Batch JPEG Date Changer

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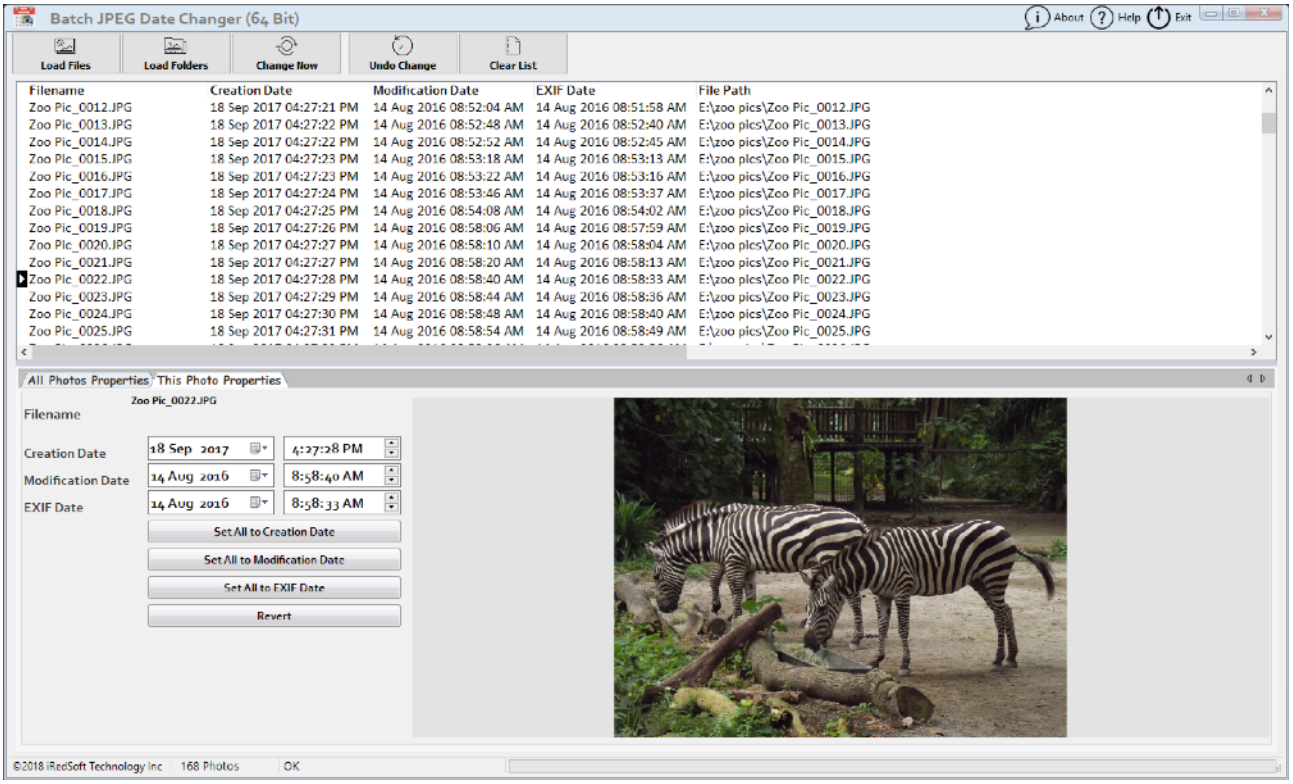
Introduction



Batch JPEG Date Changer is unlike the conventional file changer around as it is made exclusively for photographers. It not only allows you to change the Creation Date, the Modification Date but also the EXIF Date of the JPEG photos, PNG Images and MOV and MP4 Movies.

Unlike some other date changer application around which only lets you change all files to a single date and time, Batch JPEG Date Changer gives you the power to determine which date and/or to change.

This application was born out of my very need. I use my iPhone for the daily ad hoc photo taking but use my digital SLR over holidays or specific photo trips and as such do not keep the batteries in the camera over long period of time. As the camera does not have the ability to sync with the time server over the internet like in the case of the phone, I have to set them manually. There are many instances where I set the year wrongly or the date or month wrongly. Some cameras uses the Year-Month-Day format while others uses the Day-Month-Year. It can get confusing over time. Once several hundred of pictures are taken, it is difficult to actually go back and change all those dates. Fixing the date on the camera would not help those pictures taken.

I tried several apps out there which only let me change the Creation and Modification Date and that is only to a single date and time. So once changed, it would seems that I took all those photos at the same point of time. It didn't seems like it would do the trick. There are times which I just need to change the Date part and keep the time but there is no available option. So I decided to build such an application. I am sure I might not be the only one facing this issue and do hope that this will help others who are in the same boat as me.

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Core features of Batch JPEG Date Change

- Supports JPEG, PNG, MOV and MP4 Files
- Supports batch changes to the Creation Date/Time, Modification Date/Time and the EXIF Date/Time.
- Supports individual date and time modification
- Change all the different dates to comply to the Creation Date/Time, Modification Date/Time or EXIF Date/Time.
- Supports adding or subtracting Day/Month/Year/Hour or Minutes from the current Date/Time. This would be useful when you might have set an hour too soon.
- Supports Incremental Date Change which lets you set a start date and have the subsequent photo dates to increment after that.
- Supports either changing just the date and/or time thus allowing you to fix just what is wrong.
- Sync all the Dates to Creation, Modification or EXIF Dates.
- Features a Two-Step Process which allows you to preview the new date and time before proceeding with the change.
- Comes with a Revert Changes function which will revert all to the original date time as long as the list is not cleared.
- Allows you to set a Different Creation Date from the Modification Date or EXIF Date.
- Will embed the EXIF Date and Time when there is none. This can be helpful for scanned photos as there is no EXIF details and certain cloud based photo storage such as Google Photos relies on the EXIF Date to sort and list the photos.

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Types of Dates

There are three dates that each photo files have and let's explore each of them a little more detail.

Creation Date

The Creation Date is used by any file system be it, Windows, Mac OS X or Linux and will indicate the date and time in which the file was originally created. All files of any kind will have this date.

Modification Date

In the Windows Explorer, this is listed as Date Last Saved or in Properties, it is listed as Modified.

If the file has not been modified or change in any ways, the modification date will be the same as the creation date.

For instance if you open the photo in a photo editing application and make changes to the color contrast and save it, the modification date will reflect the date and time of the last change.

So if the modification date is different from the creation date, the file would have been modified in one form or another.

When this date is changed, we will also change the last accessed date to the modification date.

EXIF Date

EXIF stands for Exchangeable Image File Format which typically stores the meta data in regards to the photos. The meta data are typically information that pertains to the photos and typically added by the digital camera or phone. In most cases, this will include details such as camera settings used such as shutter speed, aperture settings and so on. If the camera is equipped with GPS such as the iPhone, it will also include the GPS location in it.

When the camera takes the photo, it will add the digitised date time to the EXIF meta data. You can rename the file, copy or modify it but it will typically not change the EXIF details.

Google Photos uses the EXIF Date to sort the photos in their storage database and does not use the file date.

MOV and MP4 does not currently support EXIF headers but they contain their own date stamp system which Batch JPEG Date Changer will use. PNG however doesn't contain any date stamp so the Creation Date will be used instead.

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Limitations

Batch JPEG Date Changer is a Windows based application and will work with the following file systems

- NTFS
- FAT32
- exFAT

Because of the differences in file systems, it will not be able to modify creation and modification dates of files located on a Mac OS X or Linux file system such as the HFS+ or ext4.

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Version History

v1.0	Initial Release
v1.01	Fixed Memory Leak caused by the Open File Dialog
v1.02	- Fixed Bug which causes a crash when accessing a photo which does not contain an EXIF Date. Now when there is no EXIF Date, the Creation Date will be used in it's place and the respective cell will come with a grey background - Under "This Photo Properties", increase the Filename entry to double line to cater for long file names.
v1.03	- Fixed Set All to EXIF Date/Time which reverts back to original date
v1.04	- Added Incremental Date Change Option
v1.04.1	- Redo the interface to fit into the Windows when Text Size is set to 150%
v1.05	- Include Support for MOV and MP4 files - Include Support for PNG Images (No EXIF support) - Does not automatically pop up the folder window after creation
v1.06	- Fixed bug which was caused by the latest Windows Update which causes the app not to launch
v1.07	- Reworked the loading file listing. Now the list is progressively updated instead of loading only when it is fully loaded and Dates updated.
v1.08	- Updated Underlining Framework - Fixed issue when Maximizing the Application which causes a freeze
v1.09	- Increased font size
v1.10	- Fixed an issue when the app is resized smaller and the buttons overlaps
v1.11	- Improve Performance when resizing the app
v1.12	- Reduced Text Font Size for the Filename in the "This Photo Properties" to accommodate long file names
v1.14	- Improved JPEG Image Preview
v1.15	- Auto-rotate JPEG Photos for Display in Image Preview
v1.20	- Updated UI

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Pricing and Licensing Details

Batch JPEG Date Changer is released as a try-before-you-buy application and in which you can test the application for up to 14 days without charge. However the trial version will permit you to change the dates of up to 10 files at a time. This will enable you to determine if the application works for you. It will also comes with the nag screen before the application launches and after the application is shut down.

To use the application before the trial period or for purposes other than evaluation, you are required to purchase a license for each computer that uses this application.

The current price of Batch JPEG Date Changer is US$10.95 and you can purchase it off our website at https://www.batchimage.com/registration . Alternatively, you can purchase Batch JPEG Date Changer from the Windows 10 App Store.

For bulk order pricing, do check out the details on the order form.

As a registered user, you are entitled to any minor version updates (ie v1.0 to v1.9) which would contain bug fixes and feature updates. You will also received a discount to upgrade to a major version such as v1.xx to v2.xx.

You are however not permitted to modify the source code of the application, strip any protocols or share the registration key with anyone other than yourself.

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Support and Contact Information

We hope that you will find this documentation to be helpful in assisting you in using this application, however we understand that you may have some specific questions which you would like us to address or have encounter some bugs or suggestions to improve the application.

For technical support and bug reporting, do contact us at support@batchimage.com

For Sales related questions, do contact us at sales@batchimage.com

We will do our best to reply within 24 hours.

Your feedback is most definitely appreciated. We love to hear from you and how you use the application and if there is any way, the application can be improved, we would do our best to implement them.

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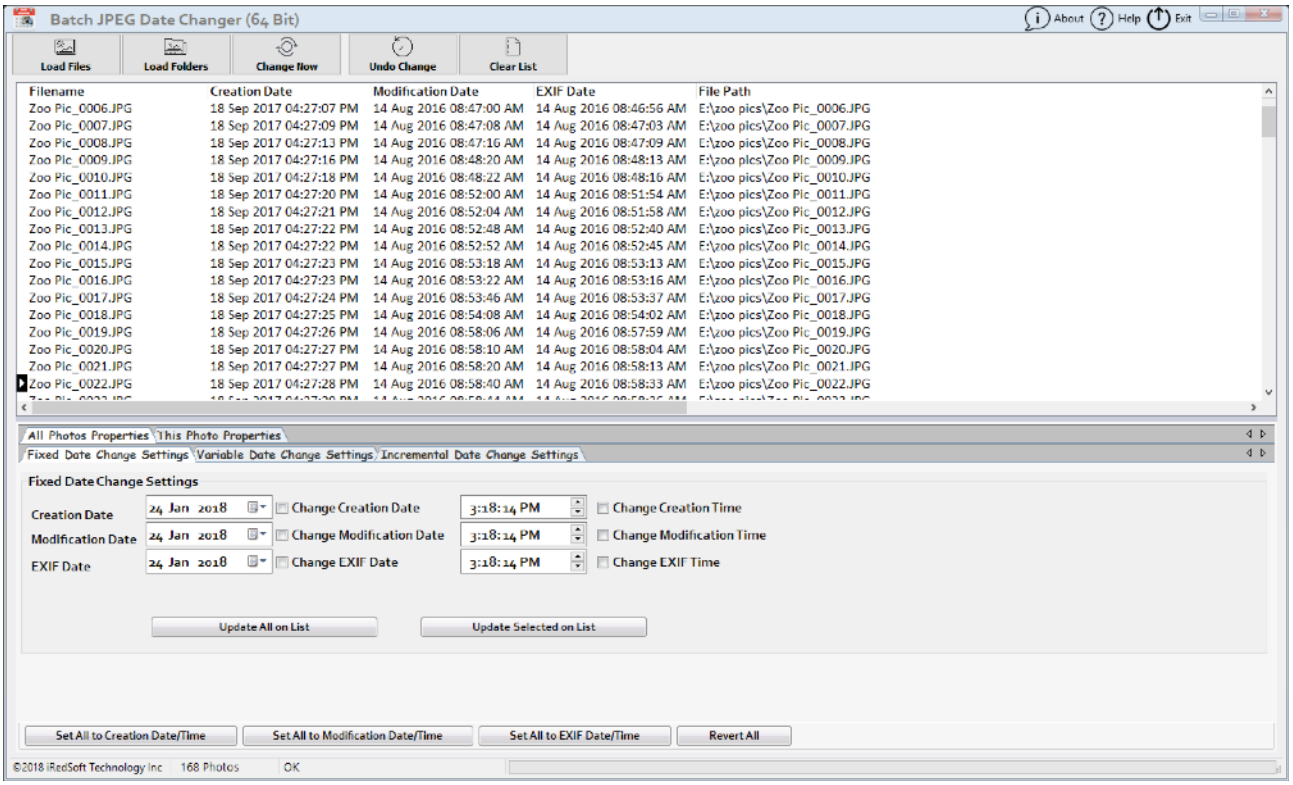
Interface



On the top is the Tool Bar which contains the controls needed to load, clear and make the batch date changes to the photos.

Below that is the file listing which gives you a summary of all the Creation Date, Modification Date and EXIF dates and times. Typically they are usually the same but they can be different especially when the photos have been modified.

At the bottom is two tabs, All Photos Properties and This Photo Properties. You would have been the This Photo Properties screen in the prior screen shot. The All Photo Properties provides all the various dates and time options which you can change which will affect all the photos on the list. When you click on the file name in the file listing, it will promptly switch to the This Photo Properties which will list date and time details for the individual photo which you can make changes to individually.

All the date and time format will be based on your System Date and Time Settings and uses the Short Date and Time format for display. As there can be several different ways to arrange the date format, either Year-Month-Day or Month-Day-Year or Day-Month-Year, we decided to stick to the Day-Month-Year date format as it is the format used by the majority of the countries.

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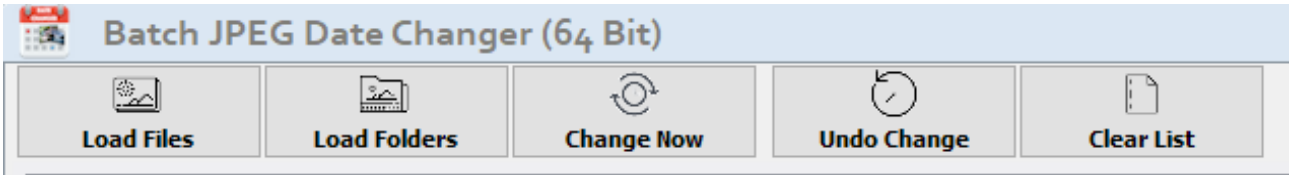
Tool Bar



There are 5 buttons on the tool bar.

Load Files

The Load Files let you pick one or more JPEG files from a single folder. To add more files from different folders, just click on the Load Files after you are done with the first.

Once selected, the files would be added to the File Listing with the respective dates and times.

If no EXIF date is found, the Creation Date will be used as the EXIF Date.

Load Folders

Like the Load Files, Load Folders like you add files to the list. However, with the Load Folders method, you will pick a folder and Batch JPEG Date Changer will add the JPEG files from the folders to the list.

After you pick the initial folder, you will be asked if you want to include all sub folders too. This step is optional and if you select “Yes”, it will search all sub folders for JPEG files to be included to the list.

Change Now

Batch JPEG Date Changer takes a two step approach to changing the file dates and any changes made using the settings are not committed until you hit the Change Now button.

We take this approach as we take any change to the files seriously and provide you with the option to make all the necessary changes to the date and time until you are satisfied before committing to the change.

To speed up the changes, only dates which varies from the original are being processed.

After the photos have been processed, the application will bring up the folder for the files so you can preview the changes.

Undo Changes

This option let you revert to the original date and time after the Change Now button has been clicked. It will only work as long as the file listing is not cleared.

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Each time you load the files to the file listing, we will store the original dates in a secret area and clears them when the Clear List button is pressed or when the application shuts down.

What will happen is that firstly all the dates are repopulated with the original Date and Time and the processing will begin. All files will be processed but it will not change the file contents.

This using for the Oops kind of moment.

Clear List

This just clears the File Listing to allow you to start with a new set of files or to start over. All changes that are not committed are not being applied.

There are 3 buttons on the Title Bar

About

Bring up the About Window which shows the version number and registration details. If this is a trial version, it will include a Buy Now button which will bring you to the web page to purchase a license to this application.

Help

This will bring up this PDF Help File

Exit

This will quit the application

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File Listing

Filename	Creation Date	Modification Date	EXIF Date	File Path
DSCF9463.JPG	10/4/2016 10:35:30 AM	10/4/2016 10:35:38 AM	10/4/2016 10:35:30 AM	Z:\Photos Ta
DSCF9464.JPG	10/4/2016 10:36:22 AM	10/4/2016 10:36:28 AM	10/4/2016 10:36:21 AM	Z:\Photos Ta
DSCF9465.JPG	10/4/2016 10:36:26 AM	10/4/2016 10:36:32 AM	10/4/2016 10:36:25 AM	Z:\Photos Ta
DSCF9466.JPG	10/4/2016 10:36:34 AM	10/4/2016 10:36:40 AM	10/4/2016 10:36:34 AM	Z:\Photos Ta
DSCF9467.JPG	10/4/2016 10:36:38 AM	10/4/2016 10:36:46 AM	10/4/2016 10:36:37 AM	Z:\Photos Ta
DSCF9468.JPG	10/4/2016 10:36:40 AM	10/4/2016 10:36:52 AM	10/4/2016 10:36:41 AM	Z:\Photos Ta
DSCF9469.JPG	10/4/2016 10:36:44 AM	10/4/2016 10:36:58 AM	10/4/2016 10:36:44 AM	Z:\Photos Ta
DSCF9470.JPG	10/4/2016 10:37:00 AM	10/4/2016 10:37:06 AM	10/4/2016 10:37:00 AM	Z:\Photos Ta
DSCF9471.JPG	10/4/2016 10:39:10 AM	10/4/2016 10:39:28 AM	10/4/2016 10:39:10 AM	Z:\Photos Ta
DSCF9472.JPG	10/4/2016 10:39:26 AM	10/4/2016 10:39:32 AM	10/4/2016 10:39:25 AM	Z:\Photos Ta
DSCF9473.JPG	10/4/2016 10:39:32 AM	10/4/2016 10:40:36 AM	10/4/2016 10:39:31 AM	Z:\Photos Ta
DSCF9474.JPG	10/4/2016 10:40:46 AM	10/4/2016 10:40:56 AM	10/4/2016 10:40:45 AM	Z:\Photos Ta

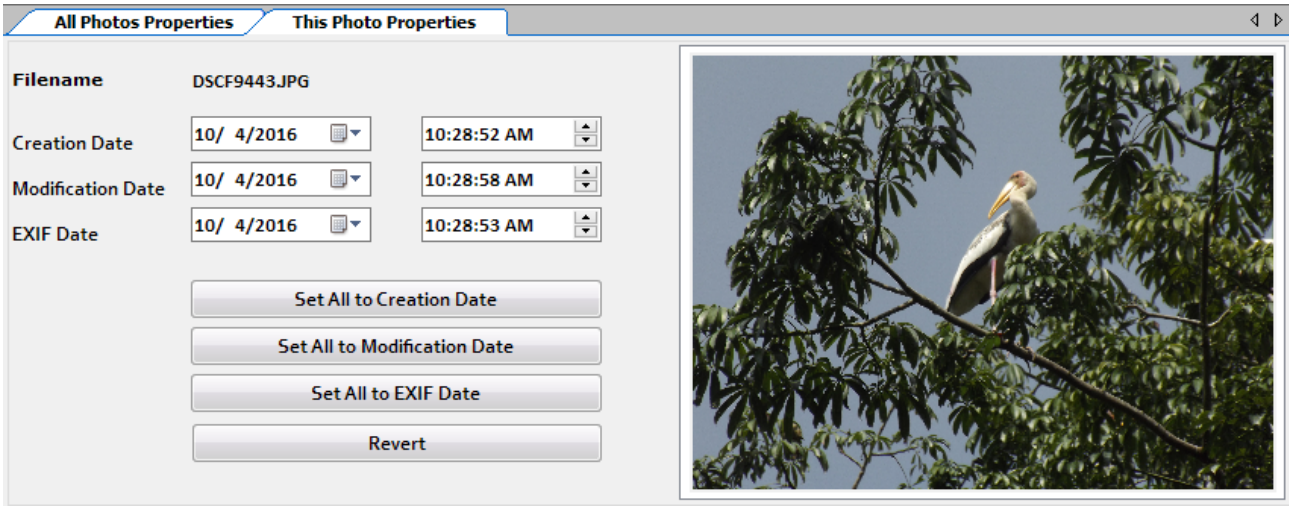
The File Listing provides a quick view of all the dates of the files which include the Creation Date, Modification Date and EXIF Date. The Date Format used is the short form date based on the country setting used on your computer so may vary from computer to computer.

Drag and Drop Photos to List

Instead of using the Load Files or Load Folders buttons, you can drag files and folders from Windows Explorer into the File Listing and the respective JPEG files will be added to the list.

Preview a Photo or Change a Single File Dates

Click on the filename of the file you want to preview and it will switch over to the This Photo Properties tab which will contain a preview of the photo and the dates. You can change the dates here.



Here changing the dates and times will automatically change the details on the file listing for that photo.

The Creation, Modification and EXIF dates may not be the same depending on the circumstances and using the Set All to … Date buttons will change all the other dates to that specific date.

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Revert will change all the dates and times for that photo back to the original dates and times which is taken when the photos are added to the list.

Selecting Multiple Photos

Batch JPEG Date Changer supports selecting one or more photos on the list. When you select more than one photo, the tab will switch over to the All Photos Properties tab in which you can set the new dates for the selected files. You will need to click on the Update Selected on List to update the dates and times changes to those selected photos.

Deleting Photos from the List

Although the application will only change the dates on the photos which has changes applied, you might want to remove some photos. To do so, click on the file or files and bring up the contextual menu and select the Delete option.

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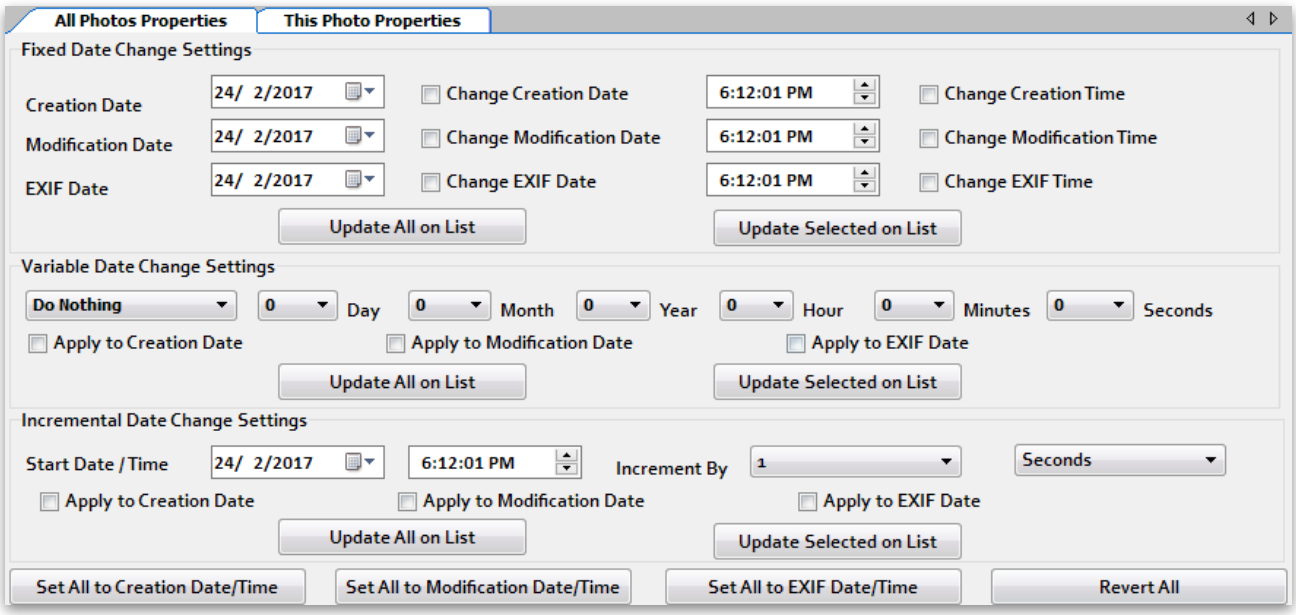
All Photos Properties



There are three sections under the All Photos Properties. Both of which allows you to make changes to the date and time differently. There is the Fixed Date Change Settings and the Variable Date Change Settings.

Fixed Date Change Settings

Use this option if you want to have all the dates and/or time to be the same. The beauty about the current set up is that you can set it in such a way that only the dates are change but the time remains as they are originally. This can be done through the option of the “Change … Date” checkboxes at the right side of the respective date or time. When they are checked, those options are changed and if you want them to remain as the original, uncheck the option.

There are two ways to change the dates. You can click on the numeric date itself and type the new number or click little calendar and you can pick the date from there.

To change the time, you can click on the hour, minutes or seconds and enter the ones you want or click on the hour, minute and seconds and use the up-down button at the side to make the change.

When you make a change to the date or time, the respective Change checkbox will be checked. This will indicate that this modification would be done to the date.

The first row is the Creation Date and Time, the second is the Modification Date and Time and the third is the EXIF Date and Time.

Once you are happy with the dates, click on the Update All on List to update the entire list. If however, you want to only change the dates and times of the selected files, click on the Update Selected On List to change those dates.

At this stage, the files have not been modified yet. To complete the process, click the Change Now button on the tool bar.

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Variable Date Change Settings

In the Variable Date Change Settings, we can apply date maths to the respective dates. This will include adding or subtracting day and time from all the dates. This option is called variable as all the file dates and times will not be the same as the one before and after it.

This option will be useful in situations when your camera time may be an hour ahead or the AM became PM and you want to set them back to the correct time.

The first dropbox is pre-set to “Do Nothing” which simply means to ignore any changes even if you hit the Update List button. The other two options are “Add” and “Subtract”.

The other drop boxes are Day, Month, Year, Hour, Minutes and Seconds. The Year option is current set to a maximum of 25 years which would suffice for most usage.

The following row are option to apply the date maths to the Creation Date, Modification Date and EXIF Date. If you want to apply different date maths to the different dates, uncheck the ones you do not want to change, click the Update List and repeat the process with those that are changed to be left unchecked.

For example, if all you want to add an hour to the Creation Date and EXIF Date, check both their options and click the Update List.

Once you are happy with the settings, do not forget to click the Update All on List or the Update Selected on List within the Variable Date Change Settings. This will update the file listing but the actual files’ dates are not changed yet.

As with the Fixed Date Change, to make the changes permanent, click on the Change Now button on the tool bar.

Incremental Date Change Settings

The Incremental Date Change Option lets you set a Start Date and the option to increment by Seconds or Minutes from that date and time for all or selected photos on the list. This is helpful if you want to be able to ensure that all the photos are in specific order with a fixed interval.

Start Date / Time - This is the new Date and Time of the first photo on the list. Use the Date and Time Dropbox to select the first date and time to use.

Note : If you want to use the first Creation Date on the list as your start Date and Time, just click on the caption “Start Date / Time”. To use the Modification or EXIF Date, right-mouse click on that caption which will bring up a contextual menu which let’s you pick the option.

Increment By - This option sets the incremental value for subsequent photos on the list. You have the option of incrementing by Seconds or Minutes.

Variable Date Change vs Incremental Date Change

The core difference is that the Variable Date Change uses the current file dates to add or subtract from while the Incremental Date Change will use a base date and time and increment all file dates and times from there to provide a fixed interval.

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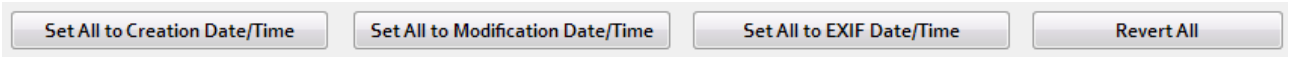
Set All buttons

At the button of the page, there are 4 buttons



The first three buttons provides an easy way to synchronise all the dates to a single date. For instance, if you want to change all the Creation and Modification Date to the EXIF Date, click on the Set All to EXIF Date/Time.

Revert All

This button requires a special mention. This defers from the Undo Changes button on the tool bar.

The Revert All will only change the dates and times back to the original files' date and time when they are loaded and should be used before the Change Now button is pressed and the file dates and times changed.

The Undo Changes button will not only change the list back to the original dates and times but will modified the dates and times on the files back to the original.

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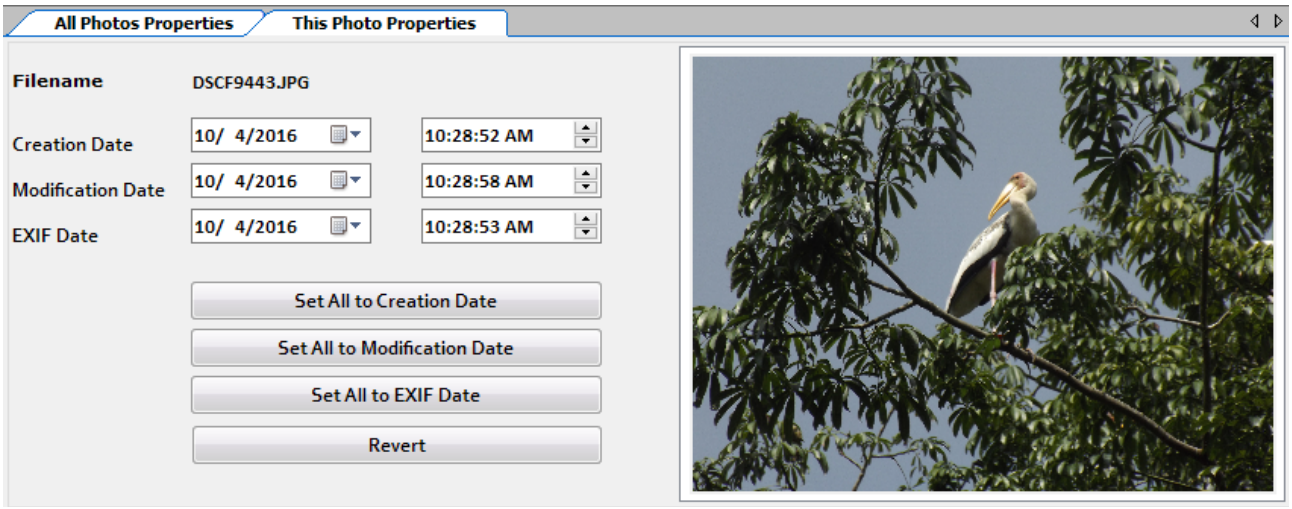
This Photo Properties



When you click on a file on the file listing, it will bring up this tab which will show the file name and the various dates and times of the photo with a preview on the right hand side.

You can change the respective date and time and it will be reflected on the file listing for that photo.

This option is useful when you only want to make very specific changes to each photos on the list.

You can use the Set All to .. Date buttons to synchronise the rest of the dates to that date. Revert will change back the dates to the original.

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Basic Steps

Step 1 - Loading the List

There are three ways to add files to the list, by using the Load Files, Load Folders or by just dragging and dropping the file list into the file listing.

Step 2 - Make the Necessary Date Changes

To individually change each photo dates, click on the file name and make the changes with the “This Photo Properties” tab..

To do batch changes, use the “All Photos Properties” tab. You have the option of using the Fixed Date or Variable Date change option. Remember to click the Update All List to enable the changes in the file listing.

Or if you just want to sync all the dates, use either one of the buttons below.

Step 3 - Review the Dates

Check to see if the dates shows in the file listing are as you require them. If not, repeat step 2.

Step 4 - Change Now

Once you are satisfied with the dates, click the Change Now and let the magic happen.

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