



Digital Photography – File Types

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JPEG

- Joint Photographic Experts Group
- One of the most common file types today
- Most cameras convert into JPEG upon image capture
- Very compatible with devices and software
- Good amount of compression if required
- Known as a ‘lossy’ file type
- Removes redundant (not required anymore) pixels by blending close matches together and can cause blurring when blown up
- Best to save in a non compression or not as degrading file type first, such as a Photoshop file (PSD)
- Adobe Photoshop has a sliding scale of 1 – 12 for compression (quality and size of file depending upon user selection)
- More difficult to recover information from the original image capture as opposed to RAW



RAW

- Unedited, usually directly from a camera processor recorded into memory without any editing or distruction
- Camera proprietary file type, in other words, each camera and manufacturer will have their own RAW file saved by their camera
- Not very friendly for sharing
- Requires specialist software for editing and converting into other file types, such as Adobe Photoshop with updates for recent RAW files
- Is not 'lossy' and keeps camera information related to the original image
- Usually very large file types
- Used by professionals
- Best quality available for each camera allowing RAW file types
- Uncompressed and usually converted into TIFF on the computer



TIFF

- Tagged Image File Format
- Uncompressed, although can be compressed and retain information
- Uses 'lossless' compression system
- Very large file size
- Keeps image information even when edited
- Flexible in terms of colour (CMYK for printer or RGB for on screen)
- Not very compatible with software and too large to easily share
- Multiple standards for handling TIFF, so not always compatible
- TIFF is common for photographers converting from RAW



PSD

- Adobe Photoshop file format
- Stands for “Photoshop Document”
- Owned by Adobe and licensed for some other software
- Retains information related to Photoshop use, such as Layers etc.
- Only compatible with Adobe software and licensed software
- Large file size
- Quality images
- Images are usually converted into other file types but the PSD is kept