

Some keywording tools (in SQL) that some of you might find useful

DxO PhotoLab ■ Tutorials, tips & tricks



It's been a while since we've seen freixas — their last post was 5 months ago.

1 Jun

F

freixas

2 6d

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2 Jun

Some versions ago, DxO added the ability to tag images with keywords. Despite some changes since the initial introduction, there are some missing tools. DxO is a small company with limited resources and I suspect that they aren't going to prioritize further enhancements of the keywording system.

I've developed tools to fill the gaps. Unfortunately, I wrote my code in PHP, and it's not easily shareable.

As a spin-off of my work, I've developed a few SQL scripts that might be useful to some of you. These are a bit easier to share. I'll offer these here. If you don't need them, ignore them.

UPDATE: Clarifications (based on feedback received so far):

- *There's some potential that the tools won't work with a Mac DB—I'm still trying to find out. If you are on a Mac and you try them and they don't work, let me know.*
- *The tools won't affect your database in any way. They only retrieve information.*
- *The tools only report keyword information from Photolab's database; they don't get any information directly from any of your images or DOP files.*
- *If you use some other software to manage your image's keywords, these tools will be of little interest to you.*

The process for running these tools is:

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 the code I give you into this window and execute it (right-pointing triangle in the tool bar).
5. Copy the resulting table, into a spreadsheet or a text file.

Keep in mind that the SQL I am giving you cannot maliciously affect your database since you opened the database *in read-only mode* (right?).

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 Id, Value, ParentId, Value AS path
  FROM Keywords
  WHERE ParentId IS NULL

  UNION ALL

  SELECT Keywords.Id, Keywords.Value, Keywords.ParentId, fullKeywordPath.path |
  FROM Keywords, fullKeywordPath
  WHERE Keywords.ParentId = fullKeywordPath.Id
)
```

1h



```
SELECT path
FROM fullKeywordPath
ORDER BY path
```

The output will look something like this:

```
Contents|Wildlife|Birds|Australasian Robins
Contents|Wildlife|Birds|Australasian Robins|South Island Robin
Contents|Wildlife|Birds|Australasian Robins|Tomtit
Contents|Wildlife|Birds|Australasian Warblers
Contents|Wildlife|Birds|Australasian Warblers|Grey Warbler
```

Each keyword will be identified by its full path name, with "|" separating the paths. You could change this character to something like ">" if you wanted.

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 Id, Value, ParentId, Value AS path
  FROM Keywords
  WHERE ParentId IS NULL

  UNION ALL

  SELECT Keywords.Id, Keywords.Value, Keywords.ParentId, fullKeywordPath.path
  FROM Keywords, fullKeywordPath
  WHERE Keywords.ParentId = fullKeywordPath.Id
)

SELECT
```

The output is now:

```
Contents|Wildlife|Birds|Australasian Robins 52
Contents|Wildlife|Birds|Australasian Robins|South Island Robin 33
Contents|Wildlife|Birds|Australasian Robins|Tomtit 19
Contents|Wildlife|Birds|Australasian Warblers 11
Contents|Wildlife|Birds|Australasian Warblers|Grey Warbler 11
```

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 Id, Value, ParentId, Value AS path, "" AS prefix
```

```

FROM Keywords
WHERE ParentId IS NULL

UNION ALL

SELECT
  Keywords.Id,
  Keywords.Value,
  Keywords.ParentId,
  fullKeywordPath.path || '|' || Keywords.Value,
  prefix || char(9) AS prefix

```

The output is something like:

```

Contents
  Wildlife
    Birds
      Australasian Robins
        South Island Robin
        Tomtit
      Australasian Warblers
        Grey Warbler

```

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
 * ItemsKeywords 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 Id, Name, ParentFolderId, Name AS path FROM Folders

```

The output looks like this:

```

D:/Users/sample/Pictures/Photos/2025/IMG_1294.CR3  Test|A  2E7224C3-0A39-463B-9F54

```

In this case, the image is tagged with Test and Test|A|B, but not Test|A.



platypus Canon & Mac (Intel and M1)

6d

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

6d



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

6d



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.

2 Replies ⌵

♡ @ ... ↩ Reply



freixas

6d



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 5d

F 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).

F 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 @ line      8  Albums = "",
2025/06/03_09:29:03.529 @ line      9  CreationDate = "2025-05-29T09:41:02.02335
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 @ line    621  Uuid = "6A9404D6-3FD0-459E-B164-8DC08F223

```

```
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 folder that 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



RAGING_FURY

5d

This is a nice initiative, thanks. 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 luminosity 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]

2 5d



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, still currently involved with Beta testing (don't ask for any details because you won't get them) 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 GCSEs 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



RAGING_FURY

5d



BHAYT:



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)

sure, happy to try it whenever you get round to it. Am available off & on . You can DM me if I don't respond.

Garden look inviting !

Reply



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

3 5d

@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



RAGING_FURY

5d

whatever works for you.

Re pittosporum, mine is getting leggy in places, need to do a serious prune too. Still, I like the natural look!

1 Reply

♡ @ ... Reply



freixas

4d



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.

2 Replies

♡ @ ... Reply



Joanna Carter

4d

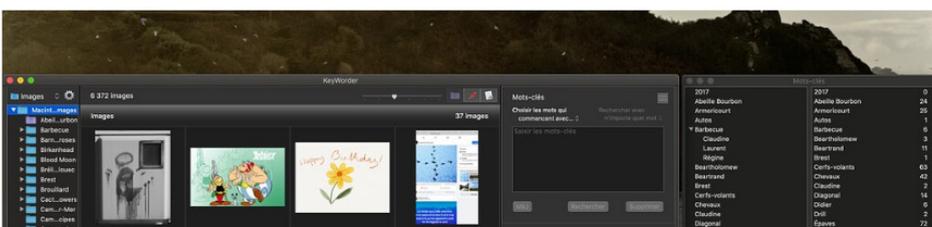
If it is of any interest, I have written a full blown macOS app to manage Keywords, Star Ratings, Finder Tags, Descriptions, etc.

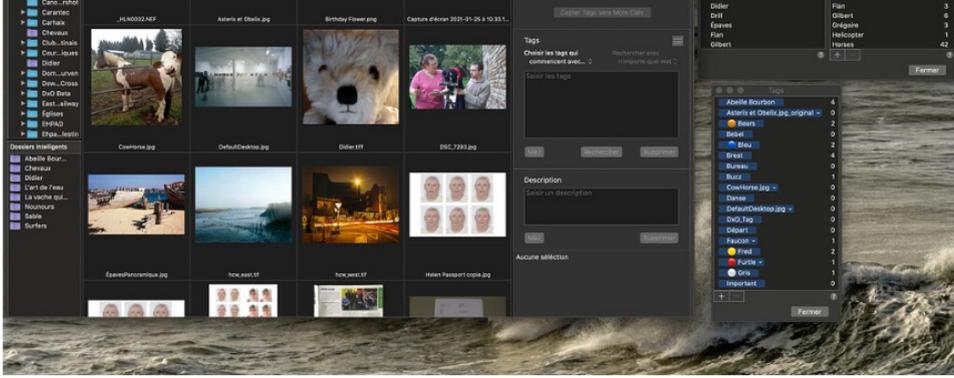
You can build up a library of keywords, including hierarchical ones as well as a library of Finder Tags.

Then you can add keywords to images and search for them. Once you have a search result, you can save it as a Smart Folder, just like you can in Finder. In fact, once you have used my app to add metadata, you can just as well use Spotlight to find files that match. Metadata can even be stored (safely) in RAW files, or in XMP sidecars if you prefer.

It has been designed from the ground up to work hand in hand with PL and you can open files from it, directly in PL or any other app.

The image browser shows a flattened folder hierarchy, based on the selected folder. In fact, you can browse the entire disk.





Drop me a DM if you are interested in beta testing it.

1 Reply ▾

♡ 🔄 ⋮ ↶ Reply



freixas

4d



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

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 → ZUUUID
- Keywords → ZDOPKEYWORD
- Keywords.Value → ZTITLE
- Keywords.ParentId → ZPARENT
- Folders → ZDOPFOLDER
- Folders.Name → ZNAME
- Folders.ParentFolderId → ZPARENT
- ItemsKeywords → Z_8KEYWORDS
- ItemsKeywords.ItemId → Z_8ITEMS
- ItemsKeywords.KeywordId → 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 Mki... 2 ✎ 🔄 R RAGING_FURY 4d

F 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 now, 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 Replies 👍 2

🔗 ✎ ⋮ ↩ Reply



@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...

```

F freixas:
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 = potentia
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

149	F:_MY PHOTOS_PHOTOS-Taken/2025-02/2025-05-31 -	- G9(200)/RAW/PL860/P1139298_PL860.jpg	6338096F-BE41-4E0E-A2C6-1F0E9CC04F57
150	F:_MY PHOTOS_PHOTOS-Taken/2025-02/2025-05-31 -	- G9(200)/RAW/PL860/P1139301_PL860.jpg	0A7A85C8-AFE2-4C32-B24E-390E8C262189
151	F:_MY PHOTOS_PHOTOS-Taken/2025-02/2025-05-31 -	- G9(200)/RAW/PL860/P1139345_PL860.jpg	C0CC9174-1860-4A83-86B1-400608410A36
152	F:_Beta DND PL5 - Tests Additional__Test Photos_BULK & Bulk Tests/Bulk Test 1-1000 (No Sidecars)/Bulk-00501.ORF		0FAB4484-E69A-42D8-ABE1-C08E7F500530
153	F:_Beta DND PL5 - Tests Additional__Test Photos_BULK & Bulk Tests/Bulk Test 1-1000 (No Sidecars)/Bulk-00502.ORF		2D61A886-62DF-482C-8CF6-3F6FB3191A
154	F:_Beta DND PL5 - Tests Additional__Test Photos_BULK & Bulk Tests/Bulk Test 1-1000 (No Sidecars)/Bulk-00503.ORF		EE15991A-85C4-472E-94CF-22806F9E40F
155	F:_Beta DND PL5 - Tests Additional__Test Photos_BULK & Bulk Tests/Bulk Test 1-1000 (No Sidecars)/Bulk-00504.ORF		3CE7144-6FA4-4898-B19C-200B65424C9
156	F:_Beta DND PL5 - Tests Additional__Test Photos_BULK & Bulk Tests/Bulk Test 1-1000 (No Sidecars)/Bulk-00505.ORF		784A0656-2096-43E8-8AA9-723E6567DC3
157	F:_Beta DND PL5 - Tests Additional__Test Photos_BULK & Bulk Tests/Bulk Test 1-1000 (No Sidecars)/Bulk-00506.ORF		BE9EA464-3838-4590-876F-0F43F6DDA06
158	F:_Beta DND PL5 - Tests Additional__Test Photos_BULK & Bulk Tests/Bulk Test 1-1000 (No Sidecars)/Bulk-00507.ORF		8A281A8B-A90E-480B-8079-D43E24CC3A9F
159	F:_Beta DND PL5 - Tests Additional__Test Photos_BULK & Bulk Tests/Bulk Test 1-1000 (No Sidecars)/Bulk-00508.ORF		2D6B587C-B2D0-4016-B698-802951B962FD
160	F:_Beta DND PL5 - Tests Additional__Test Photos_BULK & Bulk Tests/Bulk Test 1-1000 (No Sidecars)/Bulk-00509.ORF		811AA388-1548-4FC4-A013-578E2702A5AA
161	F:_Beta DND PL5 - Tests Additional__Test Photos_BULK & Bulk Tests/Bulk Test 1-1000 (No Sidecars)/Bulk-00510.ORF		7465C85A-9118-4CC7-B55E-F89863000594

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

1 Reply



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



TomS

1d

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



freixas

1d

BHAYT:

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.

3 Replies ▾



freixas

1d



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).



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

1d



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.



freixas

1d



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.

♡ @ ⋮ ↩ Reply



Joanna Joanna Carter

3 ✎ 15h



BHAYT:



@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).

Well, I have mentioned before that folks could contact me about beta testing it for a few years now but only a few responded and, unfortunately, they weren't very forthcoming with feedback. In fact, I have found most bugs myself through my daily use.



BHAYT:



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

That is because Windows doesn't provide the amazing tools that Apple does, as part of the operating system, that can be accessed from their comprehensive (and free) development tools.

Oh and, after many years of using and developing for Windows, finishing with XP, I wouldn't use a Windows computer if you gave it to me 😞

Since I wanted to handle metadata, produced by other software as well as PhotoLab, I based it on either XMP based sidecar files or RAW files themselves - thus ensuring that any work my app did was available in any other software as well as PhotoLab.

Since I leverage Apple's Spotlight metadata database that is constantly updated by the OS, this obviates the need for a third party database or proprietary sidecars.



BHAYT:



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!

Well, a long time ago, I did offer DxO the possibility of extending and incorporating my work but they weren't too keen and, more than likely, don't have the resources to port it to Windows.

One suggestion that I did make, both in these forums and privately, was to separate out the browser into a "plugin" but, once again, "no answer came the stern reply"

As a long time macOS and iOS developer, the idea of "hacking" the PL database was never going to be an option, since I know that (on macOS/iOS) the database structure is auto-generated from an Object-oriented model that is created using the CoreData designer provided as part of Xcode. Thus, to change the RDBMS structure, it is necessary to change the Object model and pass it through an ORM (object relational model).

Of course, DxO could replicate the ORM for Windows but that is no easy task, hence I can understand their reticence (so far, my project contains around 34,000 lines of code).

And, to cap it all, Microsoft does not provide the same, easily accessible, metadata management and search engine that Apple has had for many years.

As it is, someone using my software can take a RAW file with embedded metadata from one machine to another and all that metadata travels with it. And, if folks are not happy with embedding metadata in RAW files, then they can opt for using XMP sidecars instead. Either way, there is no need to mess around with reverse engineering DxO's database.

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.

♡ @ ... ↩ Reply

F freixas

11h

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

10h

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, fullKeywordPa
  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, fullKeyword  
  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_BKEYWORDS 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.
  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

9h

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.

1 ❤️ 🔗 ... ↩ Reply



freixas

8h



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 ✎ 7h



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?

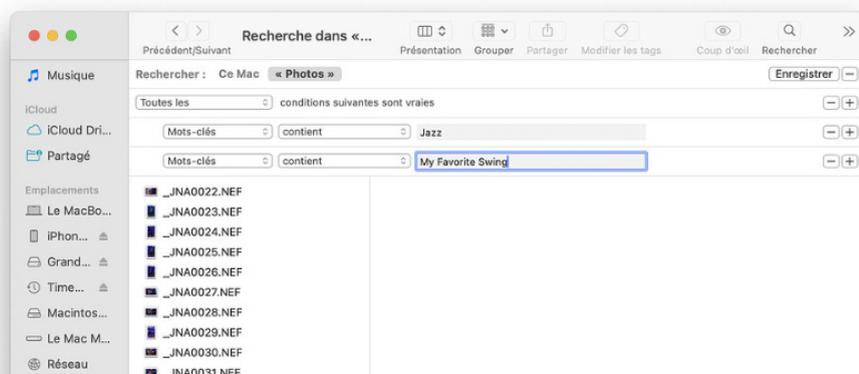


freixas:



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...



F freixas:

If you use PL's database for keywording, then they are

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?

♡ @ ... ↩ Reply

F freixas

6h

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)

3h

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.

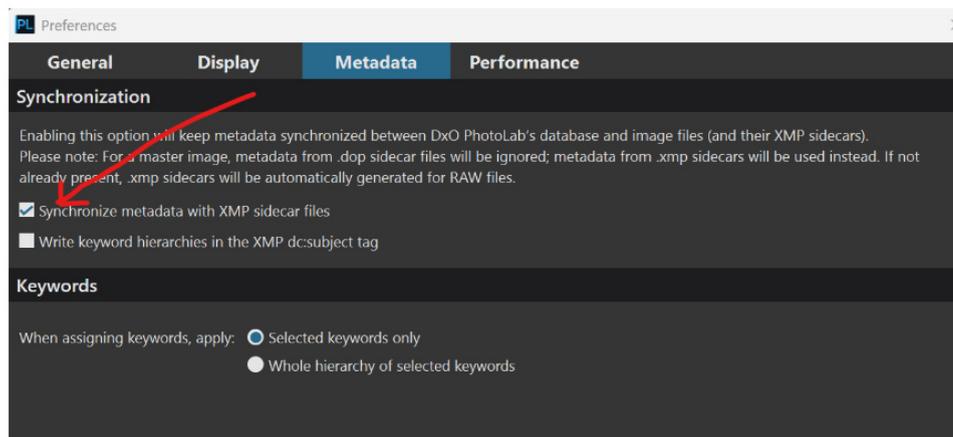
1 Reply ▾

♡ @ ⋮ ↩ Reply



Stenis Sten-Åke Sändh (Sony, Win 11, PL 6, CO 16, PM Plus 6... 1 ✎ ↻ 🌐 Joanna 3h

... well, to my experience around this DXO Photolab has been the only one of Lightroom, Capture One and DXO Photolab that has worked seamlessly and flawlessly together with both PhotoMechanic and iMatch, without any need of "manual synchronizations" like use to be the case with both Lightroom and Capture One despite switching on "Synchronize metadata with sidecar files".



You also have to decide if you want to use just the plain keywords or the whole structures in the same screen

I think DXO have to thank Freixas for his initiative to publish this little SQL hack. So now when he also have made this job for DXO, we finally might get a function in place that makes it possible to import and export the keywords used in Photolab. This is a minimum for a serious implementation of a Photo DAM to be able to exchange used vocabularies between different platforms using XMP.

So dear DXO, see this wasn't really harder than this because the SELECT-operator or what I shall call it is really the first you learn to use when starting to learn SQL. It is the first in the very first basic course!!

When I migrated from PhotoMechanic (that is a more serious and professional tool than Photolab) I could easily export all the keywords I had used during four years both in PM Plus and synchronized to Photolab without the slightest problem and import them into iMatch 2025. Even Lightroom and Capture One have functions like that. BUT, the way DXO Photolab works today it just give the users support to migrate TO Photolab but not FROM Photolab and that is the very definition of DXO trying to "locking in" their user base and it doesn't look nice at all, sad to say. Or maybe it is as sad as DXO just totally have lost the interest in completing PhotoLibrary, so it can be a decent player in the XMP-society?

Even Freixas is excusing DXO - being a small company with limited resources - I don't. Have you seem what Mario Westphal at Photools (one man company) has been able

to do totally on his own - just one single developer - with iMatch 2025?? We have just had a discussion in Sweden about why neither the multibillion company Adobe that still owns the graphics applications market or CameraBits that develops the industry standard Photo-DAM-application PhotoMechanic were the ones that finally managed to solve the big efficiency problems with populating the IPTC/XMP-Descriptions and IPTC/XMP-Keywords (both flat and hierarchies) that we have had for decades?

You didn't know about that?

This has very little to do with how big economical muscles a company has. In fact it has very little to do with muscles at all. It is all about brains, levels of skills and devotion to the cause of building the best personal DAM-system there is to day on the market. Se and learn DXO, CameraBits and Adobe!

2 Replies ▾

♡ @ ⋮ ↶ Reply



freixas

2h



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



Stenis Sten-Åke Sändh (Sony, Win 11, PL 6, CO 16, PM Plus 6, ... 1 ✎ ↶ S Stenis 2h



In the last 8 years, Adobe's annual earnings have skyrocketed from \$200 to \$300 million

Do we really believe that Adobe would have to raise prices out of financial necessity, just because they added some new AI features??

The truth is that Adobe has actually underperformed for a really long time since the subscription model was introduced, because their calculations soon discovered that the all-time high would be even higher if they weren't so eager to plow down everything they earned in R&D. Why strain yourself when you don't have to strain yourself anymore to motivate people to upgrade - the money just keeps pouring in anyway. As for the fact that the AI support in Lightroom would have justified sharply increased prices, I don't believe that either. On the contrary, there are those who now point out that Adobe has lagged behind in that development and that it has also played out in a weak share price. There are those who see Adobe as technically a bit on the decline now.

I myself ran Lightroom from the very beginning, from version 1.0 to 6.14, when I migrated to DXO Photolab, and a little later I also started using Capture One in parallel. The reason for this was Lightroom's relatively abysmal previews with my Sony RAW and that the program lacked the support for tethering for Sony that Capture One had. Photolab still provides clearly better image quality than Lightroom through Deep Prime, and Capture One is clearly more competent in many ways. Lightroom still lacks the efficiency and productivity focus that, for example, Capture One has had for a long time now. I find it difficult to understand that Lightroom is still seen as some kind of industry standard. In my eyes, it only testifies to the indifference of ignorance.

I once started trying to build an XMP metadata-controlled image library with Lightroom's catalog, but it was completely hopelessly inefficient, so I gave up on that project for a long time. Much later, I invested in the then most effective metadata maintenance program on the market and Photo DAM PhotoMechanic Plus 6, just when it was released on the market and I have been using it until a few months ago when I stumbled upon iMatch 2023.

Then iMatch 2025 happened, which completely changed the conditions. Although PhotoMechanic Plus 6 was already running circles around Lightroom, the program has a major weakness and that is that despite all the mass processing functions available, image descriptions (IPTC Descriptions) and search keywords (IPTC Keywords) usually have to be entered completely manually. This reduces all productivity in the workflows enormously and it is really a pain for everyone other than professional sports photographers in the USA because there are companies that specialize in producing "search and replace" lists with lineups of the players participating in these matches. But that doesn't help ordinary photographers like me very much. We are still left with Descriptions and Keywords to write.

Neither Adobe with all its forced subscription billions nor the market-leading 20-year-old CameraBits with its PhotoMechanic Plus DAM that has been developed at a snail's pace have managed to solve these problems. CameraBits' innovation rate has been so low that they have not managed to get a single version upgrade until now - it took over four years. Through this, they have finally incurred such serious financial problems that they have ended up in the arms of venture capital.

Personally, I am quite amazed that it was a very small but very competent and efficient German ONE MAN COMPANY called Photools, that finally solved the hopeless productivity thief for me and many others that our manual handling of image descriptions and keywords was and did so already in the version that came out already in 2023. The problem then was that the AI models were not quite where they are today, but you could already see where we were going and that is what made me start a test migration to iMatch and not the price increases.

However, it was only now, just a month ago, when the development of the market-leading AI models from OpenAI and Google resulted in the launch of the versions Open AI 4.1 and Google Gemini 2.0 Flash, which really lifted everything and then fell into place. These models were then made available in just a week or so in the then newly launched iMatch 2025 by developer Mario Westphal at Photools and this has in my eyes made both PhotoMechanic and all the built-in so-called Photo DAM in all our most common RAW converters appear as antiquated technical history from another time - which they actually are now.

Don't listen to the excuses of Adobe! Mario Westphal and his small company pay nothing at all for his customers to have access to image interpretation via AI from Google, OpenAI, Microsoft or Mistral. There are even a number of completely free AI models that run completely locally via interfaces such as Ollama and LM Studio. Nor does he pay for the use of commercial maps and position data with reverse geocoding from Google, Microsoft or HERE - because the users always do that. Here too, free alternatives such as OpenStreetMap and others are also offered, so in that context Adobe's arguments seem quite hollow.

Photools has thus made two important design choices here:

The first was to make a common AI interface available to all these different AI services, whether they are commercial or non-profit. (In cases where they are non-profit, you are only asked to send a little money to the organizations whose free services you use. Users have a choice to make and can register themselves with AI providers - if necessary to get the so-called AI API keys that are needed for the services to be available in iMatch).

The second was to build an application - Autotagger - that offers an efficient interface to, among other things, be able to control these AI services via four different so-called Prompt interfaces, three "static" ones for Descriptions, Keywords, Landmarks and then finally there is also an "Ad hoc interface" to be able to quickly adapt the control to the images you want to influence on the next run.

It is also the case that the cheapest and now very good commercial services are very affordable. No one needs to be ruined by those costs either. With OpenAI GPT 4.1 Mini, 1 million so-called Tokens (everything is paid in Tokens) cost 0.45 USD. It takes about 1,000 to process an image, so it costs just over 4 kronor for 1,000 images. If you also have a lot of images that could use the same text, only 1,000 Tokens are enough for any number of images.

So if you want to run "for free" using LM Studio or Ollama, you can process data locally, for example, with Google Gemma (4GB or 12GB), but it requires at least 8GB to 12 GB on a good graphics card and it can cost a lot. However, if you choose to run commercial models, the graphics cards are less of a problem and then you can use much larger and much more competent models from AI providers, and it often makes a big difference, for example, when it comes to identifying so-called "Landmarks" in the images.

However, both Gemini Flash Lite and OpenAI 4.1 Mini are very fast and surprisingly good so these are almost always enough and I have clocked that it took 1 minute and 45 seconds to process 250 images which makes less than 7 minutes to process 1,000 images and provide them with captions and keywords of such a quality that very little or no additional manual work is normally needed. The smaller models are significantly faster than the larger ones. It is this productivity gain that you should put against doing this in principle manually.

This thread is basically about costs and the funny thing is that little Photools does NOT use any subscription model but now charges about 1700 for a perpetual license. If you buy one now from the venture capital at CameraBits, a PhotoMechanic Plus 6 now costs about 5200:- for a perpetual license. That is three times more and Adobe probably wants about a similar amount iMatch costs for eternity - every year. Capture One is even more expensive, but in that case they've actually kept up a decent pace of innovation so far, so that's OK with me. I never let myself be guided by what a software costs, but by what it can do for my productivity.

I still don't understand why neither a billion-dollar company like Adobe nor a niche market-leading Photo DAM company like CameraBits, whose PhotoMechanic is used by basically all sports and event photographers, at least in the US, have managed to solve the productivity problems that the manual processes around Descriptions and Keywords have created, despite the users' explicit requests in "feature requests".

I also don't understand how a small one-man company like Photools, which has existed for 20+ years and has managed to financially upgrade version after version, has managed to solve what neither the world's largest graphics application company nor the world's leading Photo DAM manufacturer CameraBits has so far failed to do. I have actually read the CameraBit forum myself and for that reason I know that these AI functions are really in demand by photographers who value their time and don't just stare blindly at a possible subscription cost.

The future will open up many new opportunities for photographers and creators who

have already understood how to use AI to their advantage and for once it will probably not be the costs that limit but the creativity in the AI prompts. Because if a system like iMatch and all other AI systems are to really come into its own optimally, it must be controlled and this applies to all AI. The photographers who first understand this and embrace the new possibilities without prejudice will have a major competitive advantage in the market over those who do not. Those who are waiting for the "AI - hype" to blow away will probably be disappointed, because now even the teh biggest industrial group associated with the Wallenberg family are also preparing to lay the foundation for an AI infrastructure that can drive their industries' future AI applications together with NVIDIA.

1 Reply ▾

♡ @ ... ↩ Reply



platypus Canon & Mac (Intel and M1)

2h

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.

1 Reply ▾

♡ @ ... ↩ Reply



platypus Canon & Mac (Intel and M1)

2h

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



freixas

2h

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.

♡ @ ... ↩ Reply



Stenis Sten-Åke Sändh (Sony, Win 11, PL 6, CO 16, PM Plus 6, Xn... ↩ platypus 2h

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.

**Joanna** Joanna Carter

2h

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?

2 Replies ▾

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

1h



platypus:

▾ ↑

...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.

I also very much like Ed Hamrick that is the father of Vuescan and the one man company Hamrick Software - also an industry standard software since decades for scanning, that is said to have a user base of 600 000 world wide and support more than 6000 scanner models.

Ed Hamrick also gives the same type of totally devoted support for his customers as Mario Westphal at Photools. So, if one-man-companies like Photools and Hamrick Software can both develop world class software AND run a world class support for that software, why can't companies with far far more resources do the same and why do we continue to excuse them when they don't??

    Reply**freixas**  Stenis 1h

Stenis:

▾ ↑

No, Freixas 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.

1 Reply ▾

    Reply



Stenis Sten-Åke Sändh (Sony, Win 11, PL 6, CO 16, PM Plus 6... 1 Joanna 1h

One of the apologets?

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 discussing here (Joanna)

Reply



freixas 1h

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.

1 Reply

Reply



Stenis Sten-Åke Sändh (Sony, Win 11, PL 6, CO 16, PM Plus 6, XnVie... freixas 1h

Freixas, do you really believe that this "Feature Request" hasn't been written already and discussed here in many discussions before??

I also wonder if you really have been working practically with synching other applications like PhotoMechanic and iMatch with Photolab. It works fantastically well. It is both fast, almost instant and rock solid. This is really no issue at all motivating turning off synchronization. This synch is really on of the features DXO has got right from the beginning.

Compared to both Lightroom and Capture One, Photolab has had a far better interoperability with PhotoMechanic and iMatch than the other two since we got PhotoLibrary. It also goes for the need of being able to open a selected group of pictures from Photolab or iMatch. CameraBits took four years to solve that with Capture One that was fixed for Photolab four years ago. Still Lightroom is manual synch with iMatch and I still think the same goes for Photomechanic.

Reply



Stenis Sten-Åke Sändh (Sony, Win 11, PL 6, CO 16, PM Plus 6, XnVie... freixas 1h

If you look carefully my post over your was written as a response to Joanna - not you. There is a little picture above my text that indicates that.

Your tread is not taking up something neglected or unknown here by this community. It is just neglected by DXO for a loooong time and "emergency solderings" like your suggestions are good because it gets this to float to the surface again but to be frank, they should not at all be necessary if DXO just had been a little little more interested in the suggestions they get here from the users, so don't be disappointed if no one from DXO will participate - that is totally normal. This is important for the users but so far not for DXO.

Reply

295 views

7 users



25 min read