

Tips for Backing up Lightroom



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Backing up Photos

- It is highly recommended that all images should be copied to at least one External Hard Drive before importing them into Lightroom.
 - All photos should be placed under **One Main Folder**.
 - Then create sub-folders for your images.
- The key here is to backup the **Main Folder** from one primary External HD to another backup External HD.
 - This **Main Folder** is what Lightroom looks for when it opens.
 - If this folder is NOT backed up, and your primary External HD crashes, Lightroom will not be able to find your photos.
- The backup drive should be a mirror image of your main External Hard Drive.
- It is highly recommended that this **Main Folder** be backed in three places.
 - 2nd Backup External HD
 - Backed up to the cloud program
 - Or a 3rd External HD placed off site
- Anytime you add a new sub-total to your **Main Folder**, be sure to copy that sub-folder to your 2nd and 3rd Backup External HD's.

Catalog

- The Catalog is where everything you have done to your images in Lightroom are stored;
 - Ex. Cropped, white balance, exposure control, etc.
- If you lose your Catalog or it is corrupt – you have LOST everything you have done to those images.

Backing up a Catalog

- It is recommended that you backup your Catalog every time you exit LR.
- Backup the Catalog(s) to the same folder where your Lightroom photos are located (Ex. **Main Folder**).
 - Store your LR catalogs under a sub-folder called LR Catalogs.
 - That way when you back up the **Main Folder** the catalogs will also be backed up.
 - If you only backup the new sub-folders, go ahead and backup the Catalog Folder at the same time.
- **NEVER** open a Backup Catalog unless the original one is bad.
 - If you happen to open the Backup Catalog and start working in LR, then your data will NOT backup Catalog anymore.
- If you use more than one Catalog
 - Recommend that when LR opens, it asks what Catalog to use.
 - That way you will always be using the correct Catalog.
 - To do this:
 - Go to Preferences (Edit -> Preferences
 - Under Default Catalog (2nd down on left)
 - Change preferences to *Prompt Me*
- NOTE: Every time the Catalog is backed up it will create a new separate Catalog file by date.
 - Every so often go into the LR Catalog folder and delete out extra catalogs by date.
 - Save several of the most recent ones.
- IF your Catalog is damaged;
 - Quit LR
 - Go to folder where your catalogs are stored;
 - Create a new folder called bad catalog.
 - Only move the Catalog into the new folder.
 - **Do NOT** move the Previews.lrdata file.
 - Go to the Backup LR Catalogs folder.
 - Copy the backup copy to where the main Catalog Folder is located.

Backing up Pre-Sets

- To Find the Preference Folder
 - Go to Preferences in LR (Edit->Preferences).
 - From top menu bar select Presets.
 - Click on Show LR Presets Folder.
 - Quit Lightroom.
 - Go to LR Presets folder and back it up to the **Main Folder** under LR Presets.

For more detailed information, see “Lightroom CC book for Digital Photographers” by Scott Kelby