Online Photosharing Tips

Don't upload photos or personal information on any website/app

Unless it's the Australian government, no one else should be asking you for personal details let alone any photos. Often the photos contain EXIF DATA which can reveal your location.

Be careful of what you download.

Don't download content from sites that are not trustworthy. This includes photos whose EXIF data may be corrupted and modified to harm your computer

If you need send photos, take a screenshot of it

This may sound a bit inconvenient but the easiest way to strip EXIF data from your photo is to take a screenshot before sending it. Anyone who views your photo will not find any personal information stored on the photo.

Don't trust online EXIF Data removers

Unfortunately, online EXIF Data removers/extractors are not trustworthy and many have been shown not to do the job properly. Stripping EXIF data is something you should yourself.

Turning off Geotagging on your phone

All smartphones have the feature to turn off location for certain apps, and camera/photo application should be

WHAT IS EXIF DATA?

Details about when, where, and how a photo was taken are captured automatically by smartphones and digital cameras, and stored as Exif (Exchangeable Image File Format) data.

WHO USES THIS DATA

- Social Media companies often use the location data found on your photos to accurately locate where they were taken.
- Amateur Photographers who want to find out what settings and tools were used to create a particular photograph.
- The police can use the location data to find fugitives and criminals who post photos online. See story of John McAfee on page 7.
- Cybercriminals who can use your location data to stalk, send threats and also modify your EXIF data which can be used to attack your computer.
- Image data can be used for forensics.

Here are some tools and resources that you can use to keep your data safe from cybercriminals!
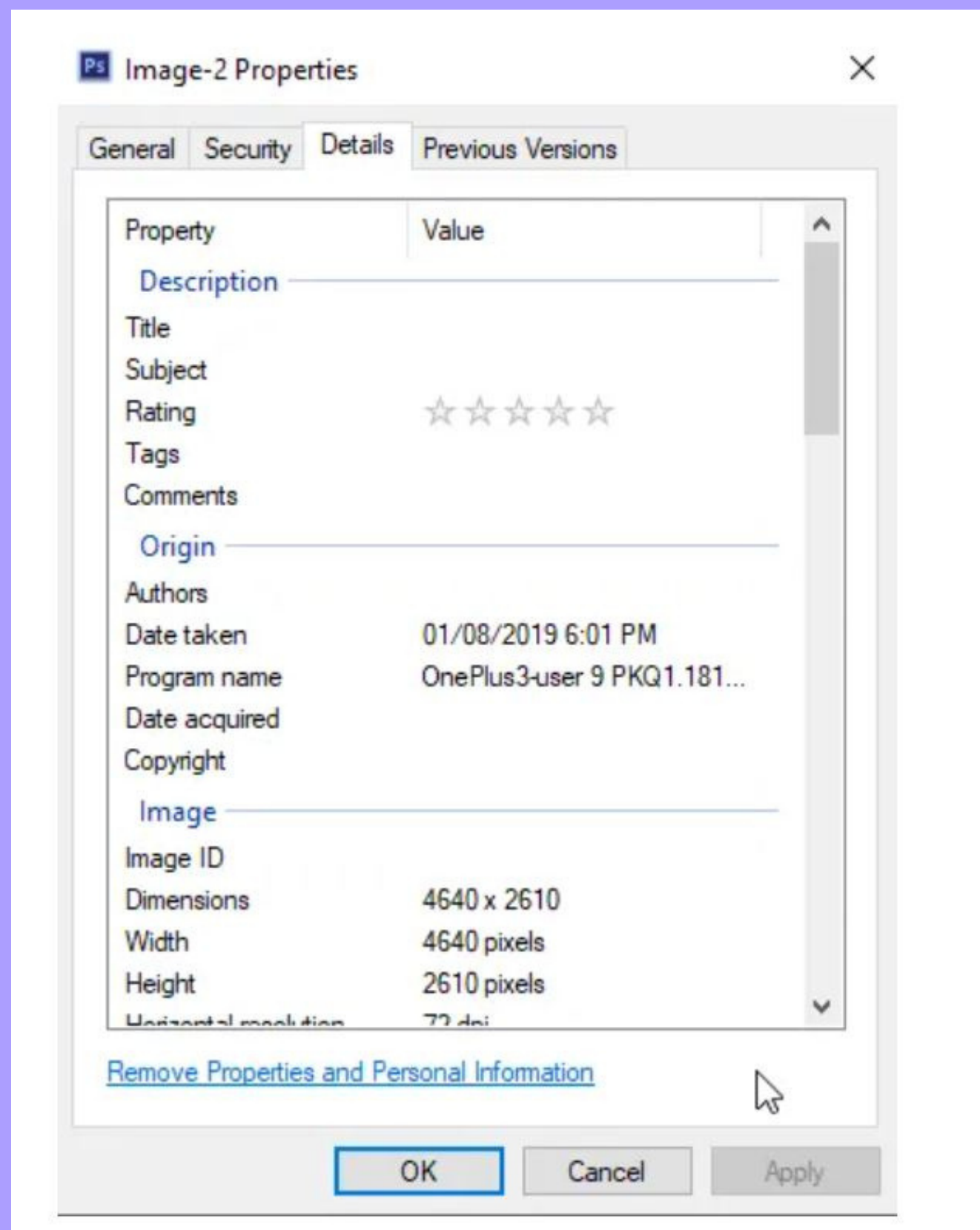
WINDOWS: FILE EXPLORER

- Right-click on the photo you'd like to rid of EXIF data and select Properties.
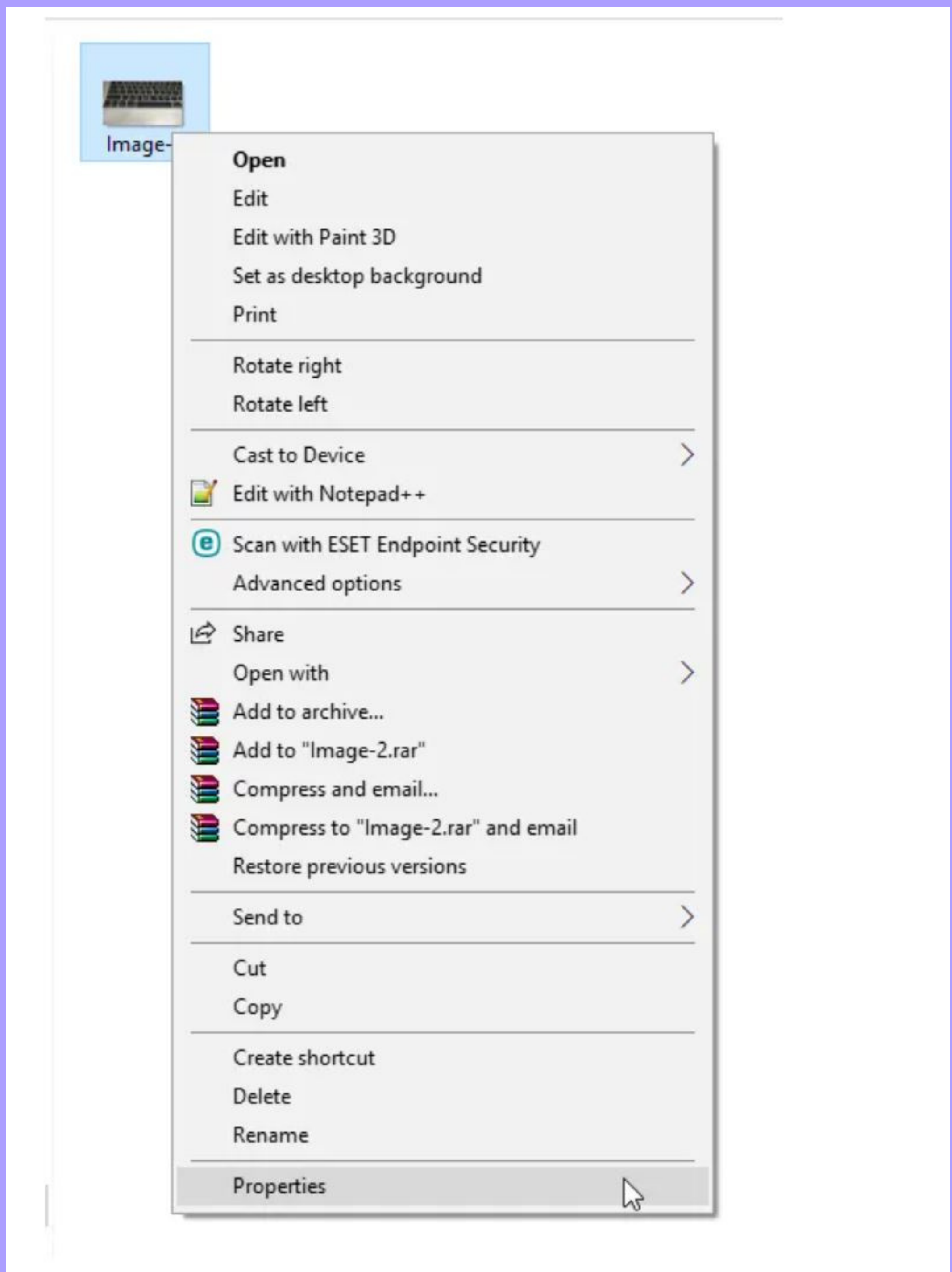
REMOVING EXIF DATA?

- Click on the tab that says Details. You'll see the EXIF data of your chosen photo. To get rid of this data, you'll find a link saying Remove Properties and Personal Information at the bottom. Click on it


- Now there's two options to remove the EXIF data. The first option will remove all the possible metadata from your photos. The second option lets you selectively remove EXIF data.
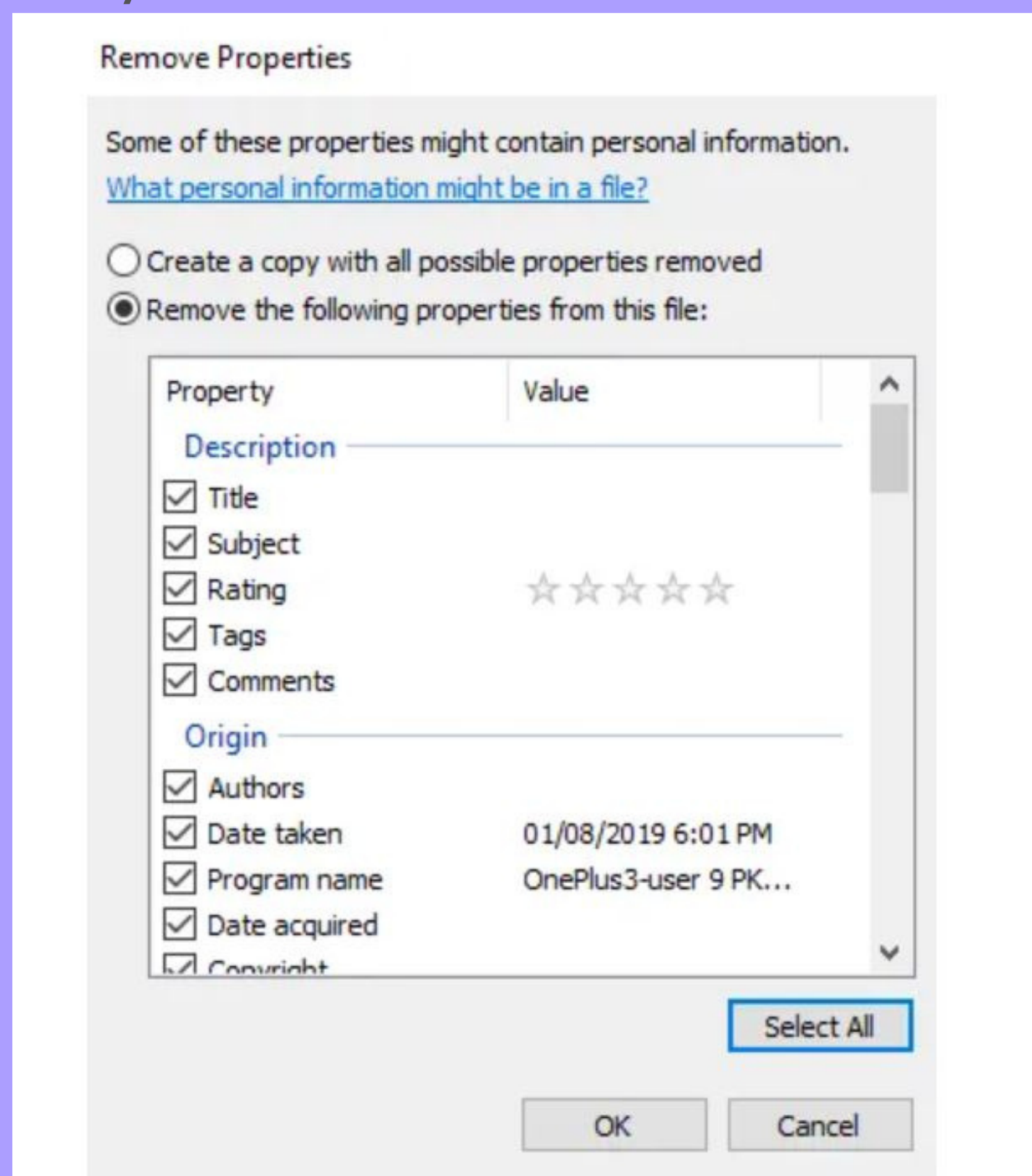
REMOVING EXIF DATA?

WINDOWS: FILEMIND QUICKFIX

- Another option is to use a trusted 3rd party app called Filemind Quickfix. Available to download on Softpedia.
- After installing, you can drag and drop your photos onto it, and click on the Quick Fix Metadata button at the bottom-left corner.
- It only takes a couple seconds for the app to remove the EXIF data from your photos. Once it's done, you'll find the new versions of your photos in the same folder as the original ones.
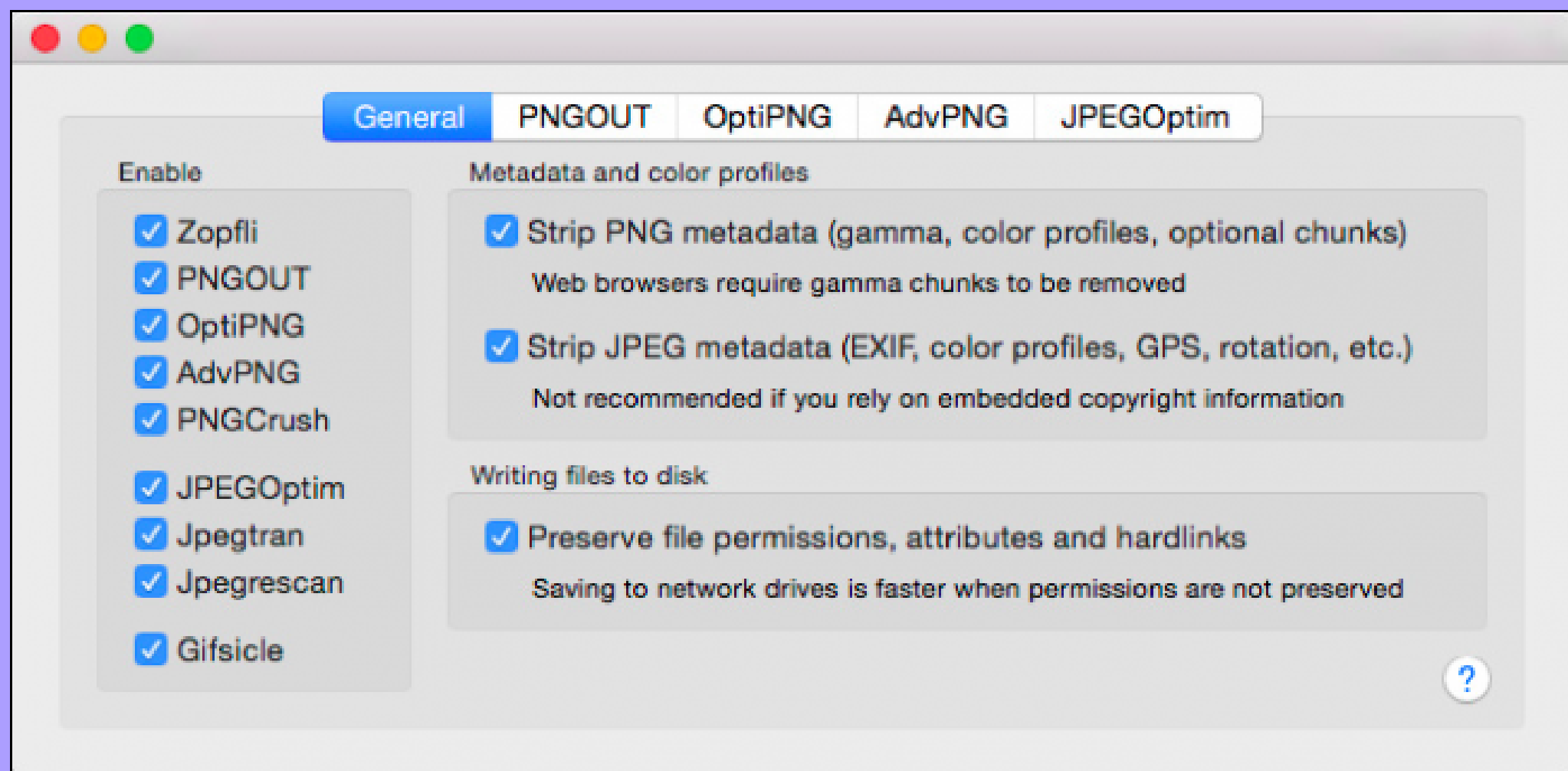-
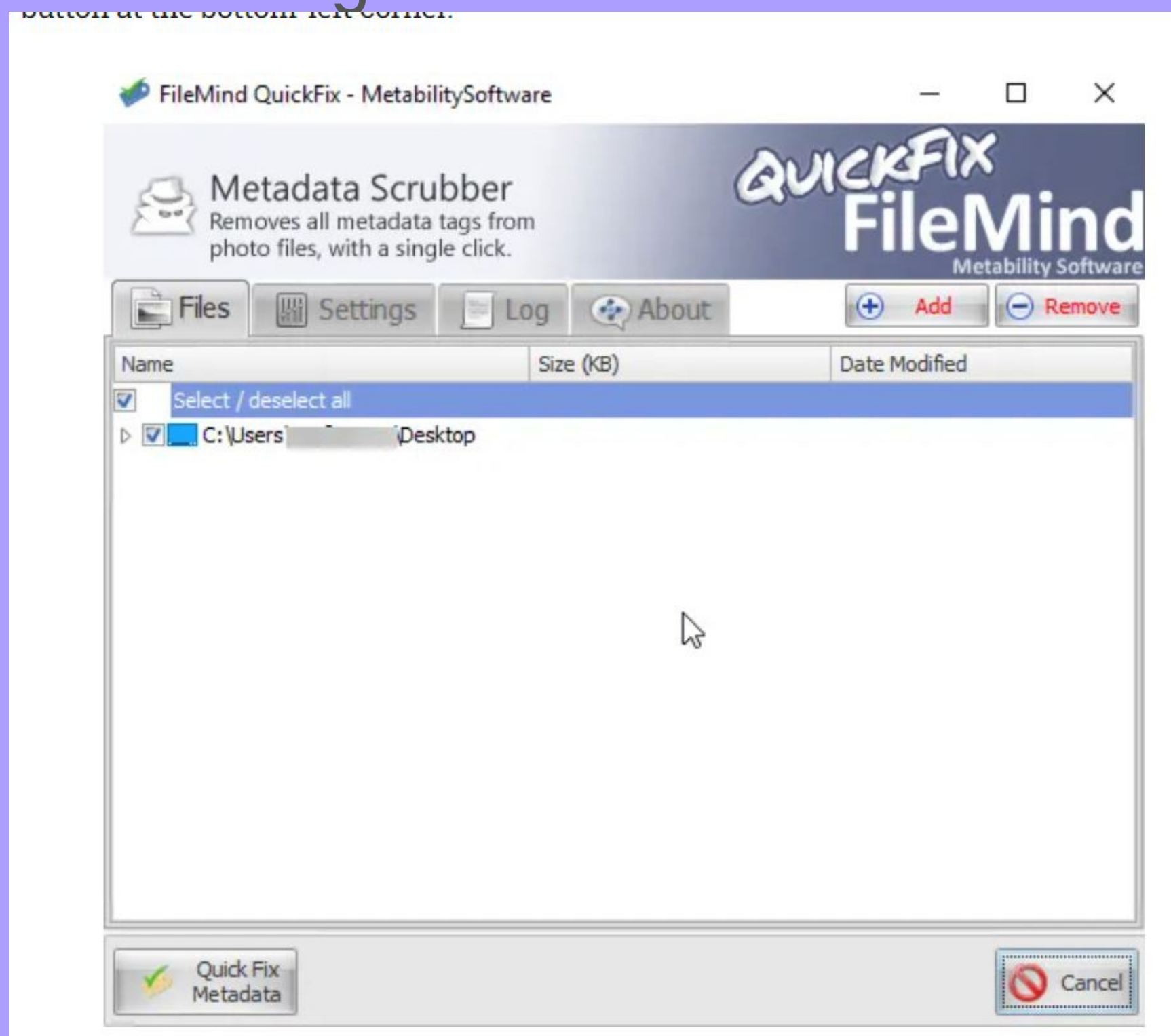
MAC OSX: IMAGE OPTIM

- Image Optim is a free and open source Mac program that will completely remove image Metatdata. There is no default OSX option.

- It has a very simple and intuitive design that's just drag and drop.
- There also more preferences that allow you to choose what metadata you wish to remove.

IOS: REMOVE LOCATION FOR PHOTOS

- On iPhone, open the settings and tap the "Privacy" controls. In Privacy, tap the "Location Services" button, and you can completely turn everything off in one fail swoop, or you can adjust apps and features individually.
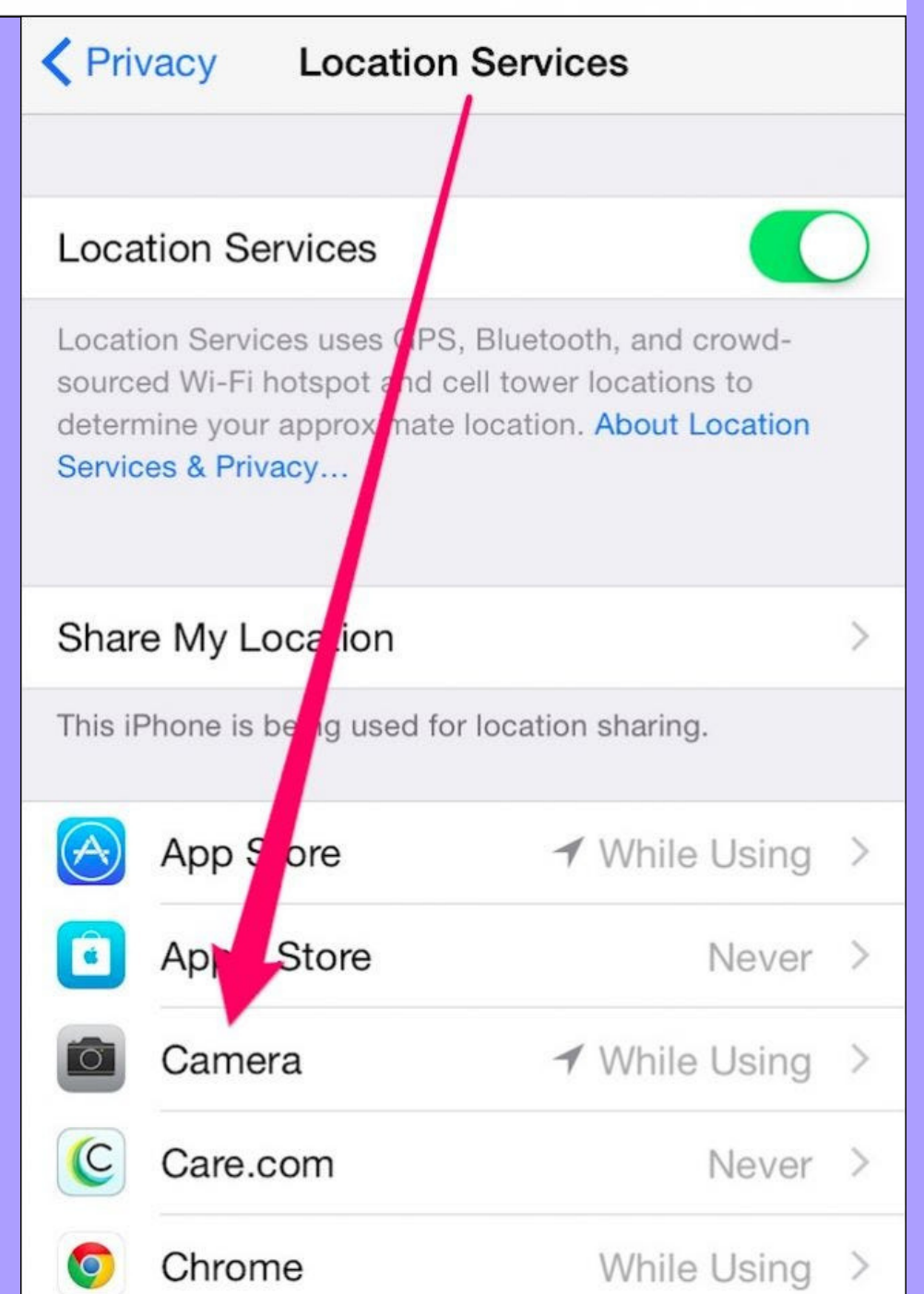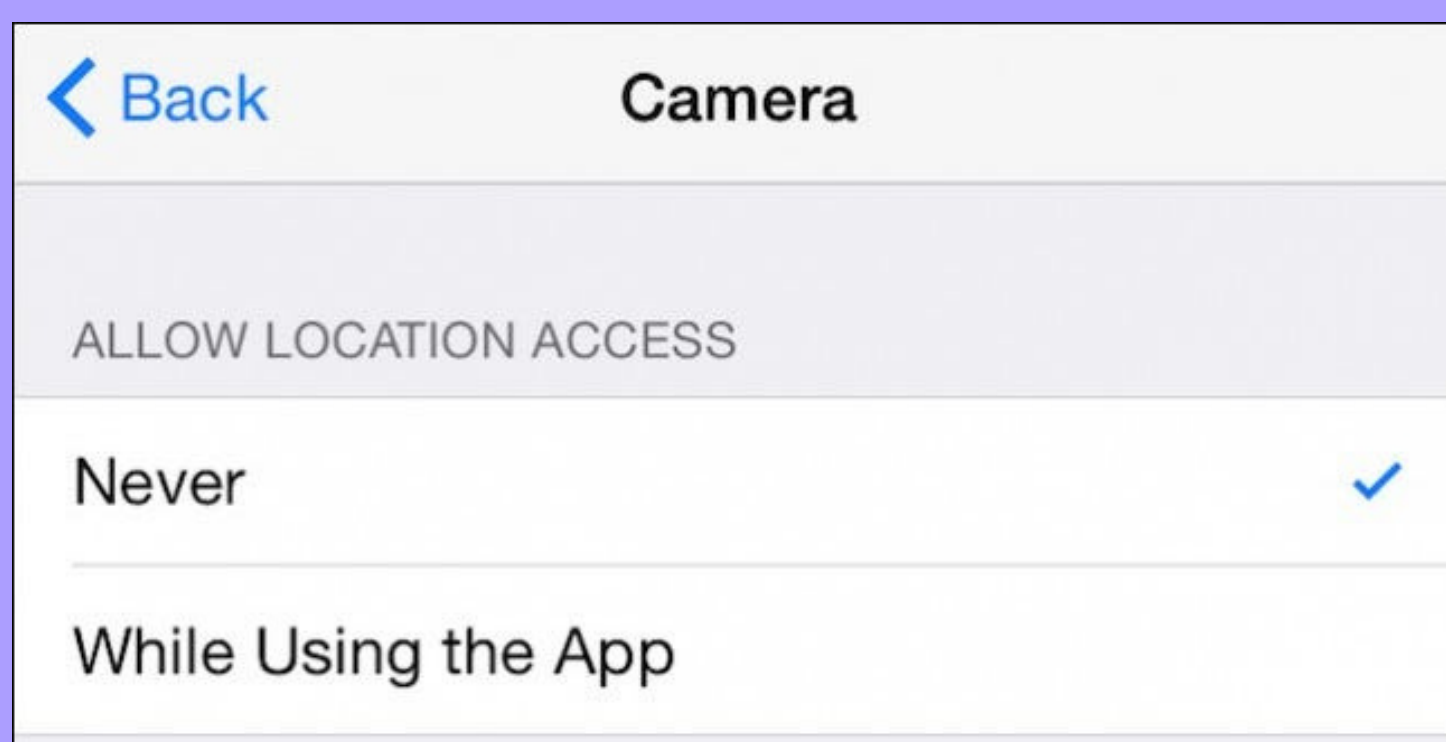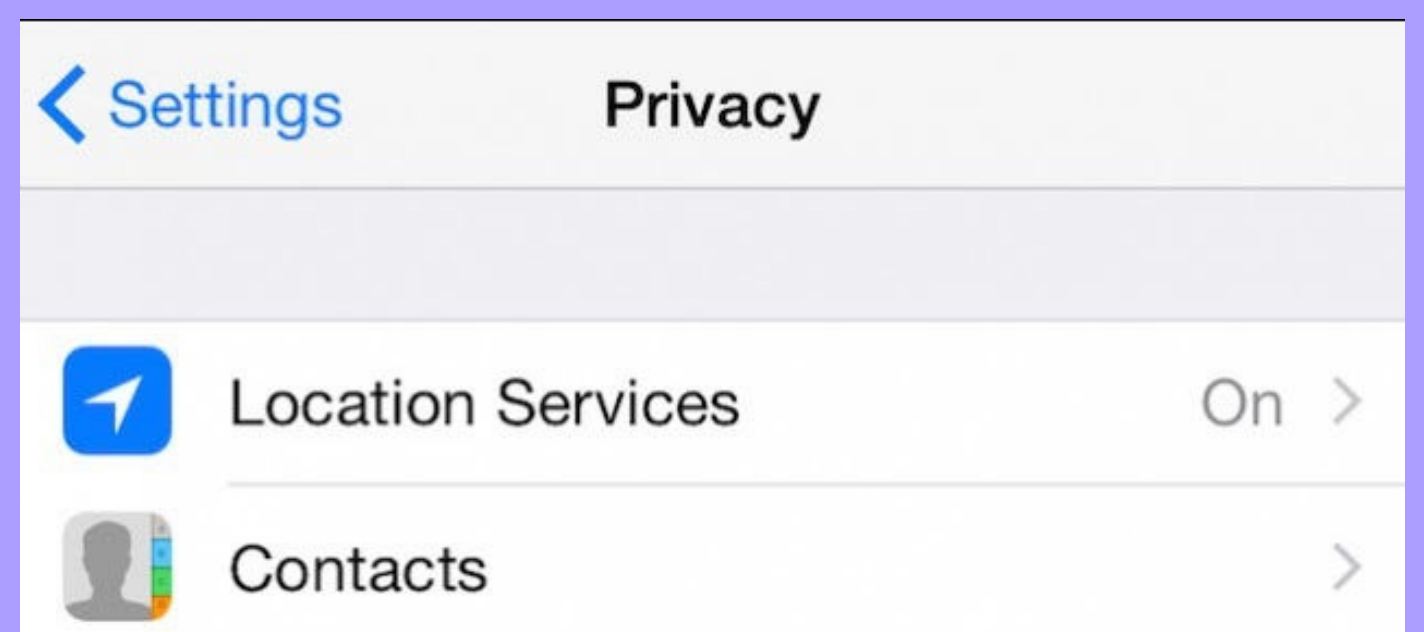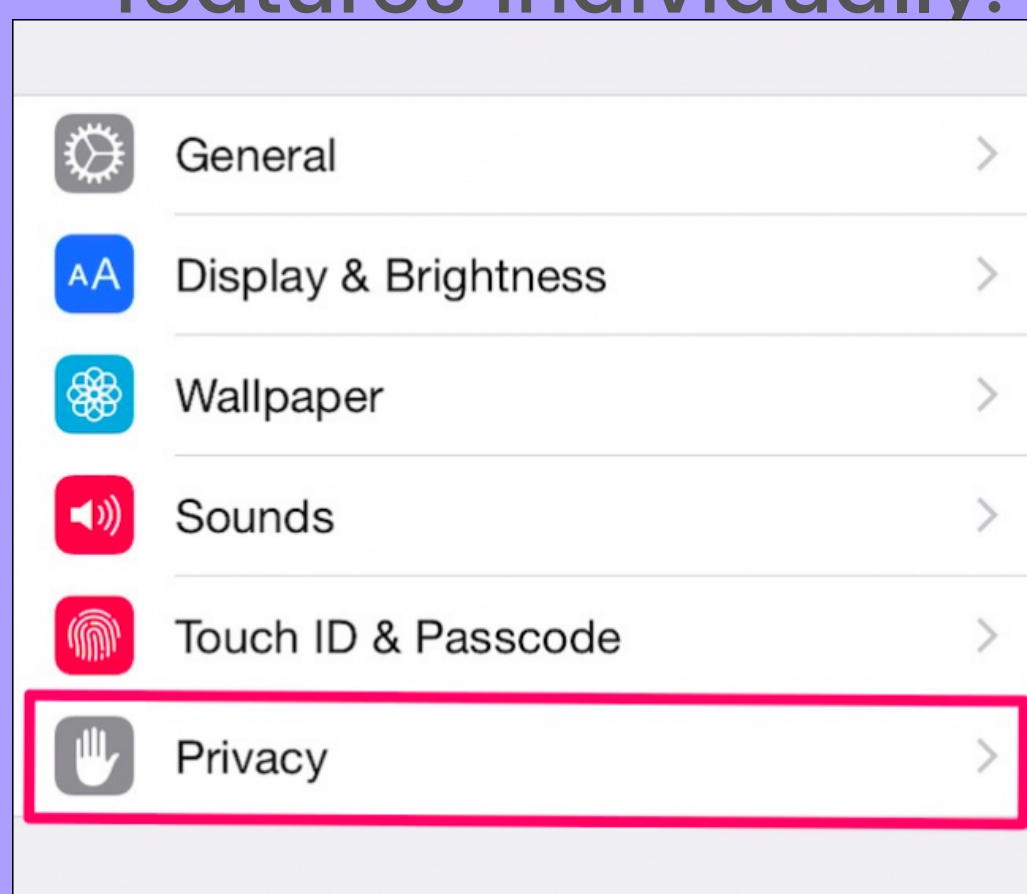
BETRAYED BY METADATA: JOHN MCAFEE

- in 2012, John McAfee, yes the anti-virus software founder, was a wanted man as he was implicated in a shooting in Belize.
- McAfee claimed he was innocent and escaped the country to Guatemala
- His location was only discovered because one of the journalist following his story took a photo and it contained the geolocation.

- In his blog, McAfee wrote: ""Vice Magazine reporters are indeed with me in Guatemala. Yesterday was chaotic due to the accidental release of my exact co-ordinates by an unseasoned technician at Vice headquarters. We made it to safety in spite of this handicap."
- While he did end up prison for tax evasion 8 years later, it does show that even a cybersecurity exper like McAfee whose been on the run from authorities for most of his latter life was undone by a single iPhone photo.