(Approx. 508 words)

Photo Files - JPG Format

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We all take and enjoy photos. Our handy smartphones have great cameras, and we can take photos anytime and anyplace. However, the most popular file format for storing photos on Windows computers is ".jpg" or "jpeg." So what exactly is a "jpg" file, and why should we have to know anything about it?

If all the photos you work with and all the photos people send you are all file type .jpg, then you don’t have an issue. But other formats can be used to save and store photos.

For example: If you are unfamiliar with the free app for all Windows computers called "Paint," you should learn a little about it. You can use the Paint app to open photos and images of more file types than just .jpg. Then you can edit or change the image if you want. You can use the Paint app to draw an image yourself, or if you open an image in the Paint app, you can save the image as a .jpg or as another file type. So the Paint app can be used to convert an image to .jpg.

Why are there several file types for photos? Each different format or file type has its benefits and drawbacks. One main reason is memory size. The higher the photo's resolution, the more memory it takes up in your computer. The jpg file type is a popular compromise of high resolution and not too much memory.

Suppose you are cruising the internet and see a picture you want to download and keep on your computer. If you right-click your mouse on that image, you can select "Save image as…" and then click on the file type you want, probably jpg. You may not get many options, but .jpg will most likely be offered.

Knowing about the jpg file type when you use other apps is also good. For example, you may use an app called Adobe Photoshop which can provide many spectacular photo editing tools. (The Paint app is not really considered a photo editor, so you can't do much photo editing with it). But, like the Paint app, Adobe may allow you to save your photo to a different file type or to convert a photo from one type to another.

My bottom line is that I save all my photos on my Windows computer as jpg files. It is a good format for me, and I do not wish to use other formats. But if you want to learn more about jpg or other photo file formats, ask Google! You can ask Google what a particular format (ANY format or file type, not just for photos) is used for and what apps can use that format. A little knowledge about file formats can help when people send you files your computer can't open. I hope this enables you to enjoy all the photos you want to see!

