

About the Flickr Organizr

Flickr is an online photosharing web site with many features that support social networking. The Flickr Organizr is a tool for organizing photos in several different ways through batch operations.

General Functionality

Flickr users can upload images to the web, supplying their own title, description, tags, and even geotagging. Flickr users can then organize their images into sets of photos and submit them to pools of photos from a group of users. Users comment on photos, mark others' images as favorites, add tags and notes to their own and others' photos, and engage in threaded forum discussions in user groups.

Flickr Organizr functionality allows individual and batch changes to photos. These functions include adding tags, creating and editing sets, rearranging the display order of sets, adding images to groups, viewing the images in a group, and editing properties of individual photos.

Laura

Personal Description

Laura is a 34-year-old artist who manages an oil painting gallery in Seattle where she lives with her husband Frank. She has a degree in fine arts and recently convinced her husband to remodel their house to include a studio and gallery space for her artwork. She owns a Dell notebook that she uses to browse the Internet and store media. She is cautious about changing its the software and refuses to download new programs. Laura depends on her notebook for notes and ledgers from her gallery but keeps paper copies just in case.



Technological Resources

Laura has used the Internet for most of her professional life and is familiar with many productivity software packages. She has a cable Internet connection at home and enjoys browsing her favorite art sites every morning with her coffee before heading to the gallery. Laura owns an old Canon PowerShot S250 camera for photos of her artwork to show her peers, but is hoping to upgrade soon her husband decides on a SLR model they can share. Laura is confident with the applications she knows, but she often calls Frank for help troubleshooting error messages in Windows XP.

Flickr Use

Laura began using Flickr about six months ago; she initially received an email from her father containing a link to a Flickr photoset from his vacation to the Bahamas. After receiving several other Flickr links from her friends, she registered an account in order to browse their private photos. While Laura has no photos uploaded of her own, she is a member of several Flickr groups that showcase local painting and artwork in Seattle.

Tasks

Laura uses Flickr mostly to view relatives' vacation photos and to browse and comment on friends' photographs of their artwork. Lately, she has begun using Flickr's map feature to browse her local area for fellow artists and recently joined a few groups pertaining to local art communities.

Problems

Laura lacks the motivation to upload her own photographs and currently only enjoys "lurking" in the Flickr community. She has had frustrations in the past adding friends as contacts and until she was shown how, she had relied on a text file to jot down usernames of her Flickr friends.

Desires

Laura wishes to share photos of her paintings with her friends and family but is shy about posting her work online and has concerns about privacy. She has recently begun scanning her film photos in preparation for making sets and plans on uploading them once her husband shows her a way to post more than a few photos at a time.

Sara

Personal Description

Sara is a 26-year-old PhD student in physics. She finished her undergraduate study at 22 and worked in the energy industry for two years, but she didn't really enjoy it, so she decided to go into academia. She lives with her boyfriend Patrick in Austin, Texas, in a rented off-campus apartment. She drives her hand-me-down Kia Spectra to school on weekdays and does grocery shopping and homework on weekends.



Technological Resources

Sara has been using computers and the Internet for over 10 years and has owned an IBM T40 for three years. She's online with a cable connection almost every day from morning to night for schoolwork as well as her personal life. She does limited programming and uses some specialized software for research. Besides that, she uses the basic functions of an older version of Photoshop. She also frequently uses email and IM and does quite a lot of online shopping.

Flickr Use

Sara has used Flickr for one year now; her boyfriend introduced it to her and recently gave her a gift upgrade to a Pro account so she could have more than two sets for her travel photos. She owns a Casio EX-S600 camera because it is convenient to carry around. She is not a photographer, but she enjoys bringing back a lot of pictures from her travels to post on Flickr to share with friends and currently has 387 photos posted in nine sets and three groups. She has five contacts that she added because she likes their photos, and has seven friends, who are friends of hers in real life. She likes checking their photos to know how things are going with them. Also, it's a good place to share and organize her travel photos; it would be hard to switch since her photos are already there and her friends use Flickr, and there's not much to complain about. She likes that people don't need to sign in to look her photos.

Tasks

Sara uses Flickr mostly for organizing and sharing her travel pictures, but she is considering putting up other pictures too. She checks for new comments and new pictures from friends two or three times a week. Sometimes she looks for pictures from a certain city as a travel guide and uses the Explore area of Flickr once in a while to see interesting pictures.

Problems

Sara uses most of the basic functions like sets, groups, tags, and comments, which she finds self-explanatory, but she's had a hard time figuring out more advanced functions like maps and geotagging. She doesn't really spend time exploring other features unless it's necessary.

Desires

Sara doesn't really have a specific desire for any additional functions, but thinks it would be nice if she could edit photos and upload more photos at one time.

John

Personal Description

John is a 46-year-old self-employed carpenter who makes high-end custom furniture and does some limited home interior work like built-in storage and furnishings. He is formally educated in and enjoys many forms of modern art. John lives with his wife Nan and their two cats in an older house outside of Bloomington, Indiana. Part of the basement was converted into a very nice amateur darkroom and the property has a barn that serves as John's woodworking shop. He drives an orange Honda Element for frequent trips to the lumberyard and to clients' homes.



Technological Resources

John doesn't feel that he is particularly technology-savvy compared to his friends, but is comfortable making online financial transactions and interacting with others on social sites. He has been using the Internet regularly since 1997, and currently connects via wireless cable with his 24" iMac. John is very skilled with Photoshop CS2 and CAD programs; he has been coveting Aperture for months.

Flickr Use

John has been a Pro Flickr user since November of 2004 when he got his first digital camera, and now uses a Nikon D80 for digital photos; he has several film cameras, including homemade pinholes. He is highly selective about the images he posts, and so only has 768 images, neatly arranged in 32 sets by camera or theme. John posts his images to many groups, and currently has images in 83 pools. John believes strongly in using his real name as his online identity, but he is also concerned about the potential privacy problems that associating his name with personally identifiable images could create.

Tasks

John uses Flickr to share photos and comment on others' work, also using a third-party tool for batch uploads of photos. His most frequent tasks on Flickr include checking for new comments, browsing and commenting on contacts' photos, posting group discussion messages, making a set of photos for a particular camera, updating the date that the photo was taken (many of his images are scanned from film), adding photos to groups, and adjusting privacy settings on individual images.

Problems

John is a long-time user and finds Flickr easy to use, but his habits of use are fairly well set, so it takes him awhile before he discovers newly added features.

Desires

John likes to keep his images of people separate from his images that do not include people, and has a secondary anonymous Flickr account for that purpose. As an artist, John has very particular tastes about the display of his images, and would like to be able to rearrange the order of his photostream.