



5

Moving Workflow from PhotoMechanic/PS to Lightroom/PS - Help Teach and Critique my Workflow Please!

(self.Lightroom)

submitted 4 days ago by [washedreier](#)

I shot a good bit in college for the school paper and have a good number of photos from both work in college and personal/family photos I really need to clean up and organize into a more maintainable archive. When I learned and refined my workflow in college it was mainly file based for organizing dumps/selects/final edits and I relied on PhotoMechanic for importing, culling, and captioning and went into Photoshop/CameraRAW for cropping, color correction, and any minor editing that was needed. It worked for me at the time because my priorities were speed on assignments, especially in culling down to selects and captioning. Now that I'm not working deadlines and am more interested in managing/maintaining my larger archive of personal and college photos I'm giving Lightroom a try.

I've got the Photo subscription with LR/PS and have played around a bit in Lightroom but I am still pretty uncomfortable/unsure about what my new workflow should look like. First off, I'm about to [buy a NAS](#) that I'm hoping to use for my main photo storage. Right now my photos are spread between ~200GB on my local drive and more spread across various external drives and burned backup DVDs. Eventually I'd love to get better at more extensive editing and post in LR/PS, but for now I'm just looking to emulate my workflow from PhotoMechanic,

- import
 - apply/manage global metadata that applies to entire import
- cull the crap
- make selects
 - apply/manage individual metadata per photo (if needed)
 - caption (if needed, not likely these days)
- edit
 - crop
 - color correct
 - poor attempts at deeper post (very rare, hope to get better later)
- publish
 - export to JPEG
 - upload to Facebook/email/website/etc (if/when needed)
- archive

scour th' horizon

this post was submitted on 15 Sep 2014

5 points (86% upvoted)shortlink: <http://redd.it/2gfj7k>

Hoist a new sail

Write a new log entry

Lightroom

[abandon ship!](#) 4,074

Lightroomers

~5 Lightroomers

☒ Show my flair on this subreddit. It looks like:[dbfreewater](#) ([be editin'](#))

All threads need to be about Adobe Lightroom or the Lightroom Mobile App. Please report anything that violates this rule.

I'm going to allow users to be able to write their own flair. Please do not abuse this with long text or you will be banned.

Current Version: 5.6

- [Watch Lightroom Tutorials by LightroomZen](#)

Please direct non-lightroom topics to the most appropriate of the following!

- [Photography](#) *Recommended*
- [Photoshop](#) *Recommended*
- [Portfolio Critique](#)
- [Photocritique](#)
- [Creativecloud](#) *New*

Please consider donating to us! Donations will help us advertise this sub, and do giveaways.

- Bitcoin address:
1HMoBrWvV8aKtclKbX2dudegBXQ9WHDSgU

CAPTAINS

[message t' captains!](#)

[acts541](#)
[ImTravy](#) [Lightroom 5.6 + CC Suite.](#)
[mostly_waffulls](#) [Mod](#)
[defeldus](#) [Mod](#)
[hennell](#) [Lightroom 5.6 + CC Suite.](#)
[AutoModerator](#)

TREASURE RECENTLY PLUNDERED

[Putin considers plan to unplug Russia from the internet 'in an emergency'](#)
 24 points | 18 comments

[Blockchain.info Paper Backup Stores Private Keys in the Browser History \[Chrome,](#)

- make sure I've got redundant (ideally offsite) copies of RAW, final edited/published JPEGs, and metadata
- clean up
- remove/purge any non-select files once we ensure redundant storage of selects

That was my normal workflow and I think it should be pretty similar with Lightroom. What I'm not sure about is how to manage these steps in LR, especially with storing content on a NAS and using a catalogue instead of a manual file structure. Can you critique my workflow above? Am I looking to do the same thing in Lightroom, or are there places I can improve/optimize/remove? How should I be organizing photos in the Library? By collections, folders, or different libraries? I typically arranged my photos in folders by date and shoot before, but that was how we did it with our photo pool server.

Also, in addition to figuring out a "normal" workflow for ingesting new photos, I've also got all of these archived photos everywhere from nicely organized folders from college with edited jpegs, raw, and metadata to a mess of personal photos squirreled away in iPhoto and iPhone imports. Should my workflow for cleaning those up and bringing them in be any different? On the bright side I'm trying to think this all through before I start instead of starting to import them piecemeal and mish-mashing a workflow that will be cluttered from the start.

If anyone has any experience/advice/write-ups on Lightroom workflows for photo management with a mobile host (laptop and ipad for LR mobile) and a NAS I'd love to hear them. There were some commenters in this post[3] that say you should be able to setup your LR library on the local host but point to the photos/content stored on the NAS, but I'd love more details if anyone has any.

How does importing work? Do photos get imported from a card reader on the host directly to the NAS, or do you pull the photos onto your local host and they move over to longer storage on the NAS later somehow? How would it work if I was not on my LAN at the time of import?

I'm moving from a file-based workflow and am still trying to figure out what a LR workflow should look like for me before I start thinking about cleaning up and migrating over old archives and managing new shoots.

Sorry for the novel, I'm trying to over think this now so I have some hope of cleaning up this mess in my transition instead of just moving one pile of crap to another side of the house.

TL/DR: I'm new to Lightroom and am trying to find what workflow will work best to help me manage and maintain new and old photos. I've currently got photos spread across file-based backups and iPhoto that I'd like to organize and bring into Lightroom. Down side, this looks like a good amount of thinking, planning, and work. Up side, I'm starting fresh.

Thanks a ton for any advise!

9 comments holler be savin' stow share booty be squawkin'

[Firefox\] — this is not good](#)

82 points | 39 comments

[An alternative approach to password management](#)

2 points | 1 comment

[Moving Workflow from PhotoMechanic/PS to Lightroom/PS - Help Teach and Critique my Workflow Please!](#)

6 points | 9 comments

[While everyone is panicking about the price, I remember when I had to screenshot this because it was so high no one would believe me](#)

122 points | 83 comments

[clear](#)

[account activity](#)

be seen' all 9 comments - sARRted by: [ship-shape](#)

[save](#)[pirate code](#) [formatting help](#)

[–] [dybuell](#) 2 points 4 days ago

Just now saw this post, but it's currently too late in the night for me to do a thought out response. I'll get back to you early tomorrow!

[permasail](#) [be savin'](#) [be squawkin'](#) [share booty](#) [reply](#)

[–] [washedreier](#) [S] 2 points 4 days ago

Thanks! No rush, I've been thinking on this one for a while and finally got around to asking for outside help/advise.

[permasail](#) [be savin'](#) [parent](#) [be squawkin'](#) [share booty](#) [reply](#)

[–] [dybuell](#) 9 points 4 days ago

Alright here we go. I've actually made this same transition myself, so I'll try my best to answer your questions and explain how my workflow..works...

- Import

Open Lightroom, and once you connect your card, hit the Import button in the bottom left corner. A prompt will come up with a bunch of options. The left panel is your source, where the photos are coming from. This should be your card (or folder). The middle panel will show all the photos that will be imported. You can choose not to import certain photos by unchecking them. At the top is an option to convert the photos to DNG if you're shooting in RAW, which it sounds like you are. I do this and highly suggest it, as it creates a smaller file yet still has RAW editing capabilities. The right panel has several options. The top option "File Handling," has a couple choices. You can opt to create previews and create backups as well. I choose to build standard previews, which helps go through the photos quicker once they've imported. You can choose to rename the files in the panel below that, but I usually wait until all my editing is done. "APply During Import" is where you can apply both Metadata presets to all the photos you're importing as well as Develop presets (we'll get to how to make those in a bit). Finally, the Destination panel just shows which folder these photos are being imported to. Once I click Import, I just let Lightroom do its thing until after everything is imported *and* the previews are built.

- Culling

Culling is very easy in Lightroom. Once the import is done and the previews are built, it'll show you the standard Library grid view. Tap 'E' to bring up Loupe mode. This shows each photo one at a time. The way I cull is if I don't like a photo, I click 'X,' which sets it to Reject. If I like it, I tap 'P' for Pick. The best part about this process is that if you go to 'Photo' in the menu bar at top and make sure Auto Advance is on, once you press X or P, it'll automatically go to the next photo. Then all you have to do to cull is either press X or P and you can fly through your photos. Once I'm done selecting rejects and keepers, I go back to grid view 'G', then to the Attribute library filter at the top of the photos and click on the black flag (the right one) to show only the rejects. I select all, then delete. I uncheck the flag, showing only the picks. I select all, then remove the Pick flag 'U.'

- Edit

I know you said do metadata before editing, but I do my edits first and explain why. Editing in Lightroom is a breeze. Start with your first photo and click 'D' for Develop (or, you know, click Develop at the top right). The left panel will have your presets, history, snapshots, and collections. The history panel is great, since

Lightroom records all your edits. At any time you can check this panel and click throughout your edit history and see the changes made. No more Ctrl+Z. The right panel has all your tools, with the histogram up top. Right below that are your cropping, spot removal, red eye, gradient, radial, and brush tools. I could go on and on about those, but the best way to learn those is to play around with them. And we'd be here forever. The Basic panel has your, well, basic edits. White balance, exposure, contrast, etc. Drag to the right to make that particular section bright, left for darker. Below that is Tone Curve, which basically the same as what you would use in Photoshop. Below that is the HSL/Color/B&W panel. Again, a lot of editing possibilities here, but just mess around with that. Split Toning allows you to give different colored tints to shadows and highlights. Detail has your sharpening and noise reduction. Lens Corrections should be self-explanatory. Effects contains vignetting and grain. Camera Calibration is self-explanatory as well, though I hardly touch that. Now back to what I said in the beginning, I do my edits before metadata because a lot of times I'll be editing a photo and decide to trash it, making the time I spent changing metadata to that photo pointless. Again, that's up to you though.

- Metadata

Once done editing, you can go back to Library by hitting 'G' again. The Metadata panel will be on the right, and has a ton of options. I'm a huge fan of keywording, the Lightroom handles them great. I can actually send you my Keywords text file for you to import into yours if you'd like (though it may be a little overwhelming). Anyway, once I'm done editing, the first thing I do is rename my photos. The shortcut is F2, or go to Library in the menu bar and then Rename Photos. After that, I apply my keywords. Then there are several options under the actual Metadata tab. You can change the caption, copyright, creator, location, etc. Basically anything you can think of.

- Exporting

Again in Library view, there's an Export button right next to the Import one. Once you click this after selecting the one or several photos you want, you have several options about how the files are exported, such as to which folder, what resolution, megapixels, etc. There are also several different Publish Services you can download that will upload directly to Facebook, Flickr, etc. You can also import a .PNG watermark and apply it automatically to the photos you export.

- Creating Presets

Alright here we go. Creating presets is easy to do in Lightroom and can greatly reduce your editing time. To create a metadata preset, there's a toolbar under the Metadata panel that says Preset. Chances are the drop down menu says None at the moment. Click that, and there should be an option for Edit Presets... Click that and now you can enter any metadata you would want to automatically apply to your photos. Be sure before you hit Done to click the drop down menu at the top and click Save Current Settings as a New Preset... Creating a Develop preset is similar. While in Develop mode, after making the edits to the current photo you want to save as a preset, click Develop in the menu bar and click New Preset. Now you can check which of the edits you want to save, give the preset a name, then click Create. It'll now show up under the Presets tab on the left under your User Presets folder. Now instead of doing those same edits over and over to all the photos, you only have to click that preset and it'll automatically apply it your photo. Alternatively, in Library mode, you can select several photos and then right click, Develop Settings>User Presets>Your Preset to apply it to all selected. So how does this relate to Import? Well on that right panel in the Import screen, you have the option to apply both Metadata and Develop presets. Once you have saved those presets, they'll show up in that drop down menu and you can select them. They'll automatically be applied as they're imported.

- Organization

I'm big on being organized. I have all my photos in one Catalog, organized into several folders depending on their subject. I have all my sports organized by level, then sport, then year, then game. All my work for the newspaper (I'm a photojournalist) is organized into a year, then month, then assignment. I can provide several more examples if requested. This, combined with keywords, makes photos very easy to find, despite my 35,000+ photo library. I also use the star rating system, which is easy to use. When a photo is selected, just click a number 0-5 to apply that star rating to the photo. Creating Collections is easier the more metadata and keywords you use. You can create smart collections, setting rules that once a photo is applied with certain metadata, it'll automatically be added. For example, I have 'Best of the Month' smart collections created that automatically add any photos taken that month that also have a four star rating. The amount of factors you can choose to create a smart collection are quite powerful.

- Backup

I do two backups. I have all my files on an external hard drive, then have a clone of that on another external hard drive. Lightroom does do backups, but I have to do the clone drive manually. Once my editing is all done, I simply go to the folder in my file browser and drag it to the other drive, creating a copy. Not automatic or elegant, but it gets the job done. I also have a digital backup, which is simply a Flickr account. Since we get a terabyte for free, I have a Publish Service that I upload everything I edit to Flickr once I'm done. It's a private account so only I can see the photos, but it's handy to have and I can pull up my entire library on my phone if I'm out and about and someone wants to see a certain photo.

- Other

I'm not really familiar with NAS, so I may not be much help there. I know that when you're importing, you can choose which folder the photos are, so as long as the NAS is connected to your computer when you're importing, you should be able to send them there. As far as importing your old stuff, that works the same way as importing from a card. Just go and find the folder you want the photos to come from in the Import window, then choose whether you want to Copy them or Move them at the top of the panel. I would choose Move to and select a folder where you want them to go.

- More

There are tons of videos on YouTube that can help you with more specifics about editing and whatnot if you want to know more. I can answer any follow up questions you have as well. I'm off today, so I should be around and be able to get back to you quickly, and I might even be able to swing a Google chat/hangout if you need live help. [Here's a book](#) that has some pretty good info as well. I hope that wasn't too much info! I love Lightroom so I hope I helped you get a better idea of what you want to do. If you have any more questions or want me to check out anything else, let me know!

permasail be savin' parent be squawkin' share booty reply

[–] [billy_mays_forever](#) 2 points 3 days ago

Amazing detail man. GG

permasail be savin' parent be squawkin' share booty reply

[–] [washerdreier](#) [S] 2 points 2 days ago

Wow, fantastic detail and just what I was looking for. Thanks a ton. I've got a few questions to flesh out but have been slammed at a conference this week. I'll come back and ask later, but wanted to go ahead and thank you for such an awesome response.

permasail be savin' parent be squawkin' share booty reply

[–] [dybuell](#) 1 point 2 days ago

No problem. Feel free to message me whenever.

permasail be savin' parent be squawkin' share booty reply

[–] [opnwyder](#) 2 points 2 days ago

Please keep this conversation public, the information you are offering is much appreciated by many, not just OP. Thank you, BTW.

[permasail](#) [be savin'](#) [parent](#) [be squawkin'](#) [share booty](#) [reply](#)

[–] [dybuell](#) 1 point 2 days ago

No problem. Anyone should feel free to ask me if they need any help with Lightroom. More than happy to oblige.

[permasail](#) [be savin'](#) [parent](#) [be squawkin'](#) [share booty](#) [reply](#)

[–] [dbffreewater](#) 1 point 46 minutes ago

I'd be interested in hearing what your workflow in Photomechanic/PS looked like (say in the same level of detailed explanation as given by dybuell. I've been thinking about moving from Lightroom to Photomechanic... Thanks!

[permasail](#) [be savin'](#) [be editin'](#) [scupper this](#) [reply](#)

'bout	help	tools	mates
a place fer our writin's	wiki	mobile	pirate's gold
'bout	Questions ye be askin	extension fo' firefox	store
crew	pirate code	program 'or ye chrome	redditgifts
home port o' the code	pirate's code	cannons	reddit.tv
send out t' flyers	send us a message in a bottle	widget	radio reddit
jobs			

Use of this site constitutes acceptance of our [User Agreement \(Genitive\)](#) and [Privacy Policy \(Genitive\)](#). © 2014 reddit inc. All rights reserved.
 REDDIT and the ALIEN Logo are registered trademarks of reddit inc.