

Folder structure after import #455

NEW ISSUE

closed corgan222 opened this issue on Aug 10, 2020 · 24 comments

corgan222 commented on Aug 10, 2020

Hello

im also coming from PhotoStation on a Synology and have changed to Unraid running photoprism in docker.

I really like the photoprism look and have tried to import some Folders.

But after a folder import (given the originals folder) photoprism dont show me the Folder Structure as it is under "albums -> folder".

All subfolders are shown on the first layer.

On Filesystem:

- Dir
 - subdir1
 - subdir2

in photoprism

- Dir
 - subdir1
 - subdir2

I have found the original structure under "Library - Original" but without any Thumbnails on the Folder.

So the question is, ether how to show the tree correct under Albums, or display the Folder Thumbs under Library?

5

Assignees

- lastzero

Labels

- technical-support

Projects

- None yet

Milestone

- No milestone

Development

- No branches or pull requests

10 participants

- lastzero
- corgan222
- bernsel
- hess8
- graciousgrey
- allexislefbvre
- akoszalze
- rondadon
- lmszonos
- alexis

lastzero commented on Aug 12, 2020 Member

We dont support nested structures (except in Library > Originals) for a number of reasons. First, there are many tools (like Windows Explorer or Finder) that already browse folders in such a way.

Second, the same album could exist multiple times so that you always need to provide the full path to know which one you really mean. Selecting albums from a tree is also not very user friendly on mobile devices. Instead you can set a category for each album. In general, it's difficult to browse deeply nested trees.

Personal photo albums typically can be sorted by time. It's different in enterprise content management, where you might need trees for different products or teams, so that responsibilities are very clear.

Previews should be visible if you browse known file types in Library > Originals:

lastzero self-assigned this on Aug 12, 2020

lastzero added the technical-support label on Aug 12, 2020

graciousgrey closed this as completed on Aug 13, 2020

corgan222 commented on Aug 18, 2020 Author

Thats really really sad to hear. I respect and understand your reasons, but then i cant use it.

Professional Photographer already must have a nested structure with thousand of folders and millions of pictures. It would take days to set a category for each album. /.

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lastzero commented on Aug 18, 2020 Member

We might do a special release for professional users and enterprise customers later. You can store photos in any folder structure, but we dont think fixed hierarchical trees should be at the heart of our application. Most users probably dont have their files properly sorted yet and want to explore them in multiple dimensions.

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corgan222 commented on Aug 19, 2020 Author

This would be awesome. I understand your point, that the casual user dont have some kind of sorted structure.

I dont know your code, but why not give the user the choice to choose how the Albums are displayed. It could maybe a manual switch or a hard to find settings option. If im loosing the possibility to have a album in different categories, i would go with it.

Dont get me wrong. Im not crying for code changes only for my needs. Im just looking for a solution that can replace the old PhotoStation App on my Synology NAS, which has so many things i dont like.

Maybe i need a complete different solution for my needs. :)

lastzero commented on Aug 19, 2020 Member

Would the file browser in Library > Originals be enough if we show a folder preview instead of just folder icons?

If you only use trees, is there not a single photo that should be part of two different albums? For example, I might have many photos that are both in Black & White and in Cats at the same time.

The UX problem with trees is also that it creates namespaces, so the album Berlin might exist 20 times. All our album selectors, eg when uploading, would instantly become useless and must be replaced with a complex tree browser that shows the context. Also difficult to use on a mobile phone.

PS: Ive developed a sharable tree solution with ACLs before for Deutsche Telekom and neither found it very user friendly, fast or easy to explain. I thought we do it different this time. Note that when you share a folder / album (A), also all its sub folders are shared. So you need to develop permission inheritance. Now, there could be another album (B) in between with different permissions (like private). That means you need to merge both to get the final permissions for the album (C) that the user is actually viewing, like Root > A > B > C. Would you fully understand this? Could you explain this to the average user? On top you can also add multi-user support using a tree and permission inheritance, see CERN: [ACL, ACE ... Permissions... How to handle File Security](#) to get an idea of the mess you might get yourself into :)

2

lmszonos commented on Aug 30, 2020 Member

@corgan222 not sure if you tested originals now, but you should see all previews in the current version (at least i see them)

lastzero commented on Aug 31, 2020 Member

Added trees to our FAQ: <https://docs.photoprism.org/user-guide/faq/>

bernsel commented on Apr 6, 2021 Contributor

I do think that many hobby users organize their images in a tree structure these days. When users take thousands of images on the smartphone, and the smartphone's memory gets full, they save them down to their computer hard drive. All the people I know then at least organize their images in a unique folder by year ("2017", "2018", "2019" etcetera), but most also organize further by month as subfolders, such as "2019-01", "2019-02" etcetera. The reason is that if you keep tens of thousands of images in one folder (say one full year), it gets very slow to scroll. So people do want to keep folders and images manageable by size. Many also go even further, and for example create a folder named "2019-02 Wedding", as a sub-folder to the "2019" folder.

I second the opinion that navigating by folder structure would be very valuable, just like you can in say digikam.

alexis commented on Apr 6, 2021 Contributor

@bernsel If you have directories, use [index](#) and you'll be able to browse by folders: <https://demo.photoprism.org/library/files>

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bernsel commented on Apr 7, 2021 Contributor

It is great that it's possible to can navigate the images by folder from the Library -> Originals (the index), but from that starting point, it is not possible to view the images one by one and flick through them, or to initiate a slideshow.

As an example: let's say i want to navigate into folder "2019" -> "2019-02 Wedding" and then start viewing these images. I click on one image, but instead of getting a full image view, I get image details. If i click on the image again from the details view, I do get a full view of the image, but I cannot click left and right to see the next or previous image.

lastzero commented on Apr 13, 2021 Member

True, because these are files and not photos. There may be duplicates, sidebar files, the same photo in different formats,... It's probably best to use a regular file manager to simply view all files (incl duplicates, other file formats, etc) by folder.

This view shows photos by (primary) folder: <https://demo.photoprism.org/folders>

aCuria commented on May 7, 2021 Member

I am a casual home user, and I have spent a fair amount of time trying to get photoprism to work. So far while the performance has been good...

The usability of the interface is terrible due to being unable to use the folder structure to do simple tasks.

I have 20 years of photos with the following folder structure below.

The "selected" folder is necessary because your mom / wife / so is gonna tell you they dont like how they look in this or that photo, so a copy whatever is deemed kosher is checked into a "Selected" Folder, and the "Selected" photos are then edited if deemed necessary, which results in an "edited" folder

Now, when its time to share / show off the photos, the "Folder" view is useless because theres a billion "100MSDCF" folders and "selected" folders, and even if you find the corrected "selected" folder, I wont know if theres a "edited" folder within, which I would rather show!

So clearly the solution should be to navigate to Library / Originals / yyyy-mm-dd Birthday / Selected / Edited, but when you get there i can neither

- Share said folder
- Start a slideshow
- Play a video
- Do anything at all really

yyyy-mm-dd Birthday
 >100MSDCF // The Originals
 >- Selected
 >- Edited (sometimes have this)
 >- Raw (rare to have this)
 yyyy-mm-dd Birthday
 >102MSDCF // The Originals
 >- Selected
 >101MSDCF Zoo
 >- Selected
 yyyy-mm-dd Holiday
 >104MSDCF // The Originals
 >- Selected
 yyyy-mm-dd Christmas
 >125MSDCF // The Originals
 >- Selected

lastzero commented on May 7, 2021 Member

It's a somewhat special work flow. You're right in that we didn't have this in mind when developing the UI. It's important to understand that PhotoPrism operates on photos / videos, eg when sharing. Multiple files and multiple folders may belong to a single photo, for example duplicates, edited versions and sidebar files. Sharing files in folders breaks this logic. You can however easily create albums from folders in the file browser. This of course doesn't fit with your work flow where you want to stay in the file browser and don't leave it.

rondadon commented on Oct 23, 2021 Contributor

Hi there!

I also am structuring Photos into different Folders/Subfolders. But also the pictures in the already available folder structure into an Album. But all the pictures in the structured in Folders and subfolders by theme/date/camera are put all on the same first layer without any structure.

Would be really nice if we could create custom structures in Albums.

Currently you can sort the pictures in an album but there are no visual lines/indicators or anything separating/clustering the dates/days.

I don't know if custom Album Structures are possible but I think such lines which are separating the pictures by dates/days would be a nice feature for a little structure in an album.

Thank you and have a nice day! :)

lastzero commented on Oct 23, 2021 Member

You mean grouping the pictures by day? What if every photo was taken on a different day? Just show one photo per row or page?

hess8 commented on Oct 27, 2021 Member

Yeah, I just tried photoprism, and decided I couldn't use it because there's no way to organize with a tree structure. It would be great to be able to organize by all the current cool photoprism ways AND by nested structures.

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graciousgrey commented on Oct 28, 2021 Member

@hess8 the originals section already shows you your nested originals folder. We have a ticket for better albums as well #401.

pakosalz commented on Nov 5, 2021 Member

I have read the discussion and I would not agree that common user doesn't use directories tree to organize their photos. Even my 70 years old father use this way of photos and documents organization. I had similar discussion with my friends and nobody wants to see global dashboard where hundreds of albums with family photos, travel photos, company or any other albums of photos are mixed all together. It maybe works for dashboard with dozen of albums, but it doesn't work for people who has a plenty of scanned photos from human beings in their life. Everybody organize their photos in catalogued way. Different events are not databases with queries in their minds... Despite of that for showing dozens of albums photoprism is excellent, but not for more... For more I would use Piwigo instead, which has such way of organization and presentation...

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lastzero commented on Nov 5, 2021 Member

We also use folders to store our files. Nobody is questioning that.

However, if you only or mainly care about folders and files, there are better tools to browse your photos - like a simple file manager. Our main focus is search and browsing your photos in multiple dimensions, in addition to just browsing your existing folder structure (see #1536).

Also keep in mind:

- Many apps - like the photos app on my mobile phone which millions of people use - dont support nested albums / folders
- Files that actually belong together (derived from the same original) are often stored in different folders in different reasons or because duplicates were needed to add a photo to two albums

See <https://docs.photoprism.org/user-guide/faq/>:

Except in Library > Originals and for object classification in Labels, PhotoPrism does not support hierarchically organized content for a number of reasons:

First, there are many tools (including Windows Explorer and Mac OS Finder) that already browse folders in such a way.

A common UX challenge is dealing with namespaces. For example, the album "Berlin" may exist 5 times in different parts of a tree. To avoid ambiguities, simple input fields is replaced with a tree browser that shows the complete context. This is especially difficult on mobile screens.

Personal albums can typically be browsed by time, with optional filters for more specific results. This is different in Enterprise asset management, where trees are required to manage responsibilities & permissions. We might do a special release for professional users later.

While you have complete freedom with organizing your original files and folders, we don't think trees should be an integral part of our user interface. Most users won't be able to sort their memories in a strictly hierarchical way and prefer to explore them in multiple dimensions instead.

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alexis commented on Nov 5, 2021 Contributor

@pakosalz As an example of what @lastzero mentioned, you can see the folder view on the demo: <https://demo.photoprism.org/library/files>

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pakosalz commented on Nov 5, 2021 Member

Sure, but...

I installed photoprism and there is tab on the left named "Folders" and it will be fine for me, but it doesn't represent structure of my library - it flatten it. However, entering any of it photoprism allows viewing photos with simple navigation by hitting arrow key. So "Folders" doesn't represents structure in nested way, but allows viewig photos in fine and simple way.

Another mentioned way - "Library" represents structure but when I start viewing photos it started to shows photo as an icon with lot of exif information beside. Arrow key also doesn't allow to navigate between photos. So "Library" represents structure, but doesn't allow viewing photos in fine and simple way.

Because of that any of above isn't useful for me, and probably for many others who want to prepare its own nested collection and viewing it at any time, anywhere in simple way. Examples that photos app in mobile phones doesn't support nested albums are not good, because for example if you want not to loose your photos after holidays or party (by losing the phone at some time) at least for me it is common that when you get back to home you at least make a copy of it to your computer or home nas. Or at least do it from time to time. People always tries to organize their photos, or at least want to do that. With at least by catalogue structure as it is very common for people who use computers these days. And as the structure of the filesystem of our computer is not flat nor one level of nesting, we as humans are used to it.

I would use OS Finder or Windows Explorer if only they allow to present their structure via the web. But unfortunately they doesn't :)

I have found dockerized app named "File Manager" what allows of viewing any data (with preview of photos), but it doesn't support all formats nor allow to manipulate on it.

Nevertheless it is not the right way of discussion. For me the reason of using such a tools like photoprism or piwigo are to have photos in one place, organized and allowing to view it anywhere at anytime, sharing to family or friends and not having all my data in my mobile phone. I know that mobile phones have more and more storage spaces, but it costs. Also apple or google always me to have such photo and video libraries in the cloud, but it is also not very cost effective way of storing private photos and videos apart from the fact that they usually store photos as one big sack.

Don't get me wrong. You do a great job, but if you want to have more users, nested albums with simple way of viewing photos and sharing albums with nested permission is imho the must. If also I would be able to set up landing page it would be perfect for me. :) So, keep going with your work - you do it right :). I will have my eye on photoprism, because it is very interesting project with near perfect for me UI design of web app, but not very useful because of that little, described flaws... Till now I used synology PhotoStation, but when synology migrated it to Photos it starts to be useless. If you will observe discussion of at least Synology users on forums, you will discover that plenty of them are looking for alternative. Why wouldn't make PhotoDiscover as the best alternative? There are many of Synology users waiting :) Hope that suddenly, after some time when Watchtower make some upgrade I will be pleasantly surprised :)

lastzero commented on Nov 5, 2021 Member

That's why we have #1536 which I linked above.

graciousgrey commented on Nov 6, 2021 Member

So, keep going with your work - you do it right :)

Thank you :)

We totally understand that displaying the original nested folder structure is a need for many users that's why we have #1536

User Management and permissions are coming as well and a default landing page is also planned. #577

Feel free to follow the progress of those issues.

3

hess8 commented on Apr 13, 2022 via email Member

I ended up installing a Lichee photo server which has nested folders.

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