

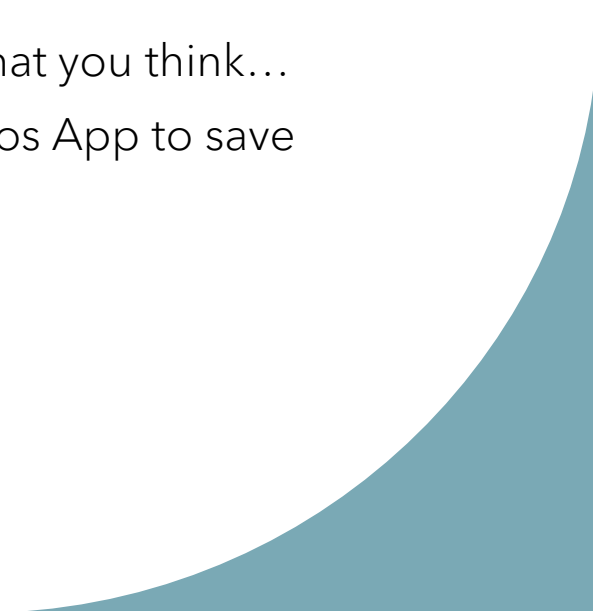
What you need to know about storing Photos on your Mac...

But excluding editing Photos
as this is a subject of its own.



Agenda

- STOP PRESS!: Important information for Intel based Mac users
- Using the Photos App to store photos
 - Getting photos into the Photos App
- Recap what iCloud is and what it does for Photos – may not be what you think...
- How to avoid paying for more iCloud storage and still using Photos App to save your photos
- Saving photos using the Photos App
 - Backing up your Photos
 - Getting photos out of the Photos App

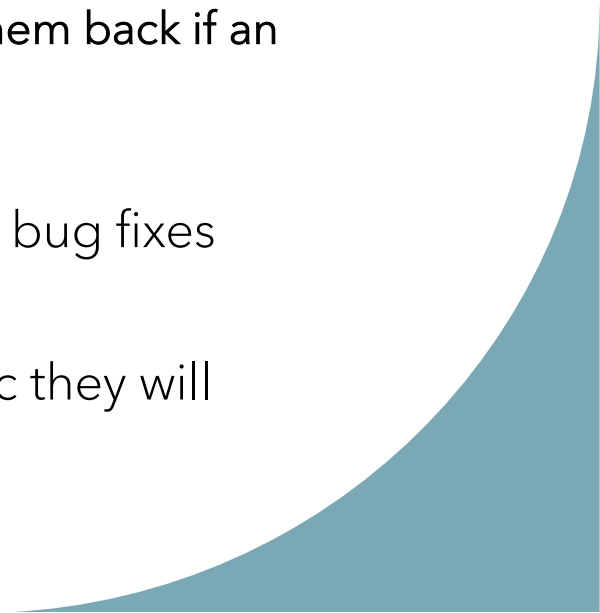


STOP PRESS! Important information for Intel based Mac users

- App developers no longer need to ship “universal” images!
- If you update a universal app it may no longer run on your Intel Mac!
- You should create copies of your universal apps so that you can put them back if an app update stops the app from working for you

To do that see next slide...

- There is now an update to OpenCore Legacy Patcher (2.5.0) for bug fixes (only)
- **NB:** If you are running Intel only apps on your Apple Silicon Mac they will not run on MacOS 28 (or newer)

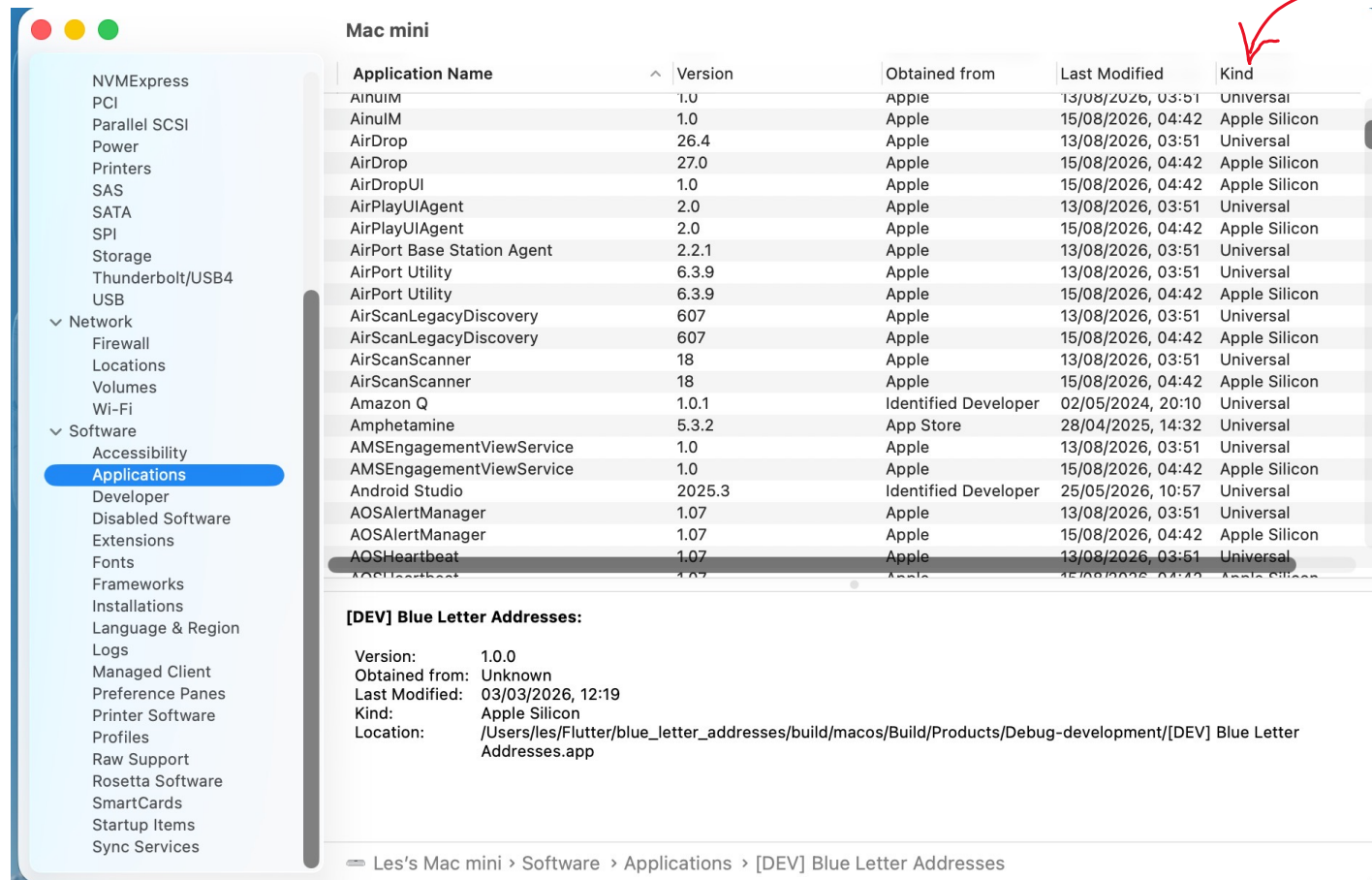


How to copy your universal apps

- Hold down the **Option** key on your keyboard.
- Click the **Apple** menu () in the top-left corner and choose **System Information** (or System Report).
- Scroll down the sidebar and select **Applications** under **Software**.
- Click the **Kind** column header to sort your apps.
- Review the list for the **Universal/Intel/Apple** label.
- Use the Finder to copy all your important Intel & Universal Apps to another folder



See the “Kind” of each App on your Intel Mac



Mac mini

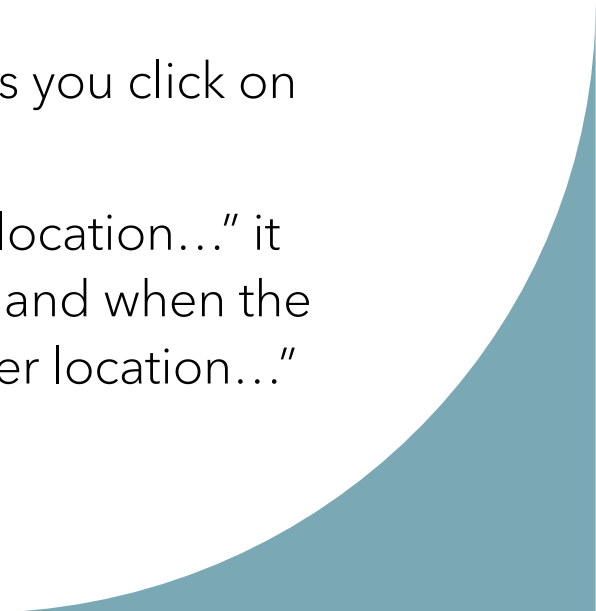
Application Name	Version	Obtained from	Last Modified	Kind
AinUIM	1.0	Apple	13/08/2026, 03:51	Universal
AinUIM	1.0	Apple	15/08/2026, 04:42	Apple Silicon
AirDrop	26.4	Apple	13/08/2026, 03:51	Universal
AirDrop	27.0	Apple	15/08/2026, 04:42	Apple Silicon
AirDropUI	1.0	Apple	15/08/2026, 04:42	Apple Silicon
AirPlayUIAgent	2.0	Apple	13/08/2026, 03:51	Universal
AirPlayUIAgent	2.0	Apple	15/08/2026, 04:42	Apple Silicon
AirPort Base Station Agent	2.2.1	Apple	13/08/2026, 03:51	Universal
AirPort Utility	6.3.9	Apple	13/08/2026, 03:51	Universal
AirPort Utility	6.3.9	Apple	15/08/2026, 04:42	Apple Silicon
AirScanLegacyDiscovery	607	Apple	13/08/2026, 03:51	Universal
AirScanLegacyDiscovery	607	Apple	15/08/2026, 04:42	Apple Silicon
AirScanScanner	18	Apple	13/08/2026, 03:51	Universal
AirScanScanner	18	Apple	15/08/2026, 04:42	Apple Silicon
Amazon Q	1.0.1	Identified Developer	02/05/2024, 20:10	Universal
Amphetamine	5.3.2	App Store	28/04/2025, 14:32	Universal
AMSEngagementViewService	1.0	Apple	13/08/2026, 03:51	Universal
AMSEngagementViewService	1.0	Apple	15/08/2026, 04:42	Apple Silicon
Android Studio	2025.3	Identified Developer	25/05/2026, 10:57	Universal
AOSAlertManager	1.07	Apple	13/08/2026, 03:51	Universal
AOSAlertManager	1.07	Apple	15/08/2026, 04:42	Apple Silicon
AOSHeartbeat	1.07	Apple	13/08/2026, 03:51	Universal
AOSHeartbeat	1.07	Apple	15/08/2026, 04:42	Apple Silicon

[DEV] Blue Letter Addresses:

Version: 1.0.0
Obtained from: Unknown
Last Modified: 03/03/2026, 12:19
Kind: Apple Silicon
Location: /Users/les/Flutter/blue_letter_addresses/build/macos/Build/Products/Debug-development/[DEV] Blue Letter Addresses.app

Les's Mac mini > Software > Applications > [DEV] Blue Letter Addresses

How to understand the notation used on the following slides

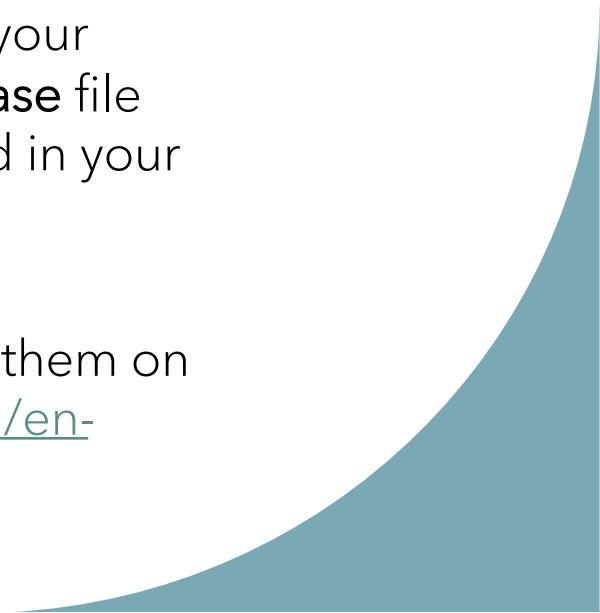
- When you see something like "Shift+Cmd+= " that means that you press the Shift and Cmd and = keys all at the same time (i.e. press Shift, keep it down and press Cmd, keep it down and press =)
 - When you see something like "File/Add to dock" that means you click on File and then click on "Add to dock"
 - You may see something like "Shift+Cmd+5/Options/Other location..." it means you hold down the three keys. Shift and Cmd and 5, and when the "Options" button appears you click that and then click "Other location..."
- 

Using the Photos App to store photos

- Apple provides the Photos App on iPhone, iPad and all Macs for storing and organising all your photos.
- Photos can be “device only” or sync’d across two or more devices using iCloud (see iCloud slides later)
- Unlike Windows and Linux, the Photos App does not store your photos as files on a disk, instead they are stored in a **Database** file named “**Photos Library.photoslibrary**” and this can be found in your **Pictures** folder.

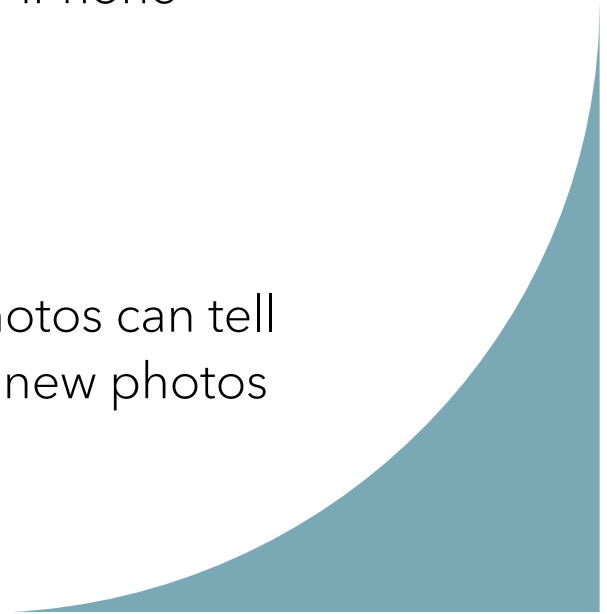
NB: You must very careful not to delete OR move this file!

- Apples User Guides are really quite good and you can find them on the Apple Support web site, e.g. <https://support.apple.com/en-gb/guide/photos/welcome/mac>



Getting Photos into the App...

- Two ways to do this:
 1. Via iCloud from your iPhone or iPad
 2. Import from memory card/stick or direct from a camera or iPhone using a USB cable
- Option 1 happens automatically if iCloud Photos is on
- Option 2 for all other use cases
- When using **Import** from a device you have used before, Photos can tell which are the “new” photos so you only need to import the new photos that are shown



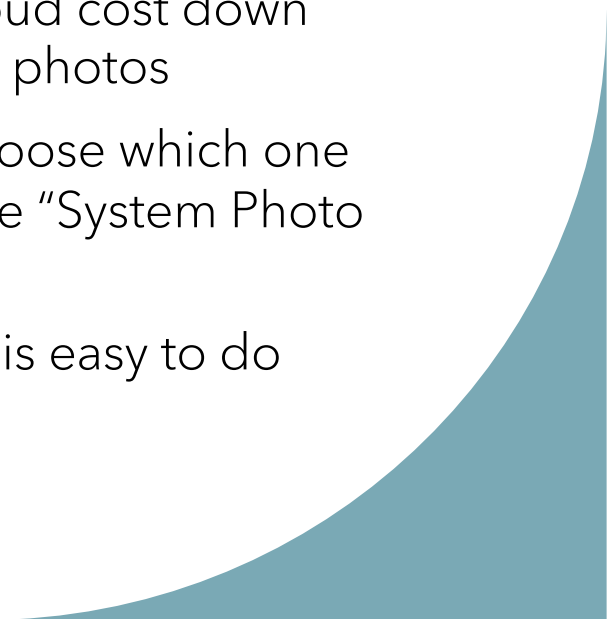
Recap what iCloud Photos is and what it does - may not be what you think...

- iCloud Photos is NOT a backup service !!
- It is a “sync” service – i.e. it will keep the contents of the Photos App the same on all your Apple devices
- If you delete a photo in the Photos App on **ANY** device it will disappear from ALL your devices
(don't panic – deleted photos get moved to “Recently deleted” and will stay there for a ~month)



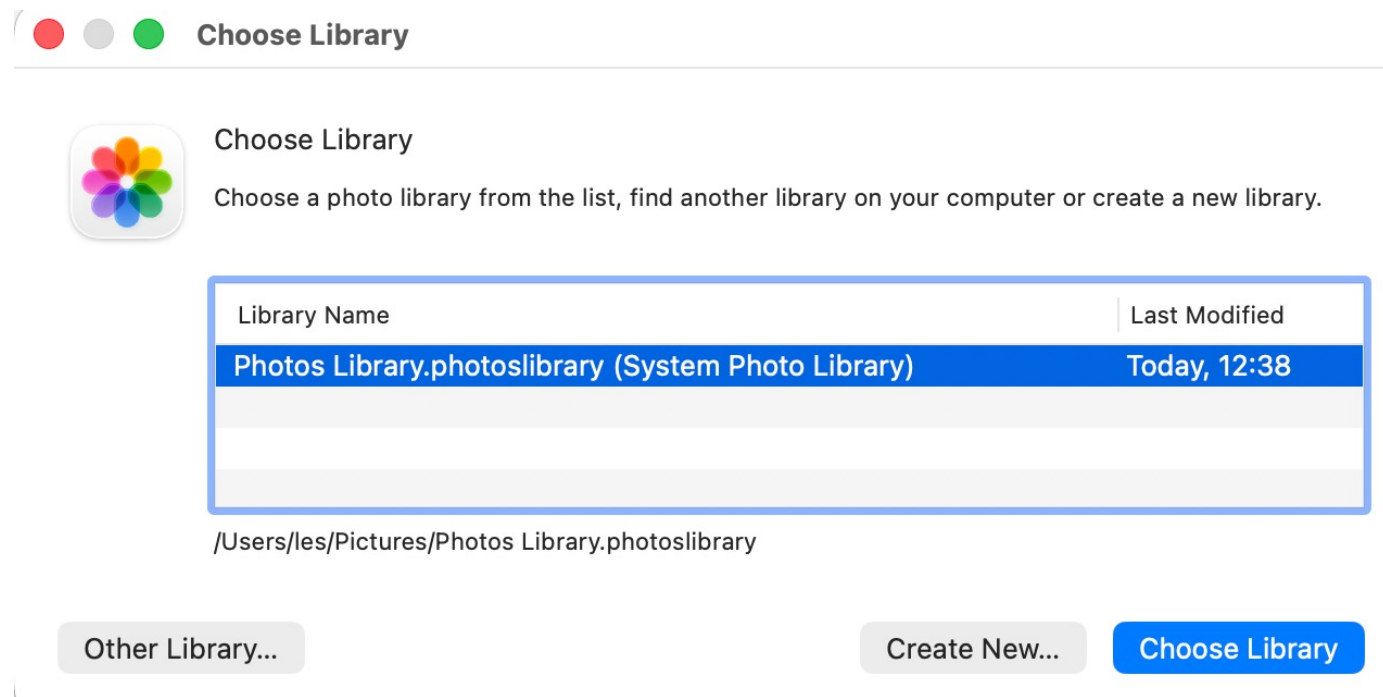
How to avoid paying for more iCloud storage and still using Photos App to manage your photos

- Using iCloud for all your Photos is convenient but can get expensive quite quickly
- Fortunately, Apple provides a way for you to keep your iCloud cost down **AND** keep on using the Photos App on the Mac for all your photos
- You can create as many Photo Libraries as you want and choose which one of them is the one that sync's with all your other devices (the "System Photo Library")
- Creating and selecting Photo Libraries is not "intuitive" but is easy to do once you know how

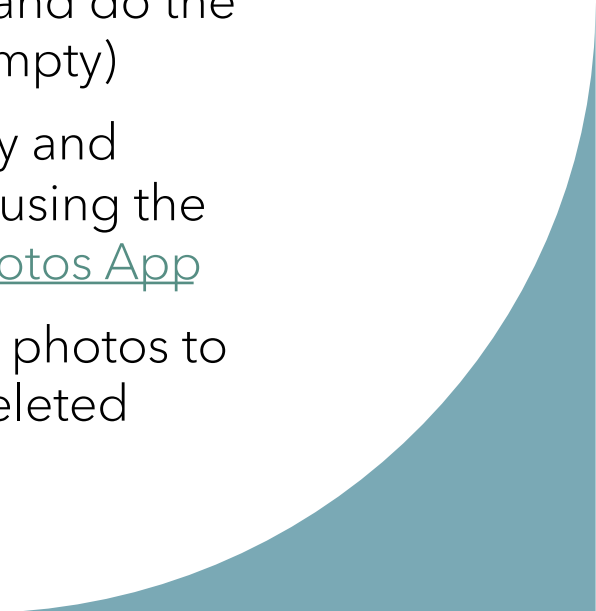


How to avoid paying for more iCloud storage and still using Photos App to save your photos (cont'd)

- Close the Photos App, hold down the Option key and click on the Photos App
- When you do that a dialog like this will pop up:

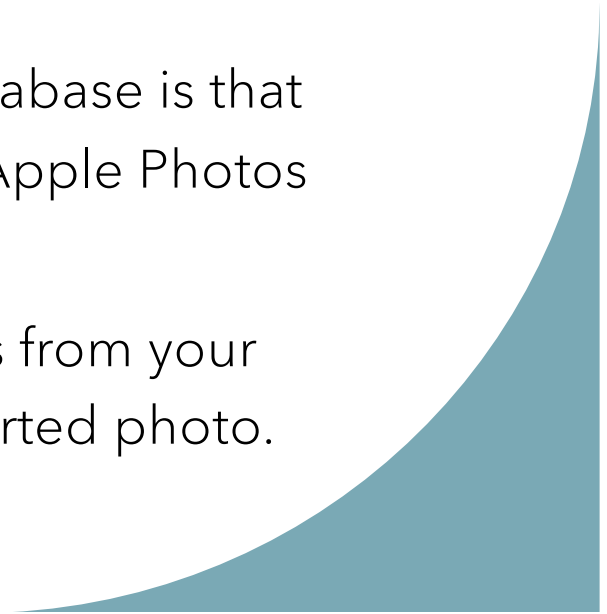


How to avoid paying for more iCloud storage and still using Photos App to save your photos (cont'd)

- You can see from the list shown which library is your “System Photo Library” and this is the one that will sync with your other devices
 - When you have created a new Library, you can quit Photos and do the above step again to open your new Library (which will be empty)
 - You can then use **File/Import** to select the old Photos Library and import whichever photos you want by selecting the photos using the methods detailed on slide [14. Getting photos out of the Photos App](#)
 - After that you can reopen your old Library and delete those photos to make space available back in iCloud (remember that any deleted photos will be deleted from your other devices)
- 

Saving photos using the Photos App

- One big advantage of storing the photos in a database (instead of as files) is that a photo can appear in as many albums as you like without making any copies !!!
- One disadvantage of having all your photos in the Database is that you can only share Photos in the database with other Apple Photos users (on any Apple device)
- To share with all others, you will need to **Export** photos from your Library and that will create separate files for each exported photo.



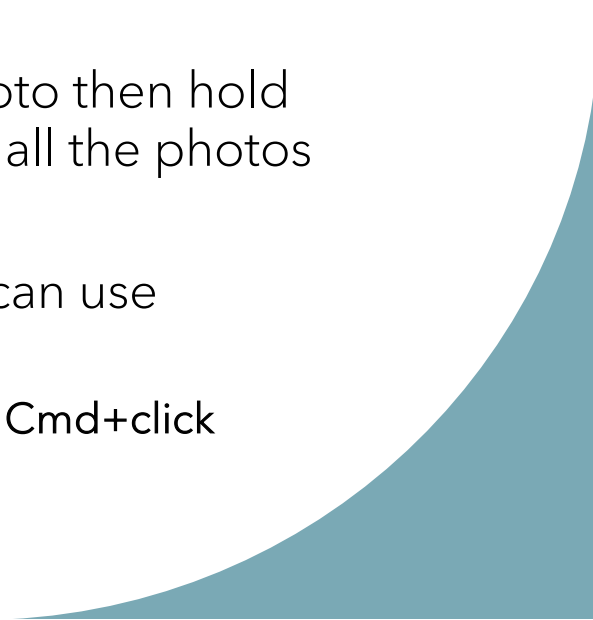
Backing up your Photos

- Use TimeMachine (Apple's backup/restore utility)
Needs an external drive of some sort
- Periodically copy your "Photos Library.photoslibrary" file to another place
- Get your photos out of the Photos Library and copy those to another place
"another place" can be an external disk or the Cloud (Google Drive, OneDrive, etc)
- If you pay for Amazon Prime you (currently) get unlimited photo storage...



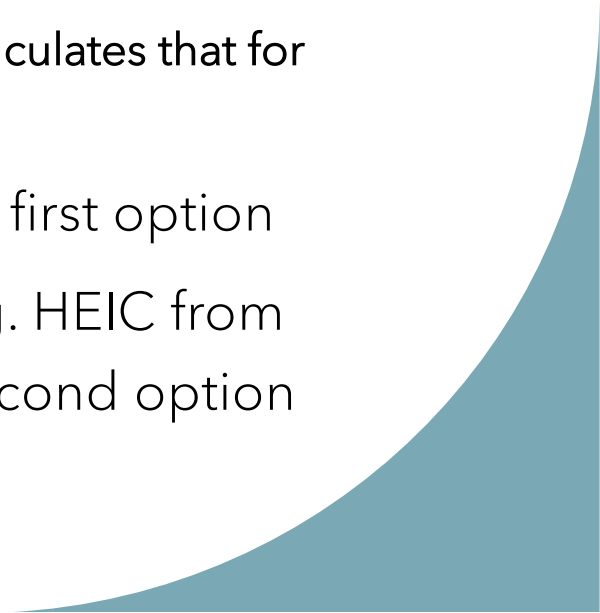
Getting photos out of the Photos App

- Go to your library or into an Album or Collection and select the photos you want to “export”
 - You can select all – Cmd+A
 - You can select sequential photos by clicking on the first photo then hold down the Shift key and click on the last photo – you will see all the photos between first and last now selected
 - If you want to just select a few photos not in any order you can use Cmd+click on each one
- Note that after using sequential select you can then add more using Cmd+click



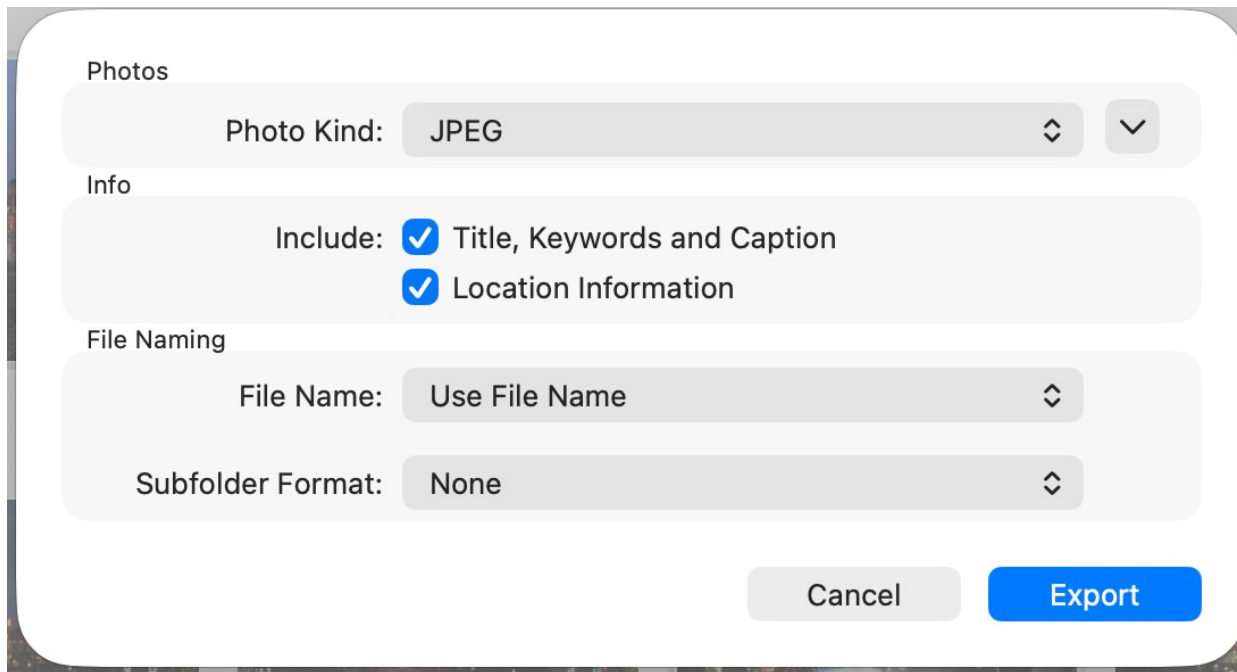
Getting photos out of the Photos App (cont'd)

- After selecting the photos you want to export, choose File/Export
 - Then either "Export n photos" or "Export Unmodified Originals for n photos"
the "n" shown is the number of photos you have selected (the app calculates that for you)
 - If you want to export the photos as JPEG files, then use the first option
 - If you want to export the photos as they were captured (e.g. HEIC from iPhone, RAW from a camera or iPhone Pro) then use the second option
- Always use the second option for backing up photos



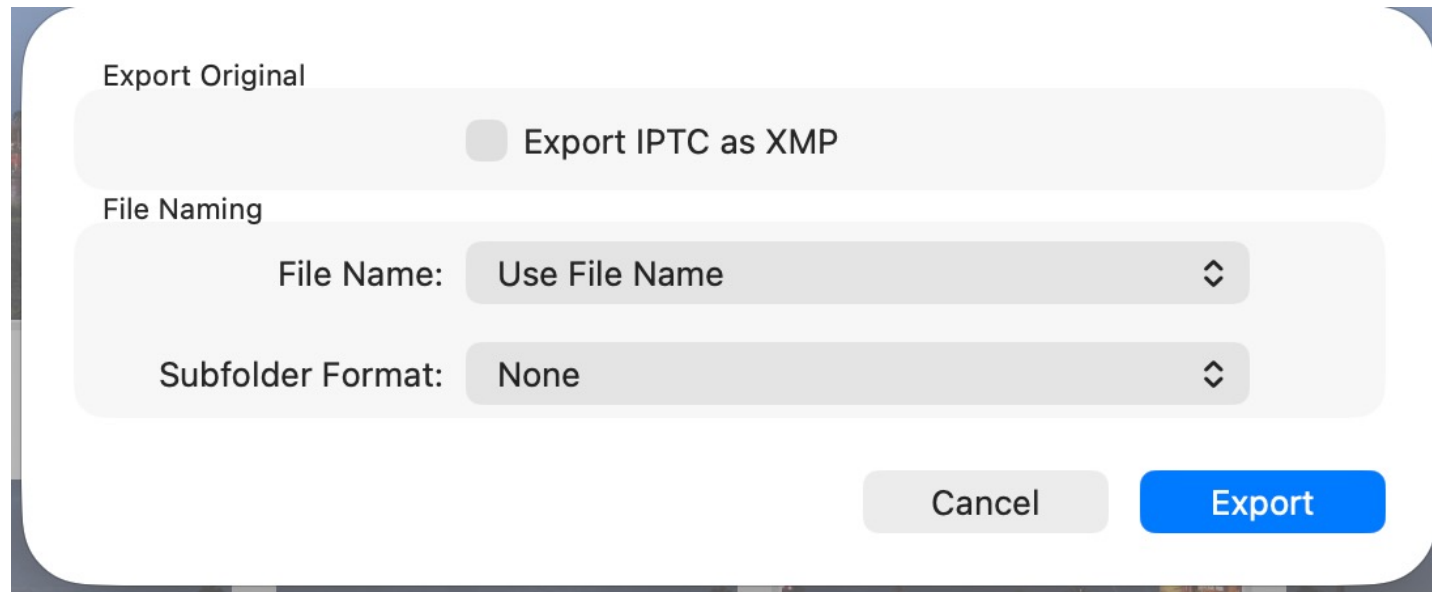
Getting photos out of the Photos App (cont'd)

- What happens next depends on which option you chose
- For “Export n photos”



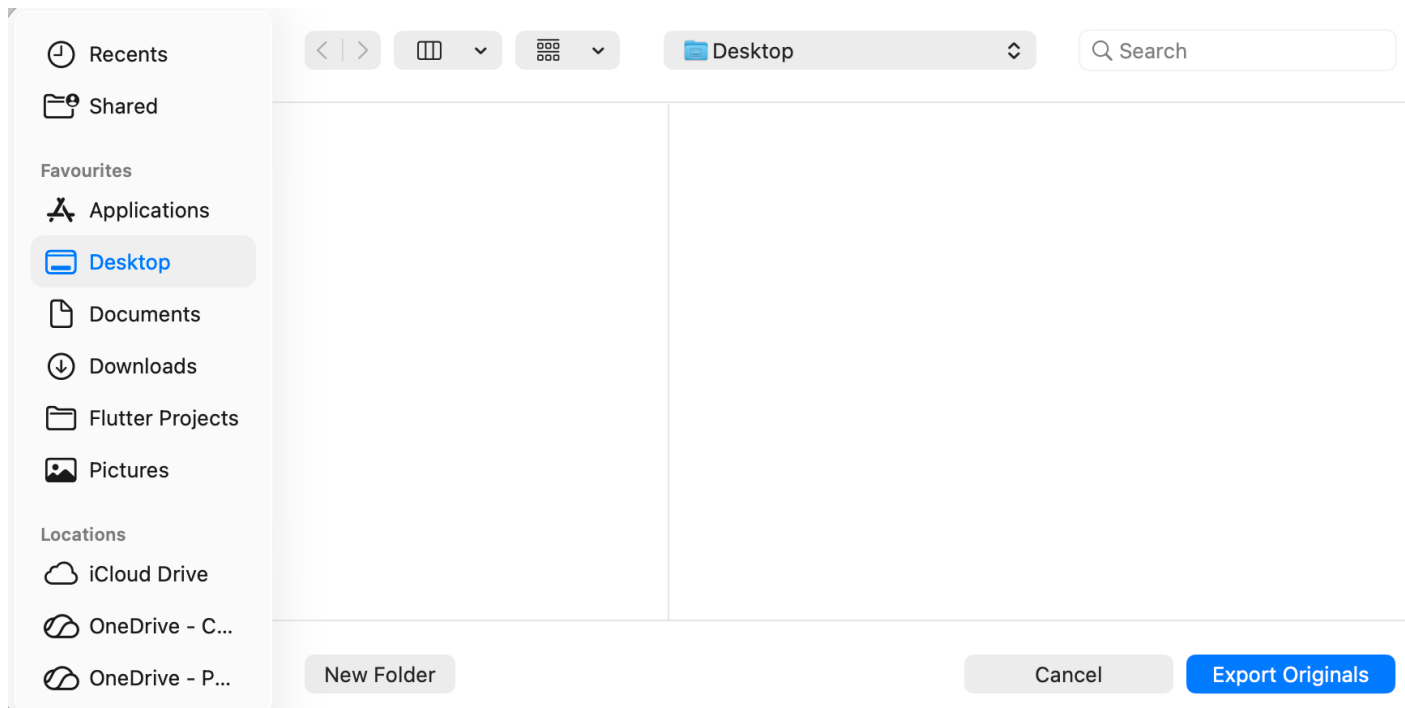
Getting photos out of the Photos App (cont'd)

- For “Export Unmodified Originals for n photos”
(the IPTC as XMP is for Adobe PhotoShop/Lightroom/etc users)



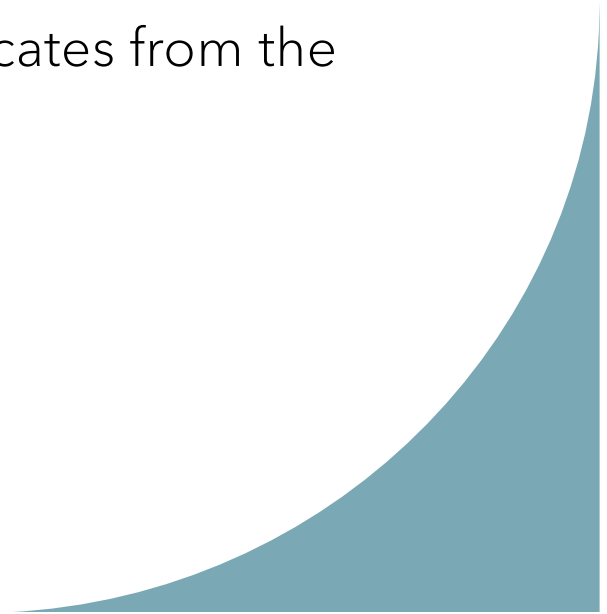
Getting photos out of the Photos App (cont'd)

- Whichever option you chose when you press Export you will get a standard Finder “save” dialog (similar to below) so you can choose where to save the exported photos...



Bonus - Remove duplicates

- Apple Photos App automatically detects duplicates AND photos that are very similar
- You can de-dup any time by accessing Utilities/Duplicates from the sidebar of the Photos App



Topics for future meetings

- Organising photos inside the Photos App?

