```
Hacker News new | past | comments | ask | show | jobs | submit
                                                                                                                                            login
Files – Single-file photo gallery and file manager (files.gallery)
  187 points by john-doe 3 hours ago | hide | past | favorite | 65 comments
   add comment
▲ huhtenberg 28 minutes ago | next [-]
  As per [1] from below -
  Apparently it's a nag-based paid software with an otherwise restricted feature set. This is not clearly explained on the page.
  In fact, it looks like the site goes out of its way to try and pass for free software - the Demo is NOT of what you are actually
  downloading, no pricing info, no mention of Basic vs Full versions anywhere, including the Docs, except for an dull looking blurb at the
  very bottom on the home page -
        License
        Files is free to use with basic features. To remove the
        license-popup and unlock additional features, you may
        purchase a license [$39] from within the app.
  The page also pulls a lot of scripts off the Internet on every load, so that too is not explained anywhere clearly and it's absolutely not
  good for hosting private photo archives.
  Despite its good looks it kinda leaves bad aftertaste because of all these shady shenanigans.
  [1] https://news.ycombinator.com/item?id=30235138
  <u>reply</u>
       ▲ marban 8 minutes ago | parent | next [-]
         No pricing info?
          "Files is free to use with basic features. To remove the license-popup and unlock additional features, you may purchase a license
         [$39] from within the app."
         <u>reply</u>
              ▲ aembleton 1 minute ago | root | parent | next [-]
                I've not tried this but as it's php, couldn't you just edit the file?
                <u>reply</u>
       ▲ jdrc 17 minutes ago | parent | prev | next [-]
         Shareware
         <u>reply</u>
▲ pkdpic 1 hour ago | prev | next [-]
  I like what I see on the site and in the comments here. Im looking forward to checking this out more maybe.
  Im kind of surprised that as a species we dont have a conclusive ubiquitous solution to the foggy problem of digital photo storage /
  management. So many of my photos are just in drawers on old hard drives and phones.
  Anyway maybe its getting better. Or maybe Im just stupid.
  <u>reply</u>
       ▲ jrm4 50 minutes ago | parent | next [-]
         The answer is simple, it's just kind of says an ugly thing about how computing has shifted; it's essentially the same reason e.g.
         the iPad didn't have a file manager.
         Interfaces got really good and slick at the same time it became profitable/useful to alienate people from their own data for
         profit.
         <u>reply</u>
              ▲ jdonaldson 28 minutes ago | root | parent | next [-]
                Files have some drawbacks... they're difficult for multiple people to work on together (slides). They're often not easy to
                organize, and they're often not available where you want them.
                reply
       ▲ distrill 1 hour ago | parent | prev | next [-]
         I understand the risks of this approach, but I just dumped everything into google photos and I'm very happy with how it's
         working for now. I do not miss the days of keeping track of those devices at all.
▲ MildlySerious 1 hour ago | prev | next [-]
  I just want to say that the minimal design of the site feels very pleasant to me. Some days I struggle to make the simplest things feel
  right even with tools like Tailwind. Well done!
  <u>reply</u>
▲ squarefoot 56 minutes ago | prev | next [-]
  The output is very polished and fast, I like it a lot. Unfortunately it's not technically a single file as it depends on code downloaded from
  their server, therefore it can't be deployed locally without Internet connection.
  From the forum:
  "In terms of license, you don't need an internet connection. However, Files app loads it's own Javascript, CSS and several plugins from
  CDN (jsdelivr.com), and this requires internet. We already have a request to allow serving all assets locally (as an option), although in
  your case that might not be practical as this means Files app is essentially no longer a single file, but multiple files that you need to
  be included with each installation (although you could assign a global path perhaps). In any case, for now it's not possible to load Files
  app without internet."
  <u>reply</u>
       ▲ madduci 33 minutes ago | parent | next [-]
         A zip package containing all the files will be a single file as well :-)
         <u>reply</u>
▲ ropeladder 2 hours ago | prev | next [-]
  As somebody who recently spent two weekends trying to figure out a self hosted photo solution that actually for my needs and was
  easy to install, this looks fantastic.
  (I ended up using PhotoView, which works fine, but this looks like it might have been better.)
  <u>reply</u>
       ▲ NKosmatos 16 minutes ago | parent | next [-]
         Hey thanks for sharing with us <a href="https://photoview.github.io">https://photoview.github.io</a> It's worth a look :-)
▲ seszett 1 hour ago | prev | next [-]
  I use <a href="https://sye.dk/sfpg/">https://sye.dk/sfpg/</a> myself, another single-file PHP photo gallery.
  It's less polished, but it's free.
  <u>reply</u>
       ▲ huhtenberg 1 hour ago | parent | next [-]
         There are plenty of these.
         This submission is notable is because it's free and polished.
               --- Edit ---
         AH, DAMN. It is NOT indeed free, at least not as demoed.
         The child comment below is 100% correct.
         It also pulls piles of stuff from cdn.jsdelivr.net and can't function without it. That's no bueno.
              ▲ forgottofloss 1 hour ago | root | parent | next [-]
                > the original submission is free and polished
                No, it's not free. Every time you load up the page to view your own files with files.gallery, a big honkin' pop-up shows up
                instructing you to buy a $40 license for additional features:
                Purchase a license [$39] to unlock features and support dev! - Remove this popup - Upload - Download folder - Code and
                text editor - Create new file - Create new folder - Rename - Delete - Duplicate file - Dedicated support - Multi-user,
                panorama and much more coming soon! [payment button]
                The files.gallery website only hints at this restriction at the very bottom of the page in the "License" section, which devs
                would expect to mean an OSS license: "Files is free to use with basic features. To remove the license-popup and unlock
                additional features, you may purchase a license [$39] from within the app."
                Now if you look at the rest of the landing page you can see it very carefully does not mention the ability to use basic file
                browsing features so that it's not technically a lie to present a tool that can "browse files and folders without complicated
                installations" that doesn't allow you to do anything more than download your own files without opening your wallet.
                The dev is just another hustler.
                <u>reply</u>
                     ▲ huhtenberg 34 minutes ago | root | parent | next [-]
                        ... and you are correct! Edited my comment above to reflect that.
                       > The dev is just another hustler.
                        But this was really uncalled for even if this does look kinda deceiving and dark-pattern-ish.
                       <u>reply</u>
                     ▲ ratsmack 18 minutes ago | root | parent | prev | next [-]
                        I think what is worse is the fact that it is not a "one file app", and rather a php script that pulls in many js scripts of
                        the net.
                       <u>reply</u>
                       sdoering 31 minutes ago | root | parent | prev | next [-]
                        Maybe the dev isn't very clear about this. I agree it could be more clear up front.
                        But does this mean devaluing their work by calling them "just another hustler"? I believe this isn't necessary.
                       And sadly it totally devalues your comment for me.
                       <u>reply</u>
                            ▲ dewey 18 minutes ago | root | parent | next [-]
                              > I agree it could be more clear up front.
                              More upfront than under the "License" section on the landing page?
                     ▲ dewey 32 minutes ago | root | parent | prev | next [-]
                        > The dev is just another hustler.
                        Are you working for free or do you ask for a salary from your employer?
                       <u>reply</u>
                            ▲ ratsmack 20 minutes ago | root | parent | next [-]
                               When you try and obfuscate the fact that it is a purchased product, it makes one a hustler. This is no
                              different than the many click-bait sites that offer -free- stuff that are actually purchased items.
                              <u>reply</u>
                                   ▲ dewey 18 minutes ago | root | parent | next [-]
                                     It's not obfuscated, the landing page says the following under the section "License".
                                     > Files is free to use with basic features. To remove the license-popup and unlock additional features,
                                     you may purchase a license [$39] from within the app.
▲ kazperson 2 hours ago | prev | next [-]
  I needed this for hosting an archive of documents and images that I didn't want to sort and create html pages for. Without something
  like this, I'd get an ugly directory view that's different browser by browser.
  This solves the problem and it looks elegant. Great work.
  <u>reply</u>
▲ pmontra 1 hour ago | prev | next [-]
  I used https://github.com/Jack000/Expose a couple of times. Advantage: it generates a static site. Disadvantage: it must be
  customized almost certainly. It's a bash script.
  <u>reply</u>
▲ kbrisso 2 hours ago | prev | next [-]
  Very nice tool indeed, funny how the world works. I'm writing an Electron/React/PouchDB application that works kinda like this called
  "Filebase", you create a library and name it like "pictures", you pick a directory / or single file on your PC and it scans/indexes it, this
  allows you to tag individual files and folders so you remember what's in it (you can search these tags). you can search and filter by
  type. The last feature will be archiving but keeping the directory info handy so you can search for items that are archived. I came up
  with this idea after watching my partner try and organize Cricket art and PDF's. I realized that Windows Explorer kinda sucked for
  organizing. I wanted to build something that did not modify or touch files itself. It's been a great way to learn Electron. I have to say
  Electron makes building UI's easy for applications.
  <u>reply</u>
▲ chrissnell 1 hour ago | prev | next [-]
  This is the Flickr-style photo layout that I love, but I want it in a static site generator. Does such a generator exist?
  <u>reply</u>
       ▲ sdoering 34 minutes ago | parent | next [-]
         In your sister comment there was a link to a repo generating a static sige:
         https://news.ycombinator.com/item?id=30234601
         <u>reply</u>
       ▲ john-doe 1 hour ago | parent | prev | next [-]
          `php index.php > index.html` should work, or from your browser "Save As..." index.html
         <u>reply</u>
▲ aspyct 51 minutes ago | prev | next [-]
   Oh boy, this may have solved one of my problems. Will try it asap!
  Edit: oh, it's not free... I mean, $40 isn't bad, but then I expect a decent level of support. Also, $40 for... a year, a life?
▲ pqdbr 1 hour ago | prev | next [-]
  Does anyone know any open source library that provides this feature as a widget for a web app?
  I'd love to use Rails active storage + S3 to allow users to have a "mini Dropbox" inside my web App; the only one I could find that was
  nice enough was CKFinder, but it's not open source and it's tied to a Java or PHP backend as well.
  <u>reply</u>
▲ marban 1 hour ago | prev | next [-]
  Is there an equivalent in Python (Albeit not single-file)?
       ▲ airstrike 1 hour ago | parent | next [-]
         Extra credit if not restricted to photos
         <u>reply</u>
▲ trvz 1 hour ago | prev | next [-]
  A few alternatives have already been mentioned here; yet another one: <a href="https://larsjung.de/h5ai/">https://larsjung.de/h5ai/</a>
  <u>reply</u>
       ▲ quyleanh 1 hour ago | parent | next [-]
         My favorite one for years of sharing files.
         This dev also has others cool tool. Check it out on his Github page [0]
         [0] https://github.com/lrsjng
         <u>reply</u>
▲ quaintdev 2 hours ago | prev | next [-]
  Great idea. I wish someone creates this in Go that way we don't even need to install php. Just run binary in directory and start
  browsing.
  <u>reply</u>
       ▲ dewey 32 minutes ago | parent | next [-]
         https://github.com/photoprism/photoprism comes pretty close
         <u>reply</u>
       a qbasic_forever 1 hour ago | parent | prev | next [-]
         filebrowser is a nice option: https://github.com/filebrowser/filebrowser I don't think it has as slick of a photo view, but it does
         make it easy to spin up a server for files with a focus on editing.
       ▲ ocdtrekkie 1 hour ago | parent | prev | next [-]
         Most shared web hosting already runs PHP, but anything newer like Node or Go won't generally work unless you have a more
         expensive hosting plan or cloud offering.
         <u>reply</u>
▲ Aeolun 2 hours ago | prev | next [-]
  My first thought when seeing this was whether I could run it as a docker image... I don't know what's wrong with me :P
  <u>reply</u>
       ▲ setum 1 hour ago | parent | next [-]
         Nothing. My first thought as well. I have a NAS and a bunch of self hosted apps running on kubernetes. Something like this will
         be really useful.
       ▲ cutler 1 hour ago | parent | prev | next [-]
         There's a rehab app for that.
         <u>reply</u>
▲ stakkur 25 minutes ago | prev | next [-]
   * Not free (mostly crippleware)
  * Requires a server to run (you don't just 'open from browser' as instructed
  * CDN-dependent
  This...is not terribly good or useful.
  <u>reply</u>
▲ mberning 1 hour ago | prev | next [-]
  I am still looking for a simple tool to deduplicate, organize, and tag all the photos I have accumulated over the years. Old laptop hard
  drives, old cell phones, iPhoto libraries, aperture libraries, etc. I want to dump them into a staging area, remove all dupes, and start
   organizing and tagging them into a folder structure.
  <u>reply</u>
       ▲ squarefoot 1 hour ago | parent | next [-]
         I use regularly Shotwell to import from my camera and cellphones, and Geeqie works quite well in finding (also not exact)
         duplicates.
         https://wiki.gnome.org/Apps/Shotwell (it doesn't require Gnome, my desktop is XFCE)
         https://www.geeqie.org/
         <u>reply</u>
       ▲ Gorgor 1 hour ago | parent | prev | next [-]
         Have you looked at DigiKam? It offers directories, tagging (with custom tag hierarchies), deduplication and also face recognition.
         I think it can do quite a bit more, but I'm not a heavy user, at all. I just use it for keeping track of my modest library and it
         works great for that.
         <u>reply</u>
              ▲ mberning 1 hour ago | root | parent | next [-]
                I will check it out
                reply
▲ TekMol 1 hour ago | prev | next [-]
  No license?
  <u>reply</u>
▲ littlestymaar 1 hour ago | prev | next [-]
  > Instructions > Simply download index.php, drop into any folder and view from browser
  This is really where PHP shines. I find it really sad to see what PHP has become, just because people keep wanting to use it for
  complex stuff...
  <u>reply</u>
       ▲ cutler 1 hour ago | parent | next [-]
         Yes, the Second Coming Of Java that was PHP5 was where PHP lost its DIY magic.
▲ NaughtyShiba 2 hours ago | prev | next [-]
  single .php file...
  <u>reply</u>
       a qbasic_forever 1 hour ago | parent | next [-]
         This is precisely the kind of thing that should be a single file CGI-like script. It's a much better view than the stock file listing
         Apache would spit out. There is no need to complicate it with microservices, high availability, event-based architecture, etc. It
         takes a single HTTP GET request and spits out HTML that nicely renders the content. That's all it needs to do. One file is perfect.
       ▲ dewey 2 hours ago | parent | prev | next [-]
         Some people make a million dollar a year with a single php file
         - https://remoteok.com/open
         - https://twitter.com/levelsio/status/1308145873843560449
              ▲ cutler 1 hour ago | root | parent | next [-]
                Someone who really gets PHP.
                reply
       ▲ codazoda 2 hours ago | parent | prev | next [-]
         I'm not sure if you're implying it isn't, that's bad, or something else. The download link does take you to a single php file. It's a
         mess, but it's also kinda interesting. I've been doing PHP dev professionally for more than 20 years and I don't think I've ever
         seen some of the conventions used. Even the PHP close tag inside a function like this.
         function login_page($is_login_attempt, $sidx, $is_logout, $client_hash){ ?> <!doctype html> <html> <head> <meta
         charset="utf-8"> ... </html> <?php exit; // end form and exit }</pre>
       ▲ wertgklrgh 2 hours ago | parent | prev | next [-]
         so what? it's simple and it works.
       ▲ uglygoblin 2 hours ago | parent | prev | next [-]
         It doesn't mean they do all development in a single file.
         <u>reply</u>
max1cc 2 hours ago | prev [-]
  Why does the demo have a folder of just girls?
  <u>reply</u>
       ▲ Aeolun 2 hours ago | parent | next [-]
         This is an MVP. The guys folder will be added later.
         <u>reply</u>
       ▲ jbverschoor 2 hours ago | parent | prev | next [-]
          Because it's about *single* files
         <u>reply</u>
       ▲ mackrevinack 24 minutes ago | parent | prev | next [-]
         wild guess: the person who make this likes girls
       ▲ jack_riminton 1 hour ago | parent | prev | next [-]
         To drive engagement through people commenting on it
       ▲ can16358p 2 hours ago | parent | prev | next [-]
         Sex sells, as always.
```

Applications are open for YC Summer 2022

reply

<u>reply</u>

Why not?

▲ yjftsjthsd-h 2 hours ago | parent | prev | next [-]

▲ saheelraut 2 hours ago | parent | prev [-]

It drives curosity for sure.