



The Monthly Newsletter of the Port Townsend Seriously Laid Back User Group.
PT SLUG is a computer user group focusing on Macintosh computers and software.

Web Site: <http://ptslug.org>

September PT Slug Meeting

The SLUG monthly general meeting will be held Thursday September 10th, 7:00 pm at the Tri-Area Community Center (across from the Chimacum Schools), Port Hadlock. Meetings are free and open to the public. For more information call or email Gary Estes at 360-732-4523 or studio106e@mac.com.

Bring your questions about any aspect of using your Mac. The group's lending library books will be available.

Special Note

There will be a Mac Programs SIG (workshop) this month (see last page), but no Digital Media SIG workshop. The Next Digital Media SIG will be October.

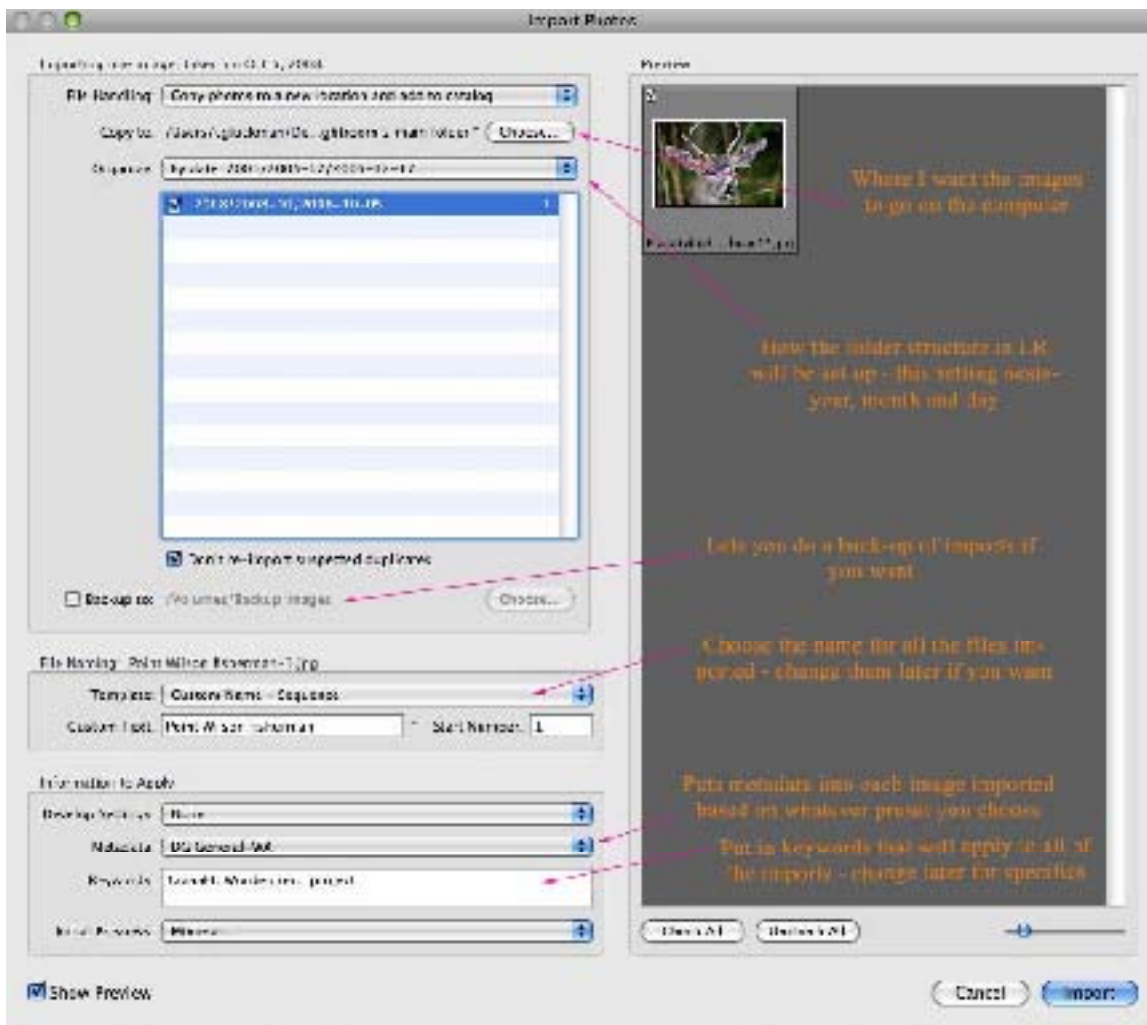
Lightroom Workflow (Article 2)

— by David Gluckman

In this article I'll give you some general information about the most powerful and confusing part of LR, workflow. This is the process where you move the images from your camera onto the computer and store them in a way that will allow you to retrieve what you want, when you want it. The power comes from the numerous ways you can do this. The confusion comes from the numerous ways you can do this!

Because of these many options, the workflow process is almost totally individual. All of your prejudices, uncertainties, habits (good and bad) will all become part of your workflow. The best users will limit these by establishing a reasonable process, remembering it well and using it all the time. Unfortunately for most of us, LR has so many choices that it lets you choose which one you want whether its right or wrong for you.

As I started working on this article, I began by included a lot of technical information about getting started and how one might handle things like getting the images into LR, placing them into folders, initial keywords and lots of other information the average reader would use as an excuse to go no further. So, rather than bore most of you (presuming non LR owners will read these articles), I changed my mind and decided just to talk about my personal work flow and why I chose the options I did with the hope that those of you who use other programs might find something of interest here as well. I do include below some screen captures of various topics (ignore the titles and keywords for the Import Screen, they go to a different photo and I'm too lazy to change them *continued on page 2*

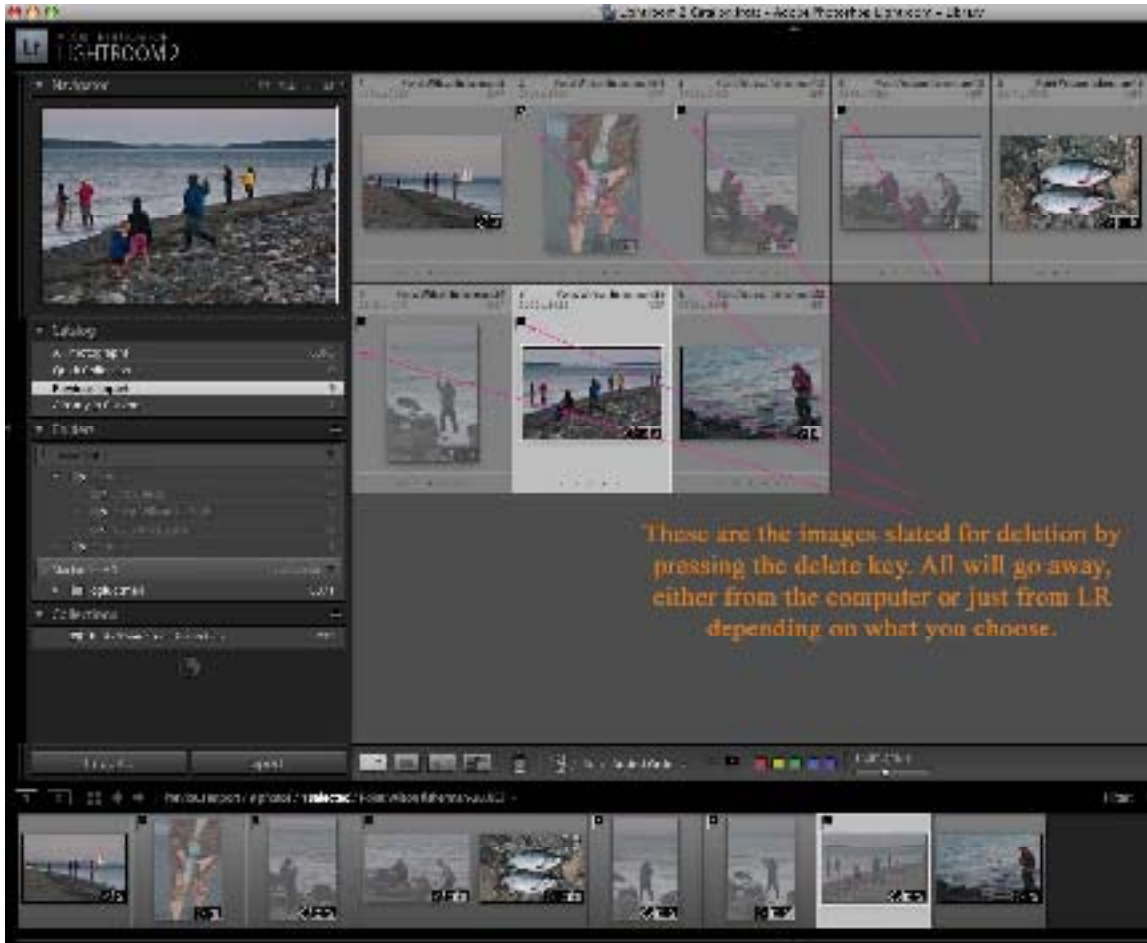


LR Import Screen (Illustration #1)

Here's the workflow in very basic terms. I take the pictures. I place the card in a card reader for my Compact Flash card attached to my computer and view the thumbnails on the Import screen to see if there are any obvious out-of-focus, pudgy fingers, blank sky or roadways that were snapped by mistake. These I uncheck so they won't be imported. I then tell the Import page what folder I want the images to go to (choices include day, month, and/or year, or custom). After making a number of mistakes, I finally figured out how to put each day's shooting in a single folder under a month folder and a year folder (see Illustration #1). I select a new file name to replace the one given by the camera (i.e., NEF 20034, which has no real meaning may change to "Port Townsend Bay Birds" starting with 1, etc.) that is generally descriptive. This is usually the location of the shoot or something that may help me search for the file, though it means very little in the overall scheme of things at this point. I assign a general preset that contains my copyright info, name, address, phone and email address so I won't have to do this later. Finally, I figure out if there are any general keywords I can assign to all of the images at this point so I can save that step in the process later. Usually, the images are too diverse for much of this but I usually try anyway. More on Keywords later.

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Once the images are imported, I use the “x” and arrow technique to get rid of the ones that don’t meet my next test for keepers. This works by starting at image 1 and deciding if the image is sharp enough, or shows what I wanted or should be discarded. If I want to keep it (either temporarily or permanently) I press the right arrow and move to the next image. If I want to get rid of it I hit the “x” key and move to the next one. After I go through all the images the first time, I delete all the images with the “x’s.”



Fast Delete - Step Two - “X” Key Then Delete All (Illustration #2)

My next step is to take all the left over images into the Development Module. There I usually crop and do general color, exposure and other adjustments so they meet at least minimal criteria. If they won’t pretty up to my satisfaction I press the “x” key and later get rid of them. (Much more on this in later articles).

Once I go through the 3rd sorting after the initial development process, I assign a new image title to each, fill out metadata blanks with location information, give the image a rating (0, 4 or 5 stars) and anything else I want, and then add appropriate Keywords. I then go back into the Development Module (and often into Photoshop) with the best of keeper images to finish off the process.

Keywords

In general, Keywords are descriptive words you assign to an image that will show up in the metadata to help you find the image later. They can be particularly helpful when the image is a year or so old and tucked somewhere

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within the 20,000 images on your computer. Metadata is the information that attaches to an image from various sources (initially your camera and later your post taking development program). It includes such information as camera used, date taken, title, ISO setting, shutter speed, F stop, etc. Every digital camera provides a way you can view this information if you want. The post taking development programs like LR and Aperture, etc., usually spread it all out for you on the screen when you view an image and lets you add a lot more info on things like, descriptive keywords, locations, copyrights, captions, etc.

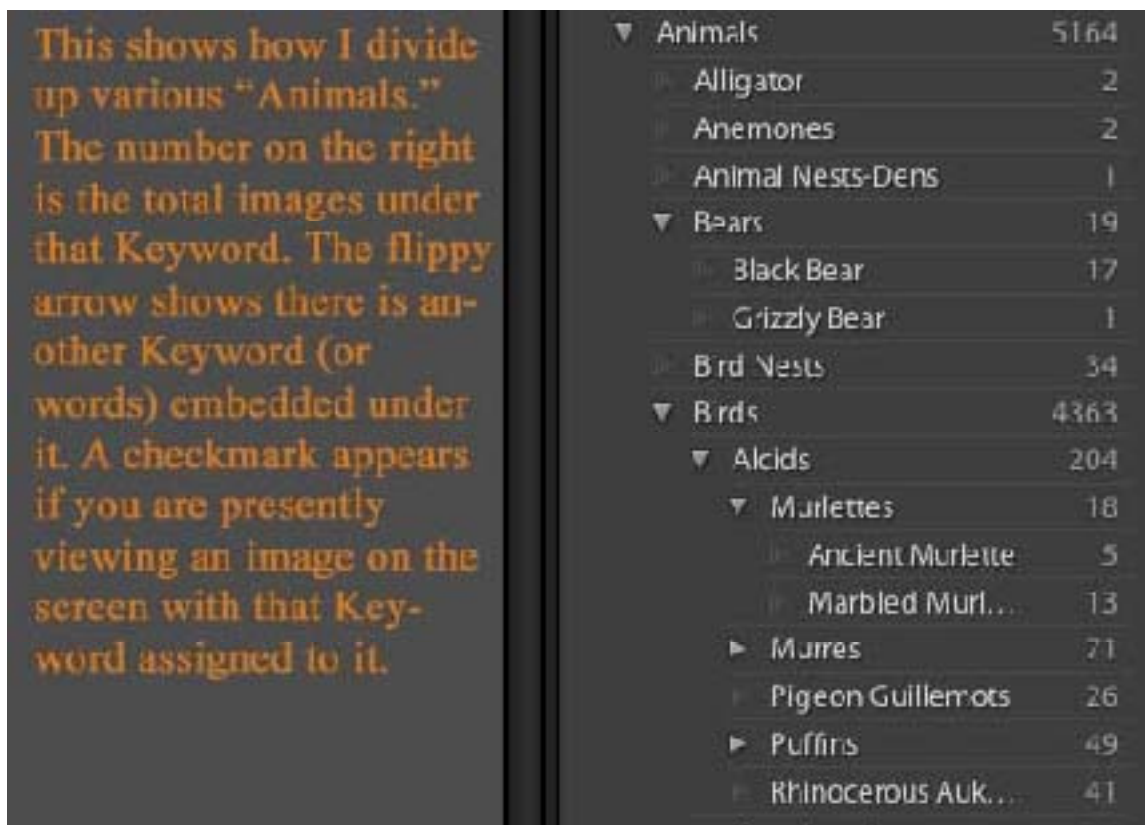
A further note on Keywords. I love Keywords! Ninety percent of the management of my workflow depends on keywords. However, be warned, lots of professional photographers hate keywords. They refuse to use them and consider them works of the devil! (I think they're just lazy and stuck in the ways).

My reason for liking them and spending the time necessary to assign appropriate ones has to do with what I photograph and how I use my images. For the last few years my primary photography has been birds and other wildlife. I'm collecting some for a book and plan to use others to illustrate lectures and slideshows. I need to find specific images or choose from a select few and searching into various dated folders is just too time consuming. (Besides, I usually can't remember the date of a trip to Skagit County, Winthrop, Westport, Ocean Shores, etc, last year). Using the popular names of animals, I set up my keywords in tree form based on an alphabetical list. For example, one of my primary categories is "Animals." Within the Keyword "Animals" I list the category of each one I have an image of like "Birds," "Squirrels," "Otters," "Deer," "Insects," etc. Under each of those general types I list the various categories down to the species level. A typical nested tree would look like the following:

Animals>Birds>Alcids>Murlettes>Ancient Murlette. There are no limits on how many Keywords you can have or how many can be nested under any other.

Part of the Metadata LR Screen (Illustration #3)

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Keyword List Screen (Illustration #4)

The great advantage to this is that I can open up the Keyword list directly to “Marbled Murrette” if that’s what I’m looking for and find 13 images that I can choose from. The great disadvantage is there is a lot of work needed to set up the tree though you can do this as new images are added. You also must keep up your keyword entry with every import into LR. Once your keywords are set up they’re very easy to use, change, add to or subtract from. In fact, LR gives you a number of ways to do this from the beginning if you’re willing to take the time. This includes doing all your Keywords (including trees) in Word and importing the file wholesale as your LR Keywords. Or having a friend save her Keywords to a file and downloading it into your LR.

A note of warning. Though I consider Keywords by far the most efficient way to store and locate images in LR, learning the ins and outs can be a bit daunting at first. You will also find that they are very literal. Capital letters, singulars and plurals result in different Keywords for the same subject and can be spread all over your Keyword section causing occasional panics and requiring cleanups that can be another whole new learning experience. Another problem is that once you learn your way around Keywords you will have a tendency to batch apply them to images (as you should) and occasionally put the wrong Keywords on an image and then have trouble finding it again. You can always go back to your date of import folder but that could be a long way in the past. Even with these difficulties, Keywords done right will save you lots of time in the future.

Sorting and storing by Keywords and folders are only two of many ways LR lets you organize your images in the Library Module. My next column will cover many of those other ways including Catalogues, Collections, Smart Collections, Quick Collections, colors, flags, stars and a few others.

SIG Meetings

Macintosh Programs (formerly AppleWorks)

The Mac Programs workshops (SIGs) normally take place on the third Friday of each month at 7 p.m. in the WSU computer lab. The next meeting will be **September 18th**. Gay Estes will present a workshop on itunes. Here is Gary's description: "Love music? iTunes can be a great source for all your musical and other entertainment interests. September's Mac Program's workshop (SIG) will concentrate on examining the iTune's interface, storing, organizing, and listening to music on your computer, and exploring internet radio." For questions or suggestions for future meetings call or email:

Francesca Drum: 379-3346 Email: fdrum@cablespeed.com

Bob Snow: 437-0592 Email: sherman101@mac.com

Digital Media (formerly Photoshop Elements)

The Mac Digital Media workshops (SIGs) normally take place on the fourth Friday of each month at 7 p.m. in the WSU computer lab. The next meeting will be **October 23rd**. For questions or suggestions call or email:

Joy Bland: 732-4914 Email: joysdg1945@me.com

Bob Snow: 437-0592 Email: sherman101@mac.com

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Need Help?

The following folks are available to help their fellow members:

Bob Snow - iPhoto, Keynote, AppleWorks, Quicken/Quick Books, Systems Problems OS9 and OSX

phone - 437-0592

email - sherman101@mac.com

Joy Bland - Photoshop/Elements, Microsoft Word, InDesign, Illustrator, Digital Photography

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email - joysdg1945@me.com

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