Fragments of Yesterday

PHOTO MANAGEMENT FOR REAL LIFE

A PRACTICAL GUIDE TO ORGANIZATION & BACKUP

DARKROOMERS 2026

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Sleep Tight

Architecture Abstract

FINE ART PHOTOGRAPHER

- Photography coach & workflow consultant
- Senior Product Evangelist at Mylio Photos
- 15+ years helping photographers protect their libraries

THE MODERN PHOTO PROBLEM

MEMORY CARDS

01 Last weekend's shoot is still there, and may that's **the only copy** of those photos.

02 **Your catalog knows where everything is** (until a drive gets disconnected).

LIGHTROOM CLASSIC

EXTERNAL DRIVES

03 **Years of RAW files** spread across drives of different ages and capabilities.

04 **A second photo library** living in iCloud or Google Photos.

YOUR PHONE

RANDOM FOLDERS

05 Scattered exports, scans, competition files, Photoshop edits, and downloads.

Irreplaceable photos.

SOMEWHERE IN HERE...

A COUPLE OF QUESTIONS...

WHAT WE'RE COVERING:

Academic Echoes

01

CAPTURE

A repeatable path from memory card and phone to your working library, with more than one copy before you erase anything.

02

ORGANIZE

A folder, filename, and metadata strategy that works with Lightroom Classic and other photo software.

03

BACK UP

How to protect your RAW files, Lightroom Catalog, sidecars, edits, and exports, with a practical 3-2-1 Plan.

04

VERIFY

A quarterly check that proves your backup is actually useable.

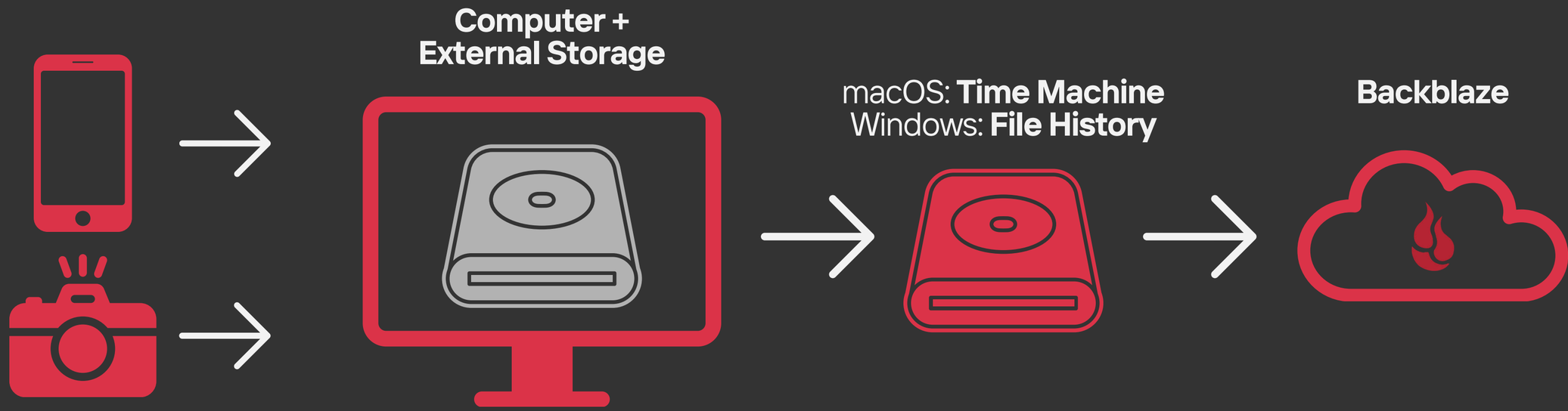
I LEARNED THE HARD WAY

SO YOU DON'T HAVE TO

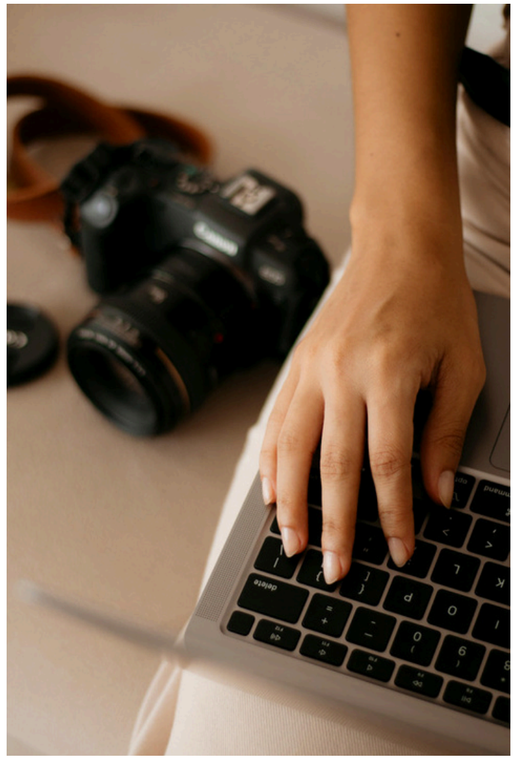
CORE CONCEPTS

3-2-1 BACKUP

- **3** COPIES
- **2** DIFFERENT STORAGE TYPES
- **1** OFFSITE



Your Originals: RAW, JPEG, TIFF, PSD, Video, etc. stored on your computer or photo archive drive.



Your Catalog: Lightroom Classic's database containing organization, edits, collections, ratings, and other info.

*THE LIGHTROOM CATALOG IS **NOT** YOUR PHOTOS.*

#1 THE WORKING COPY

#2 THE LOCAL BACKUP

BUILT-IN TOOLS

Time Machine on macOS
File History on Windows

AUTOMATED

Backs up your computer and contents of connected drives to a dedicated external drive.

VERSIONED

Backups are versioned. You can restore yesterday’s version, last week’s, or last month’s.

PROTECTION

Protects against drive failure, accidental deletion, and file corruption.

3-2-1 BACKUP

#3 THE OFFSITE BACKUP

Mission Trails Park 2014

AUTOMATED PROTECTION

Protects against: flood, fire, theft, ransomware, building destroyed.

MY PICK: BACKBLAZE

Backs up your computer and contents of connected drives to the cloud.
$99/year, unlimited storage for one computer and every drive connected to it.

SYNC IS NOT BACKUP

- iCloud Photos = Sync
- Google Photos = Sync
- Sync protects you from **device failure or loss**
- ***Sync does not protect from human error***
- Delete on one device ➡ deletes everywhere

SYNC IS CONVENIENCE.
BACKUP IS AN INDEPENDENT RESTORABLE COPY.

BACKUP IS VERSIONED

Tracks changes over time

BACKUP IS RESTORABLE

Go back to what you had yesterday, last week, or last month

3-2-1 BACKUP ↘

TOOLS WE'LL BE TALKING ABOUT TODAY

CAPTURE

- Camera/memory cards
- Phone
- Scans & other sources

PHOTO LIBRARY AND WORKFLOW

- Lightroom Classic
- Bridge + Camera Raw
- Mylio Photos

LOCAL STORAGE

- Internal storage
- External SSD/HDD
- NAS

LOCAL BACKUP

- Time Machine (macOS)
- File History (Windows)

OFFSITE BACKUP

- Backblaze

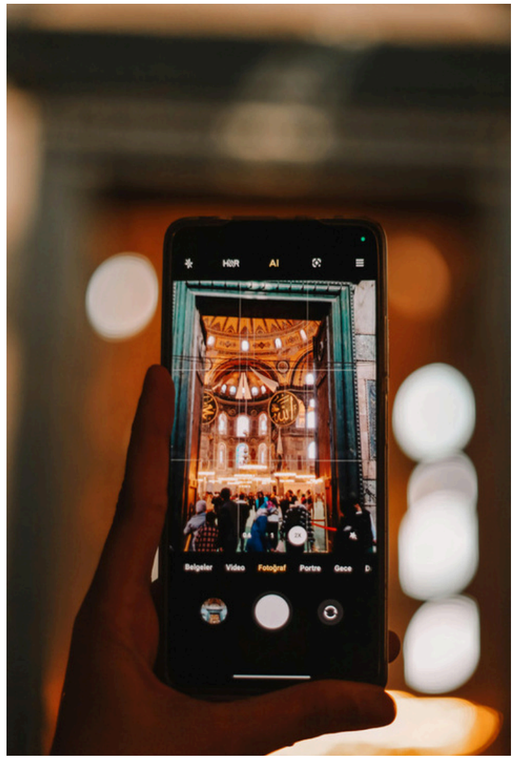
EQUIPMENT *YOU MIGHT NEED*

External Hard Drive(s)

- For photo storage (if needed)
- For local backup

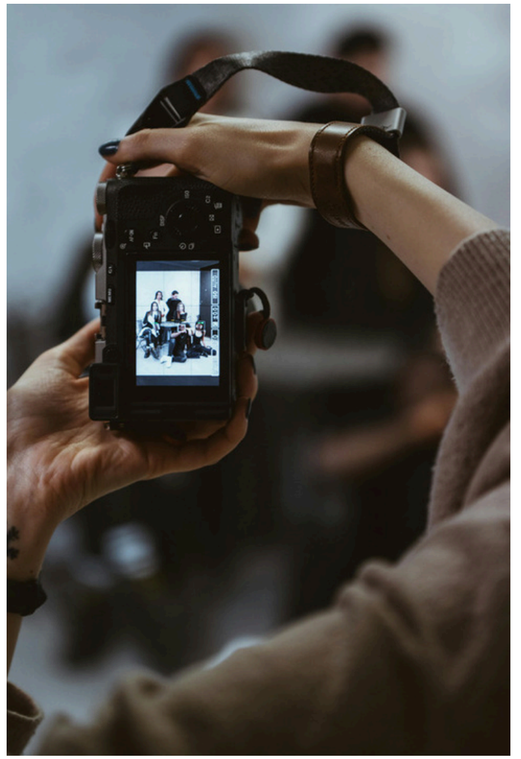
PRO TIP *Get a new backup drive every time you get a new computer. Old drives wear out – refresh both at once.*

YOUR PHOTOS



Your Phone:

- Apple Photos
- Google Photos



Your camera:
Folders of media on your computer or external drives.

Other media in your library:

- Scanned prints, slides, or negatives
- Photos shared by family & friends
- Screenshots, downloads, & web saves

PRIMARY MEDIA SOURCES

SAFE CAMERA IMPORT

01

IMPORT

Copy the card to your normal working/archive location.

02

CREATE A 2ND COPY

Use Lightroom's "make a Second Copy To" option, or another tool to replicate the import media.

03

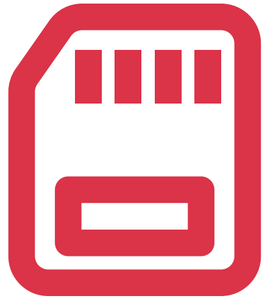
VERIFY

Confirm the files are readable and your normal backup system has them.

04

THEN FORMAT

Don't reuse or reformat the memory card until the shoot exists in at least two independent places.



THE WORKFLOW CHALLENGE

01

VOLUME

A single outing can generate hundres or thousands of RAW files.

02

MULTIPLE LOCATIONS

Internal storage, external drives, memory cards, cloud storage, and older archive drives.

03

CATALOG VS ORIGINALS

Lightroom Classic knows where your photos are, but the catalog does not physically hold your photos.

04

NO CLEAR RECOVERY PLAN

A drive fails, a folder is deleted, or a catalog is damaged. Which copy do you restore, and from where?

2 PATHS

PATH 1:
LIGHTROOM-CENERED LIBRARY

GOOD FOR: CAMERA WORK IS PRIMARY AND YOUR EXISTING LIGHTROOM WORKFLOW ALREADY WORKS.

- Originals live on computer or external storage
- Lightroom Classic manages the camera archive
- Phone library can remain separate
- Protect the originald **and** Lightroom catalog
- Use the same 3-2-1 principles for everything that matters

PATH 2:
UNIFIED PHOTO LIBRARY

GOOD FOR: YOU WANT CAMERA, PHONE, SCANS, AND OTHER MEDIA SEARCHABLE AS ONE COLLECTION

- One broad media archive
- Mylio Photos manages and connects the library across devices
- Lightroom Classic (or Camera Raw) can remain your primary editor
- Files remain accessible outside either application

IDENTIFY YOUR ARCHIVE

FIND WHAT YOU HAVE...DON'T MOVE ANYTHING *YET*.

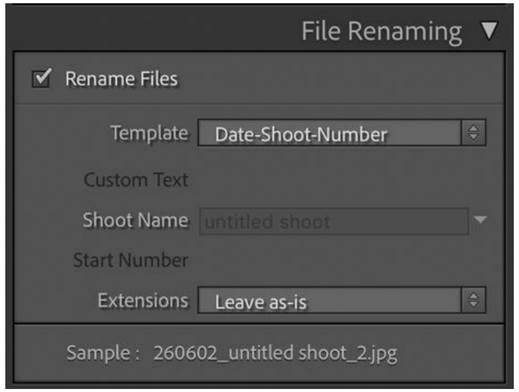
- Locate the folders on your computer where your media lives.
- Connect any hard drives you've been using for storage.
- If you use Lightroom Classic (or similar), check the folders your catalog points to.

WORKING COPY #1

YOU CAN'T BACK IT UP IF YOU DON'T KNOW WHERE IT IS.

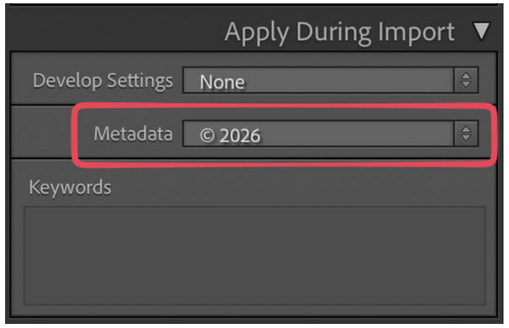
FOR NEW PHOTOS - APPLY ON EVERY IMPORT

RENAME



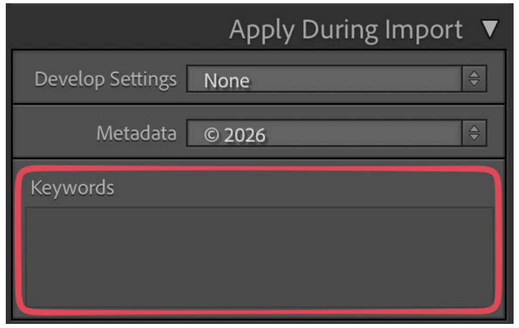
Use a consistent filename pattern that give the image file context.

METADATA PRESET



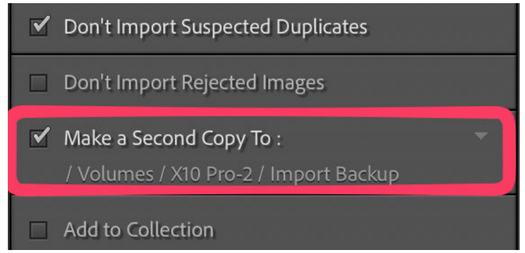
Add your creator and copyright information, including email address and website, if you have one.

KEYWORDS



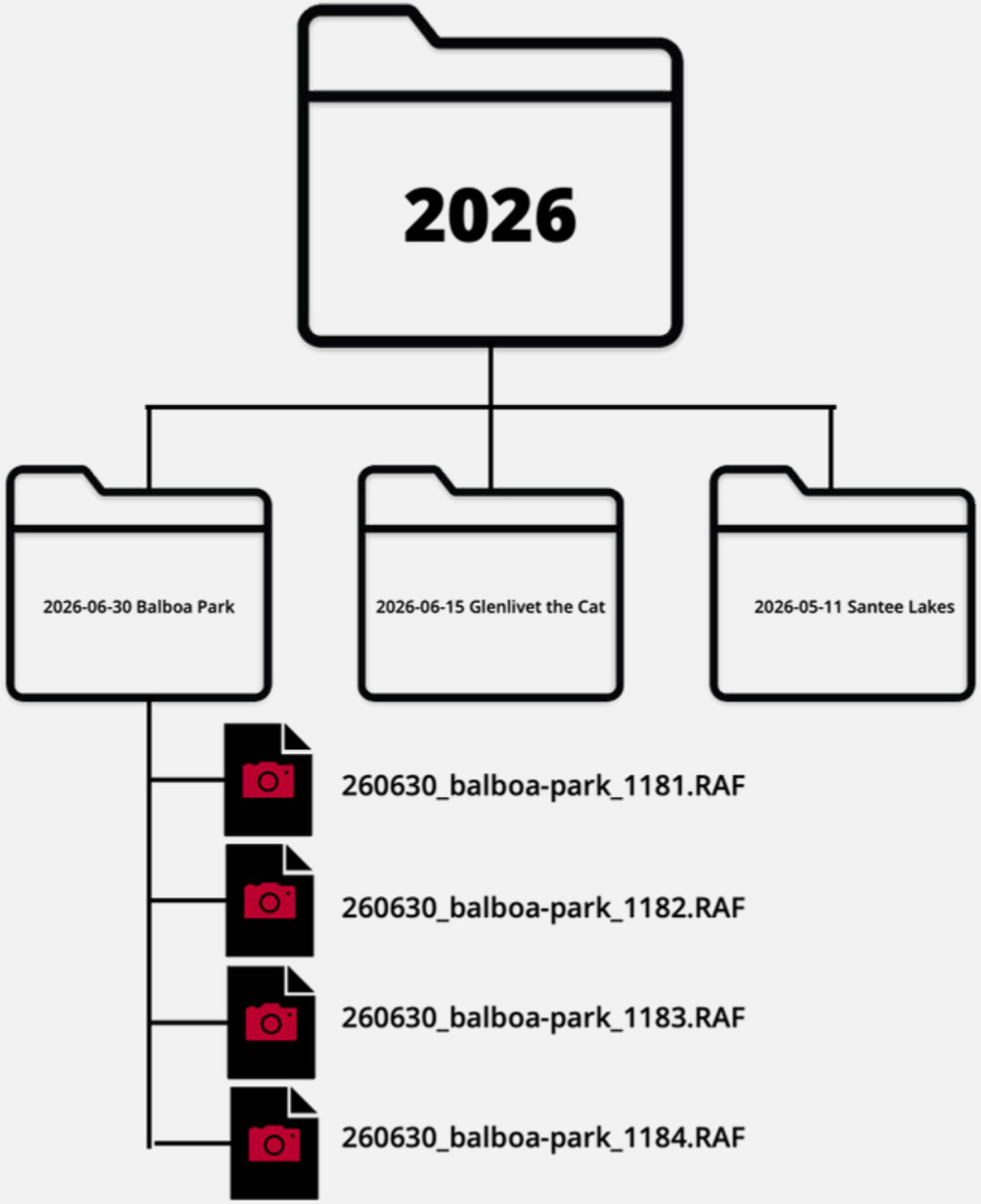
Include broad keywords that describe the shoot (location, event, subject).

SECOND COPY



If you're not automatically saving to 2 cards in camera, make a second copy in Lightroom.

START THIS TODAY ↘



FILE NAMING

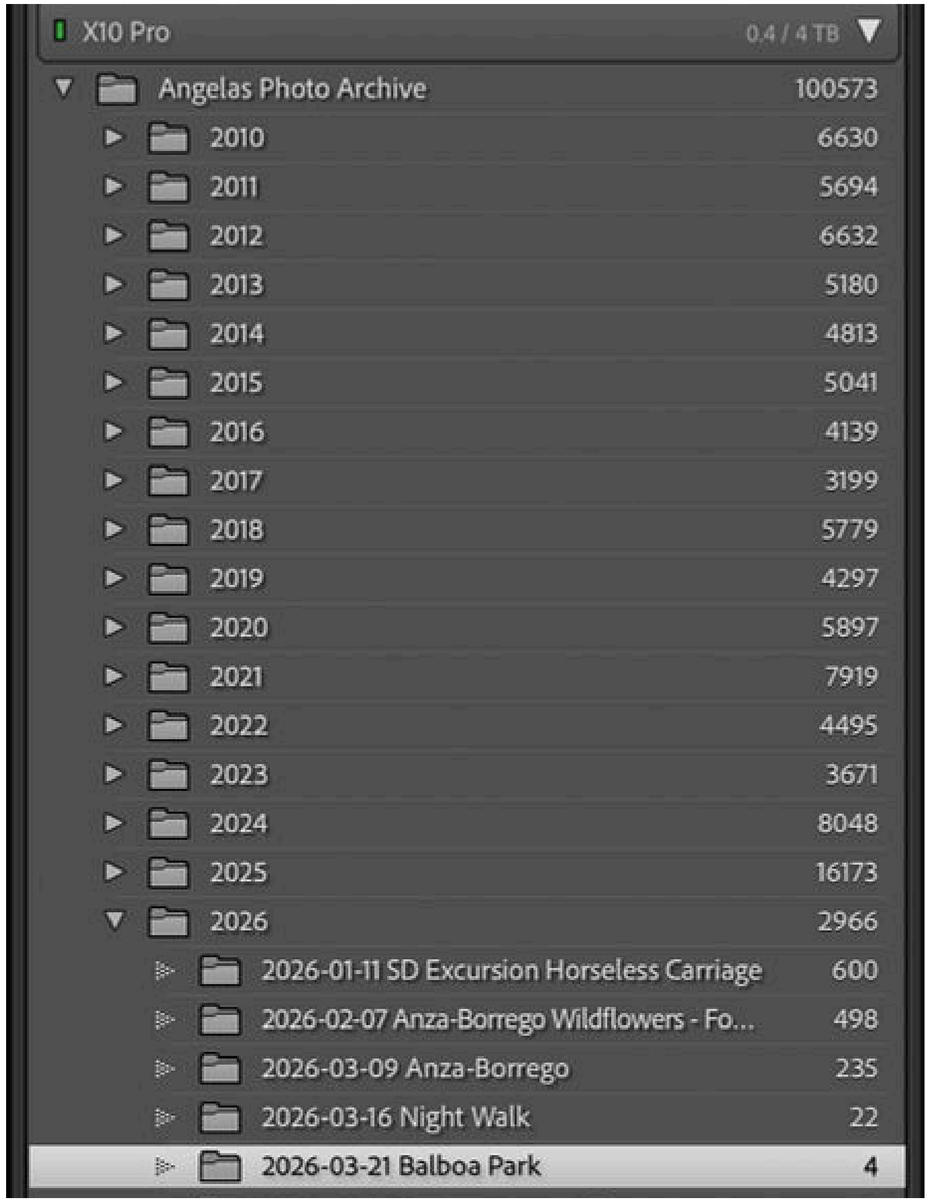
FILE NAME FORMATTING:
YYMMDD_short-description_####

ORGANIZING FOLDERS THAT WORK ANYWHERE

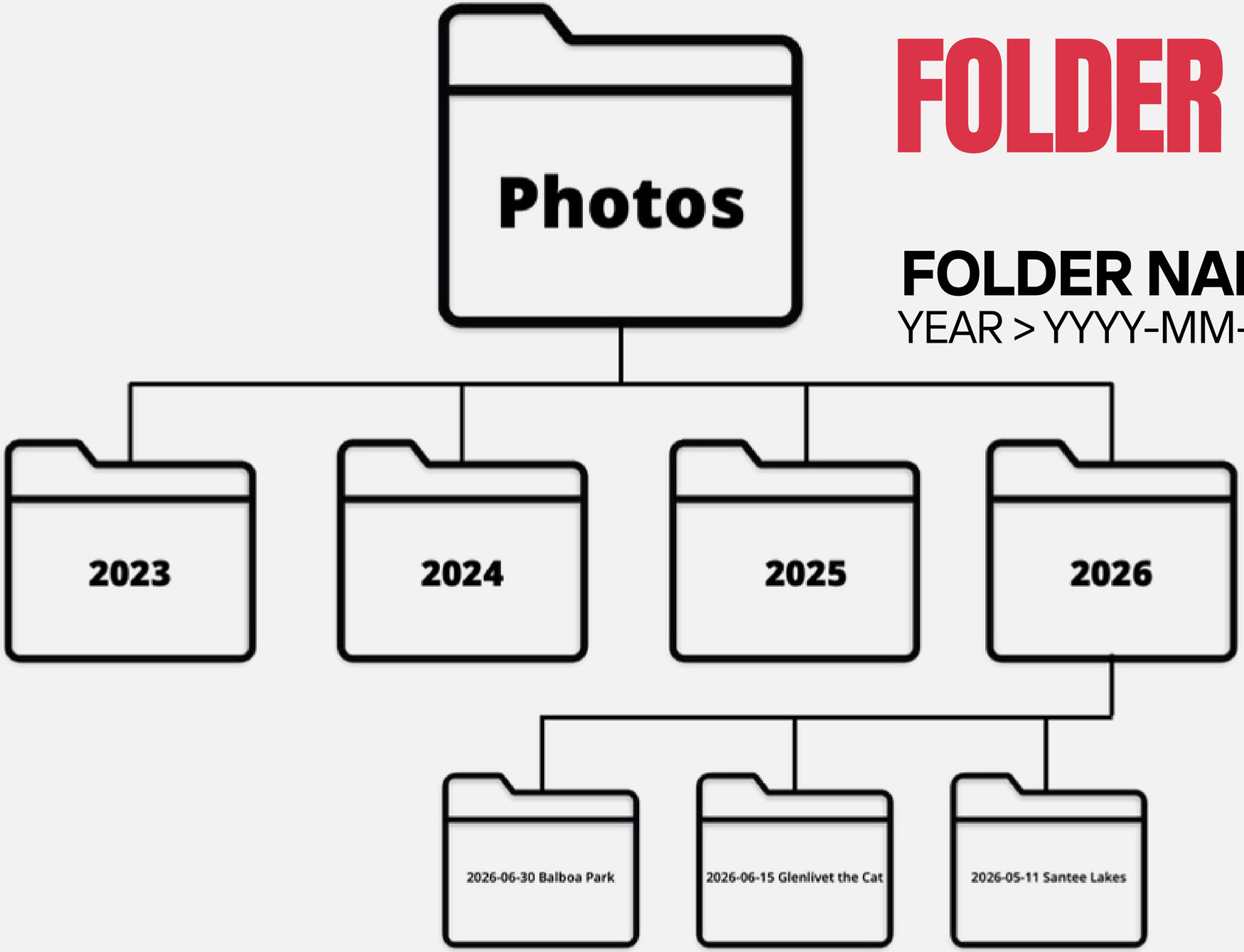
WORKING COPY (#1)

- Photos > YYYY > YYYY-MM-DD Short Description

EXAMPLE: PHOTOS > 2026 > 2026-06-13 SD FAIR



FOLDER STRUCTURE



FOLDER NAME FORMATTING:

YEAR > YYYY-MM-DD SHORT DESCRIPTION

DEMO ↘

CREATING A LOCAL BACKUP #2

01

EXTERNAL DRIVE

Get a new external drive. It should be **2-3x the size** of what you're backing up.

02

SET UP SOFTWARE

Turn on **Time Machine** (macOS) or **File History** (Windows).

03

VERIFY SETTINGS

Ensure in settings that **external drives** are also being backed up.

04

DONE.

Once everything is configured, the software runs in the background **automatically**.

What it backs up:

- Your camera library + phone photos stored locally
- Catalog backups (if on watched drives)
- Other files on your computer

CREATING AN OFFSITE BACKUP #3

SET UP SOFTWARE

BACKBLAZE

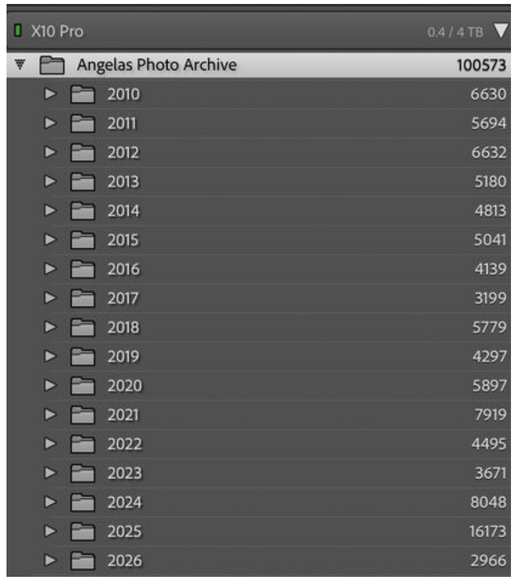
Your first backup can take days or weeks (be patient).
Runs continuously in the background.
$99/year, unlimited for one computer
Backs up your working copy to the cloud

✔️ BACKED UP AND SECURE

THIS IS YOUR DISASTER-PROOF LAYER

Protects against fire, flood, theft, ransomware, etc.

AFTER BACKUPS ARE RUNNING, CONSIDER CLEANUP.



01

Scattered files and folders → one hierarchy

- The same date-first structure from earlier
- One folder at a time, on your schedule

02

Multiple smaller drives → one larger drive

- Commercial drives now go up to 20+ TB.
- For most archives, no NAS or RAID array required.

CONSOLIDATE YOUR ARCHIVE (LATER)

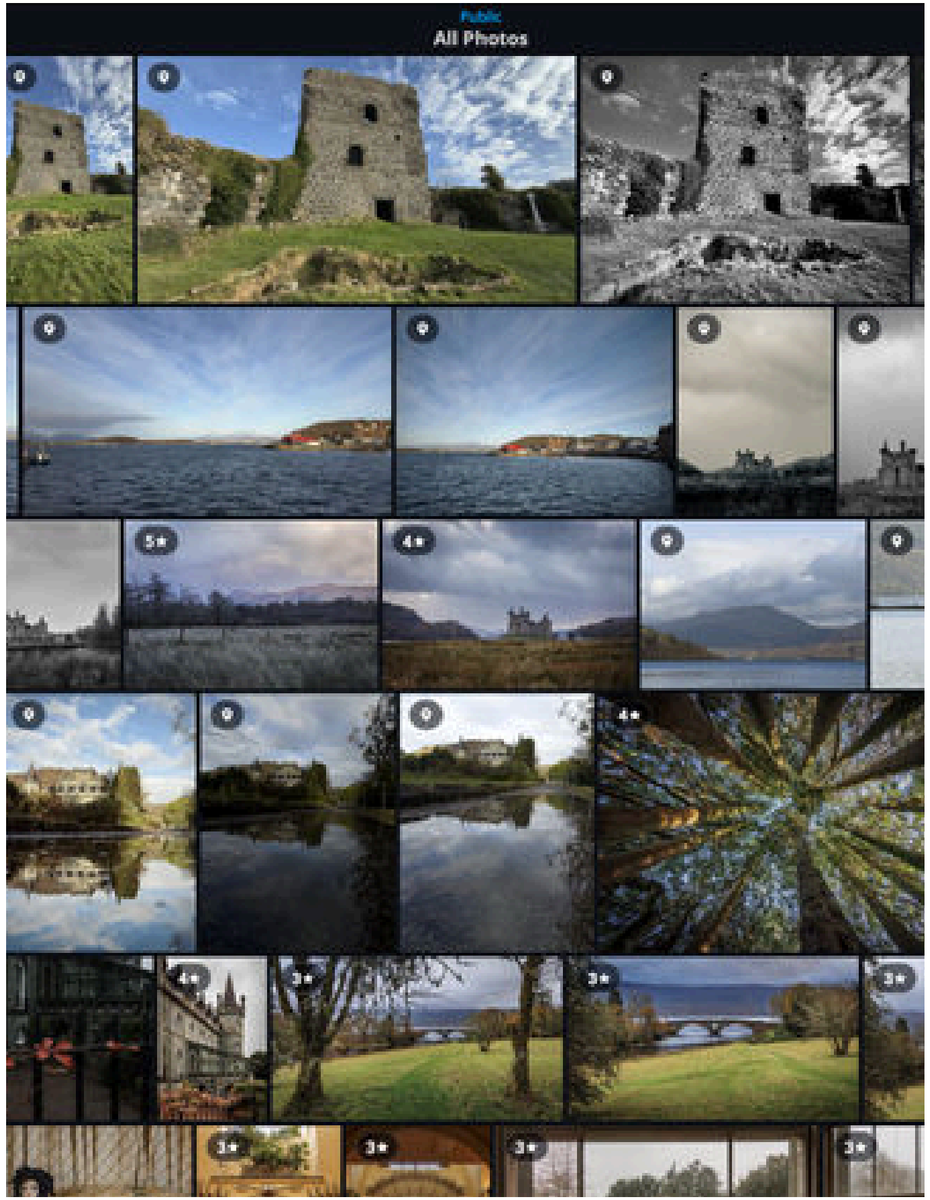
ONE UNIFIED LIBRARY

CREATING A UNIFIED LIBRARY #1

MY PICK: MYLIO PHOTOS

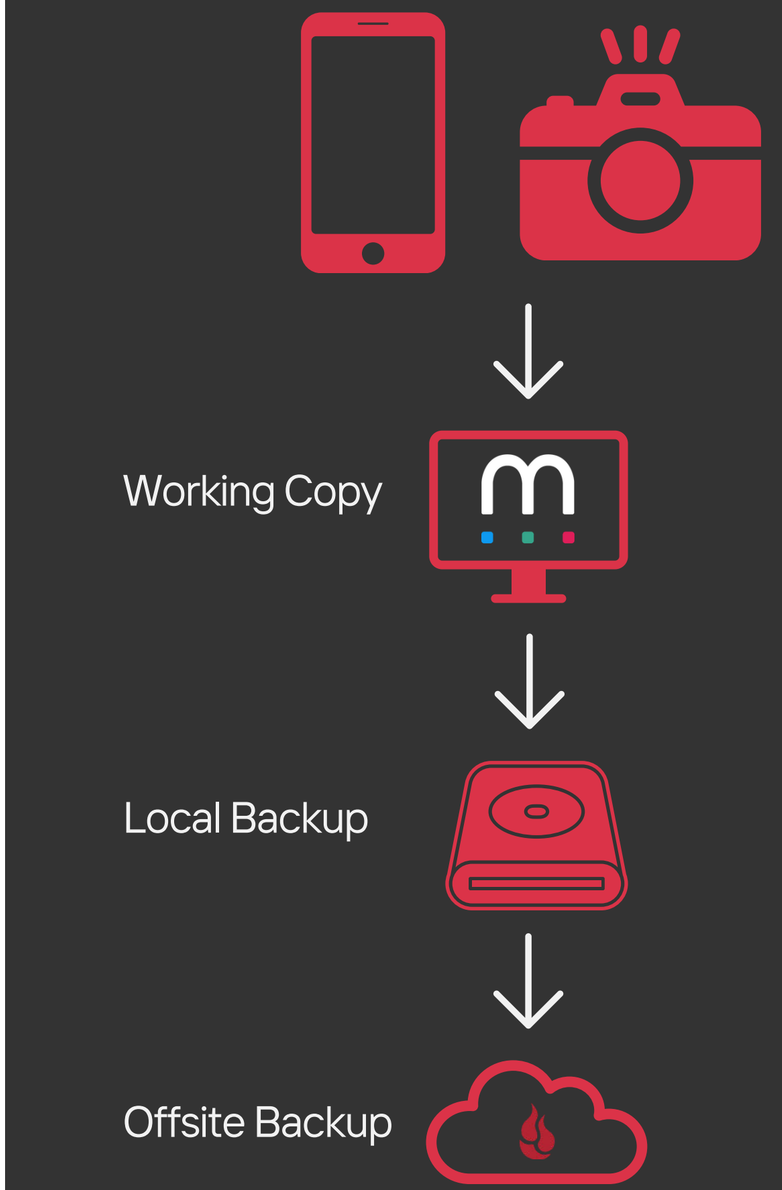
Why Mylio?

- Excellent media manager for your camera photos
- Automatically sync phone photos to your library
- Best in class search to find photos fast
- Cross-platform (iOS, Android, macOS, Windows)
- Access your library from any device
- Uses industry-standard metadata (XMP FIles)
- No walled garden - files accessible in the file system anytime
- Significant workflow shift



DEMO

MYLIO FITS INTO THE BACKUP PLAN YOU ALREADY KNOW



BACK UP LOCALLY

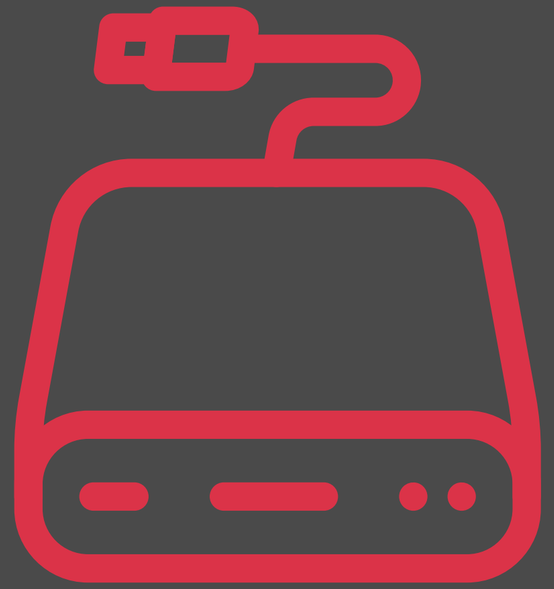
- Time Machine (Mac) or File History (Windows)
- Same setup as the seperate libraries path
- Backs up your entire Mylio library (phone + camera photos)

BACK UP OFFSITE

- Backblaze (or similar)
- Same setup as the seprate libraries path
- Make sure all drives with Mylio originals are included

QUARTERLY BACKUP CHECK

SET A CALENDAR REMINDER



FILE CHECK

Verify that recent files are where they should be. Open your backup destinations, spot check files and dates.

BILLING CHECK

Verify your cloud/software subscriptions and billing. iCloud, Google One, Backblaze, etc. are all active and current.

STORAGE CHECK

Verify your storage space across the board. Computer, hard drives, phone, cloud – ensure you have room to grow.

IF YOUR LIBRARY IS CURRENTLY A MESS

YOU'RE NOT ALONE. START TODAY.

THE PLAN

1. **Set up your backups first.** They protect everything (including the mess).
2. Start **better habits with new photos** (folders, file names, metadata).
3. Clean up your archive **incrementally**, on your schedule.

3 THINGS TO REMEMBER

THE GOAL IS 3-2-1 BACKUP

3 copies of your media, on 2 different types of storage, with 1 offsite.

SYNC ≠ BACKUP

Sync has some protection against device loss or failure – but it doesn't protect you from human error. Only versioned backup does.

CLOUD PHOTO APPS ARE SYNC, NOT BACKUP

iCloud & Google Photos are sync. Make sure you have a copy of your phone photos that you control – one that isn't on your manufacturer's cloud.

YOUR ACTION PLAN

WHERE FILES LIVE

01 Know where your originals live, and decide which application owns your organization.

02 Start today. Don’t format a card until you have a 2nd copy.

YOUR IMPORT WORKFLOW

SET UP A LOCAL BACKUP

03 External hard drive + Time Machine (Mac) or File History (Windows).

04 Backblaze. Make sure all connected hard drives are backing up.

ADD OFFSITE PROTECTION

SET UP A QUARTERLY REMINDER

05 Put it on your calendar. Every 3 months. 15 minutes to confirm everything is running smoothly.

QUESTIONS?

EMAIL

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WEBSITE

WWW.ANGELAANDRIEUX.COM

DOWNLOAD

SLIDES, LINKS, AND MORE!