIN Sources ON Sources.Id = Items.SourceId
WHERE NOT EXISTS (SELECT 1 FROM ItemsKeywords AS ik WHERE ik.ItemId = potentials.ItemId AND ik.KeywordId = potentials.KeywordId)
ORDER BY filename, keywordpath

… and Freixas originally also displayed the result of the script which was a list full of hierachic keywords from the database of Picture Library and that is just part of a long history here at DXO Forums with all sorts of problems revolving around DXO:s poor implementation of hierarchical keywords and how to handle that.

These discussions about all the problems people have found and suggestions of how to work around these problems have gone on and on and on for I think at least four years. From the beginning it also touched non working mark-up with stars and/or color labels in our workflows. Joanna even ending up building her own application taking care of both stars, color labels and keywords that looks very much as a file viewer that we even have here in Photolab now.

My conclusion is that after all these years of endless keyword-discussions DXO hasn´t really listened at all and here comes new community members every year that keeps this eternal flame burning. Freixas contribution here is just another attempt to handle things that are not there and like Joanna he might end up building jet another parallell solution that doesn´t really change anything.

I just described where the innovation front lays today and that Mario Westphal during dedicated work under ten months has managed to build a complete solution that practically solves all these old keyword-related problems. So these old keyword issues have become a non-issue now since iMatch integrates very well and seamlessly with Photolab and solves all the problems Photolab don´t. Properly configured it gives Zero Administration even to the use of hierarchical keywords with and automatic maintenance of a Thesaurus too.

For the ones really interested in scaling up and establishing a really efficient Keywords- and Descriptions-workflow with practically Zero Administration even with Photolab - now you know where to find the tools to fix that.

For the ones not interested - I leave you here in this "Death Valley" of the keywords to find your way out by yourselves. Good Luck!

♡ 🔗 … ↩ Reply

platypus Canon & Mac (Intel and M1)   1 ✎ 4d

> Ⓢ Stenis: ⌄ ↑
>
> I don´t see what you see...

...which seems normal, different people see things differently.

♡ 🔗 … ↩ Reply

Ⓡ **RAGING_FURY**   4h

If DXO moderators spend some time digesting or commenting in this forum rather than deleting posts, we would actually get somewhere.
This, to me is not a friendly place to exchange ideas. If someone wants the topic a focussed only on what they deem right, why not make it a private chat. disappointing! DXO: not impressed!

2 Replies ⌄   ♡ 🔗 … ↩ Reply

Joanna Joanna Carter   3h

> Ⓡ RAGING_FURY: ⌄ ↑
>
> If DXO moderators spend some time digesting or commenting in this forum rather than deleting posts, we would actually get somewhere

Apparently discussing commercial products (PS, Lr, etc) is OK but discussing other non-commercial contributions from real world users is not 🙄

1 Reply ⌄   1 ♡ 🔗 … ↩ Reply

BHAYT Bryan [WIN10, PL8, VP4, FP7, G9 & EM1 Mkii, RTX 3060]   1h

> Ⓡ RAGING_FURY: ⌄ ↑
>
> If DXO moderators spend some time digesting or commenting in this forum rather than deleting posts, we would actually get somewhere.

@RAGING_FURY Which posts (in which topics) are you suggesting DxO have removed!?

> 🟣 Joanna: ⌄ ↑
>
> Apparently discussing commercial products (PS, Lr, etc) is OK but discussing other non-commercial contributions from real world users is not

@Joanna I have been otherwise engaged so I must have missed it but to what are you referring?

🔗 ✏️ ⋯ ↩ Reply

Joanna Joanna Carter   27m

> 🟢 BHAYT: ⌄ ↑
>
> I have been otherwise engaged so I must have missed it but to what are you referring

Someone reported a couple of my posts as being off-topic and they have been deleted.

♡ 🔗 ⋯ ↩ Reply

mwsilvers Mark - New Jersey, USA   9m

> 🟣 Joanna: ⌄ ↑
>
> Someone reported a couple of my posts as being off-topic and they have been deleted

Really @Joanna ? Many, if not most threads tend to wander off topic. I was not aware of posts being deleted for that reason.

Mark

♡ 🔗 ⋯ ↩ Reply

BHAYT Bryan [WIN10, PL8, VP4, FP7, G9 & EM1 Mkii, RTX 3060]   2m

> 🟣 Joanna: ⌄ ↑
>
> Someone reported a couple of my posts as being off-topic and they have been deleted.

@Joanna how does a person go about having a post removed? Given some of the posts that have remained when they could easily be deemed as offensive to either DxO (staff) or another use or both, I am surprised.

I actually took a copy of the topic, something I rarely do but have done from time to times, but when @freixas threatened to pull the plug I felt that I wanted to preserve the topic for my files so here it is as at the date and time in the title.

⬇ 2025-06-08_011246_Keywording SQL topic.pdf (11.6 MB)

> 🔵 mwsilvers: ⌄ ↑
>
> Really @Joanna ? Many, if not most threads tend to wander off topic. I was not aware of posts being deleted for that reason.

@mwsilvers When do topics ever wander off topic?

Sorry I misstated (correct spelling??) that, it should have read "when do topics ever not wander off topic!?".

PS:- Would you like to see a picture of my garden as the heat consumes it in spite of having 18 x 200 litre water butts, ops sorry off topic, better take another snapshot!!.

🔗 ✏️ ⋯ ↩ Reply

🔔 Tracking ∨ 　You will see a count of new replies because you posted a reply to this topic.

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