Lightroom Sync

# Introduction

This document describes the operation of a program called LRSync, a Python script which keeps the Lightroom database in sync between the MacBook and iMac.

Lightroom stores all information about photos in a catalog. This is a database which resides on the local hard drive of the system. When Lightroom exits, a backup of the database is made to a backup folder. The backup folder is kept on the removable drive which contains all of the raw photos:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| System | Backup Folder |
| Mac Book | /Volumes/Photos/Photos/Main/MacBook LR Backup |
| iMac | /Volumes/Photos/Photos/Main/iMac LR Backup |

The location of the Lightroom database:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| System | Backup Folder |
| Mac Book | /Users/johnanderson/Pictures/Main |
| iMac | /Users/john/Pictures/Lightroom |

Lightroom catalogs have a .lrcat extension.

LRSync compares the date and time of latest backup copy from the other system to the catalog on the current system. If the date and time of the other system’s catalog backup is newer than the current catalog with the same name, it is copied from the backup location to the working folder. If older or the same, no action is taken.

# Usage

The LRSync script is invoked with command line options as follows:

>python LRSync.py [--showonly] [--catalogfolder *folder*] ...

... [--backupfolder *folder*] [--verbose]

***Argument Meaning***

--showonly Output show actions that would be taken but do not copy any files.

--catalogfolder *folder* Search in *folder* for catalog files. If missing, use catalog folder from saved configuration.

--backupfolder *folder* Search in *folder* for backups of catalog files. If missing, use backup folder from saved configuration.

--verbose Verbose output.

The location of the catalog and backup folders are kept in a JSON file in the same folder as the LRSync.py script. Whenever the --catalogfolder and --backupfolder are used, the locations are created or updated. The values are maintained by system name.

## Backups

Backups are kept in subfolders under the backup folder. Subfolders are named according to the date and time the backup was made. The folders are named:

*YYYY-MM-DD HHMM*

Where:

*YYYY* Is the four-digit year

*MM* Is the two-digit month (01-12)

*DD* Is the two-digit day (01-31)

*HH* Is the hour (00-23)

*MM* Is the minute (00-59)

Inside each folder is a .zip file, named *catalog*.lrcat.zip, where *catalog* is the name of the catalog file. The .zip file contains a single file, the zipped catalog file (*catalog*.lrcat). The date and time information from the name of the subfolder is used to compare to the date and time of the catalog file.