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**Writing Prompt**

For this analysis I have chosen, yet again, one of the most overlooked apps on everyone’s phone – the galley app.

The gallery app carries the duty to organize, catalogue, and display the images created or downloaded to a phone. On my Samsung S10e the gallery app has three main panes (screens), *Pictures*, *Albums*, *Stories*, and all other functions are added to the overflow menu. Images are added to the gallery app automatically as it has the ability to discover any available image file in the internal and external storage areas and add their location to the app for viewing within a central location.

The *Pictures* screen organizes all of the available pictures by date with the most recent dated picture at the top of the list. To traverse the dated pictures a user scrolls the list by swiping up or down. At each date having pictures taken the available pictures are displayed in a tiled pattern. To view a larger representation of the picture the user just needs to tap the picture of interest.

The *Albums* screen organizes all of the available pictures into folders (albums). Some of the albums are system created, e.g., *Camera* by the camera app and *VZMedia* by the Verizon text messenger on my phone. The user is able to create albums also and sort pictures between any of the available albums.

The Stories screen allows a user to “experience [their] adventure again in a curated collection automatically…”.

The data, i.e., the pictures, are located in two main areas. The first is the system created DCIM folder in the internal storage of the phone. The second, when I have things set as default, is the DCIM folder on the SD card. The images created by other apps are located in their proprietary folders, e.g., */internal storage/download/VZMedia*.

One nice feature of modern smartphones is the ability to take a screenshot. This helps the user to take a static image of a dynamic item, i.e., capture the state of a website, so they may refer to that item later. These screen shots are added to their own album for easy retrieval.

The gallery app also has many advanced functions that will be mentioned but not deeply discussed: edit, favorite, set as wallpaper, move to secure folder, and then finally delete.

Lastly, most users want to be able to share their images with others. This of course could be done through email, text, NFC, or other communicator apps. The gallery app has a readily available share icon on every image which brings up all of the phone’s available apps that can share an image file. This nicety shortens the time it takes to share.

All of the available feature elevate the user’s interactions with image files and allows the correction, sharing, and storage of pictures easier and more enjoyable than a pure viewer would be able.