How to get file thumbnails work for RAW images and video files in Windows

Thumbnails for some image file types (like camera RAW files) and most video file types cannot be displayed by JPhotoTagger program alone. So some additional software and steps are needed. (This guide was written 2012-02-11 using JPhotoTagger 0.16.1 and Windows 7 (64 bit) Home Premium.)

1. If you want to view thumbnails for many video file types, download and install **MPlayer** to Windows from here

    www.mplayerhq.hu

    This is **NOT** the same as **Windows Media Player** provided with your operating system! If you are like me and don't know, how to compile a software from source, don't worry. With some searching you should be able to find a normal Windows installer for MPlayer.

2. Download and install **ImageMagick** to Windows from here

    http://www.imagemagick.org/script/binary-releases.php#windows

    I chose version: **ImageMagick-6.7.5-3-Q16-windows-x64-dll.exe** because I'm running 64 bit version of Windows 7.

    ImageMagick seems to install also **DCRaw.exe** under its installation folder. If dcraw.exe is not installed for some reason, you should install this software separately. You can use DCRaw's homepage as a start point

    http://www.cybercom.net/~dcoffin/dcraw/

    DCRaw makes it possible to view many RAW image format thumbnails in JPhotoTagger.

3. Open JPhotoTagger and under **Edit**-menu choose **Settings...**

4. Choose **Thumbnails**-tab in Settings dialog.

5. Choose **Create thumbnails with own external program** -option and click **Choose...** -button. A pop-up appears with two options: **ImageMagick** and **Script: DCRaw + ImageMagick**. Choose the latter option.

6. In **Choose DCRaw and convert** -dialog use **Choose DCRaw...**-, **Choose convert...**- and **Choose MPlayer...** -buttons to tell JPhotoTagger, where *dcraw.exe*, *convert.exe* and *mplayer.exe* files are located on your system.

7. Click Add Video files to user defined file types -button, if you automatically want to add certain video file types for JPhotoTagger.

8. Press **Ok** button to close **Choose DCRaw and convert** dialog.

9. At Thumbnails-tab's bottom in **External image creation application** -area JPhotoTagger has automatically added path to a *.bat file. The path is usually something like this:

    "C:\Users\Your_Windows_Username\.de.elmar_baumann\ImageMetaDataViewer\plugin settings\image_magick_dcraw_mplayer.bat" "%s" %i

    Also the *.bat file is created automatically and doesn't usually need any editing! If wanted, you can use a simple text editor like **Notepad** to explore and edit the bat-file contents.

10. Close Settings-dialog from the top-right corner button (X) of dialog.

11. Open **Window**-menu and choose **User Defined File Types**. In the dialog that opens you should see video file types, that were added automatically by JPhotoTagger at step (7) above. If you want to be able to view certain RAW image format thumbnails with JPhotoTagger too, you should now add these file types in this dialog using **New**-button. The dialog opened is quite self-explanatory. Just be sure that option **User defined script creates thumbnails** is CHECKED before clicking **Save**-button. This ensures that DCRaw, ImageMagick and MPlayer are actually used by JPhotoTagger via the bat file (steps 3-10 above). After adding all necessary file types as User Defined File Types close the dialog from the top-right corner button.

12. In JPhotoTagger main window browse into a folder containing file types for which thumbnails couldn't be created before. If thumbnails aren't automatically updated, select generic file icons, right click over one of the selected files and select **Refresh → Update thumbnail** from the pop-up menu. **Now you should finally see thumbnails according to file contents!**

13. Goto Settings-dialog once again (Edit-menu) and select **Open Images** -tab. Here you can add any software installed on your system to open a thumbnail, which is double-clicked in thumbnails-area of JPhotoTagger. For example you could use Windows Media Player to view video files by default. If you add more than one program you can choose which one is used by right-clicking over a thumbnail and selecting Open With in the pop-up -menu. If you just double-click a thumbnail, the first program in this list is always used.

14. Happy cataloging with JPhotoTagger!