

Using Directory Opus 12 to add metadata to images in the Image Viewer

Introduction

For years I have been looking for an easy way to add IPTC metadata to my images without using expensive programs like Fotostation or inadequate programs like Adobe Bridge. I always hoped it might be possible to do something with DOpus, for, after all, I can already FTP images to clients from direct in the program.

Then along comes the beta of DOpus 12 with its ability to create your own bespoke user forms. All I needed to do was learn how to program in VBA and my prayers have been answered. After many hours of blood, sweat and not a few tears – and some great advice and help from Leo and the DOpus guys – along with the redoubtable Tbone- I came up with this:

IPTC METADATA FOR spectrum.jpg [X]

METADATA FOR

REPLACE FILENAME TO RENAME FILE

OWNERSHIP

Copyright: Photographer:

NB: rec sets copyright and photographer to Rodger Clark

IPTC PICTURE INFORMATION

Subject:

Title: Orientation:

Caption:

Keywords:

EXIF DATA

Camera: Focal length: f-stop:

Flash: ISO Setting:

PRINT SIZE

MAX SIZE cms by cms at 240 dpi

IMAGE CORRECTIONS

☐ Resolution

☐ Colour + resolution

☐ Colour + res + mask

☐ Sent to Flickr

I have attached this VB form to the Image Viewer toolbar. When you run the button the form appears on screen with the metadata fields filled in.

As a photographer it has all the elements I need to see and edit the important metadata to my pictures. It also lets me see the practical EXIF information from the file and gives me a method of editing keywords easily.

There are bonuses, too. For instance, the script will work out whether an image is portrait or landscape format and plug the keyword field with the relevant value. That alone saves so much time. It will also work out the maximum size a picture can be printed at a given resolution, a vital piece of information when you are supplying pictures for high-end reproduction. (I have set the resolution in my script to the resolution of my Canon Photo Printer, but changing that is very easy in the script)

In addition, a simple piece of code ensures that if I type my initials in the copyright field the script will plug the copyright and photographer metadata fields with my name. (Should you want to play with the script, changing the initials to your own and your own copyright data is a breeze.

The script takes care of keyword duplication. i.e. if you add a keyword on the keyword you input is added not all the current keywords.

One of the other great things about DOpus 12 is the introduction of Status Icons. It is now so easy to keep track of where any image is in the workflow. The way I have set it up is that I have an icon for when I have adjusted the resolution of the picture; another for when I have colour-corrected the image; another if I have masked the image in some way and also a status icon to show if I have uploaded the image to Flickr. Of course you can make your status icons suit your own workflow. The section of the form called IMAGE CORRECTIONS deals with this aspect. For me this is very much a work in progress, but the script gives you a good starting point

The script is long – and probably very badly written, after all, I prefer to take photos than write VBA code.

It basically works in sections, which I have indicated in comments in the script.

First the script gathers all the info from the file and its metadata.

Next it fills the form with all that info.

At this point the user can decide what metadata he wants to change and make those changes. You can even rename the file by typing a new filename in the METADATA FOR box. The script will work out the file type and apply the appropriate extension.

When the user OKs the changes, the script applies those changes. Activating one of the radio buttons in the IMAGE CORRECTIONS section applies those status icons to the file. (I have the status icons showing in the Tooltips to let me instantly see where an image is in my workflow)

When I first developed the script it was fast but not fast enough and so I decided to speed it up by only plugging fields back into the file's metadata if the user had changed them.

Lastly there is a section which shows the EXIF information for the files. If no EXIF info is available you will be told.

The script will never replace the depth of information in the Opus metadata panel, but it has one huge advantage: The caption (imagedesc) field is multi line and you can easily see what you are typing without endless horizontal scrolling. When you are captioning an image with 15 people that is a real boon, I can tell you

Please adapt the script as you wish. I hope you find it as useful as I do.