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## Google photos backup and sync

Google has done its part to ensure that everyone has a significant data backup, and it recently released a new tool for Windows and Mac users to take this redundancy to the next level. Appropriately named Backup and Sync, it's a quick and efficient tool to store your important files in the cloud. Backup and Sync replaces Google Drive and Google Photos Uploader CONNEXES: How to search Google Drive directly from the Chrome address bar Before entering it, let's first talk a little bit about what backup and sync is actually. If you're a big Google user, you're probably already aware of Google's other sync tools: Google Drive and Google Photos Uploader. These have both been integrated into Backup and Sync, so you can control all your files, videos, images, and more from a single app. This is where you'll control your drive folders synced to and from your PC or Mac, and specify which image folders should be backed up to your photo library. Google Drive is really the heart of the backup and sync tool, so if you've never used the Drive app, then a little explanation can be in order. Essentially, this new tool will allow you to sync your Google Drive cloud storage with your computer, whether it's the entire drive or just specific files and folders. These are then treated as local files on the computer, so that your important stuff is always up to date on every computer you own (and in the cloud). The only exception here are Google Docs (Leaves, Docs, Slides) — these are still online only because Backup and Sync won't download them for offline access. It will, however, put icons in the Google Drive folder so you can double-click them as if they were normal documents (you'll just need an internet connection to view and edit them.) Backup and Sync also add an additional tool to the equation: the ability to back up specific folders from your PC or Mac to your Google Drive. For example, I use Google Drive to store almost everything, so it's accessible from all my other devices. But the folder screenshots on my Windows machine is not in my Drive folder, it's in the Photos folder of my PC. With Backup and Sync, I can then access the folder on any other device, anytime. Sounds great? It's true. Here's how to set it up and sync everything. Step One: Download and install the backup and sync naturally, the first thing you'll need to do is actually download the backup tool and Make sure you enter the appropriate download for your device (Mac or PC). If you've already installed Google Drive, don't worry: this tool will automatically replace it, no uninstall is required. It should download it pretty quickly, and you'll just need to launch the installer when it's finished. If you're using Google Chrome (as you should be), just click the download button at the bottom of the page. Seconds later, Backup and Sync will be installed. When it was finished, mine told me to restart my computer for reasons unknown to me, I did not, and everything remains Ok. Take this, Google. If you've already had the Google Drive app installed, Backup and Sync must automatically log in to your Google account. Otherwise, you'll have to log in. After that, a quick splash screen will let you know what the app is all about: backing up your stuff. Click Got it to switch to the app. Step Two: Choose which folders will be synced from Google Drive The backup and sync tool is divided into two main sections: Google Drive: This fulfills the same function as the original Google Drive app. You choose folders to sync from your Google Drive cloud storage, and they'll appear in a Google Drive folder on your PC. Everything you put in this folder will also be synced with Google Drive. My computer: This part is new, and allows you to sync the files between your computer and Drive without putting them in the dedicated Google Drive folder. Just choose the folders on your computer that you want to sync, and they will sync with your cloud storage (although they appear in a separate section of the Google Drive interface, rather than with all your other Drive files.) Let's start with the Google Drive section first, it is the second in the list, but it is much simpler and will be familiar to anyone who has used Google Drive in the past. You have some specific options in this menu. You can: sync my drive with this computer: use this option to turn on/off the sync of your Google Drive with your computer. Sync everything in my drive: literally syncs all of your Google Drive's content with your computer. Sync only these folders: allows you to specify which folders drive to sync to your computer. These are really simple, just choose what you want to synchronize and do with it. Step Three: Choose more folders on your PC to sync then, let's look at the My Computer section, where you can select other folders on your PC to sync. There are a few options already available here: Desktop, Documents and Photos. You can simply check the box next to the option to fully retrieve everything from that location to your Google Drive. Simple. But if you want to get a little more granular and only go back on a certain folder, you can do so by clicking on the Choose Folder option. Just browse the folder you want to retrieve and click Select File. That's all there is to it. NOTE: The files you sync from your Drive folder are not displayed in Drive alongside all your other files. To access these go to Google Drive on the web and click My Computers in the left menu. This option is also available in Drive mobile apps. If you want a file or folder to appear under My Drive, you'll need to sync it the old-time: by putting it inside the Google Drive folder on your PC. Step 4: Change your related photo download settings: 18 things you may not have known google photos can do below the folder options in the My Computer section, you can also specify how you want to retrieve images (if you choose to retrieve images from your your own of course): Original quality, which will take up space in your drive, or high quality, which will not take up space in your drive. It uses intelligent compression algorithms to reduce image size without reducing quality, as it does in the Google Photos app on Android and iOS devices. You can also specify how you want to control deletion options: delete items everywhere, don't delete items anywhere, or ask me before deleting items anywhere. The last option is defined as the default, which really makes the most sense anyway. Don't hesitate to change this to suit your specific needs. Finally, you can check the box in the Google Photos section to automatically scan your computer for new photos and upload them to Google Photos. There is also a small option at the bottom labeled USB devices and SD cards, which you can use to automatically download files from your digital camera or USB sticks if you wish. Just plug in the reader or card and specify what you want to do with it. A few extra notes on backup and syncing is really all there is to backup and syncing, but there are a couple of other things to mention: You can rename your computer by clicking on the text My computer (or similar) at the top of the page My computer and giving it a specific name. You can easily upgrade your Drive storage or log out of your account from the Settings tab. The system's start rules, file sync icon, and right-click settings can also be changed on the Settings tab. Backup and Sync's network activity may be restricted in the Network Settings section of the Settings tab. Proxies may be specific, and download/download rates capped if necessary. The backup and sync tool will live in your computer's system tray while it's running. To access its settings, just click on its icon in the tray, click on the three-point menu in the top right corner, and choose Preferences. That's about it, really. It's a simple tool. Screenshot: David Murphy For months, we've all been stuck at home taking pictures of our cats, dinners and other remarkable items, and we've apparently used a lot of bandwidth when saving them all up to Google Photos. As a result, Google announced today that it limits what Google Photos will automatically return to your Android device. Don't worry, though; if you're smart, you can reenab the option automatic for all photo folders on your device. It's a small hoop that you have to jump through if you want these to sync everything with Google Photos, and I assume Google relies on most people to ignore it. As Kate Lynn, Google's head of product support, wrote in a message on Google forums today: Because of COVID-19, people are sharing more photos and videos. To save Internet resources, backup and sync have been disabled for device folders created by messaging apps like WhatsApp, Messages and Kik. Starting today, you'll notice a message in the Photos app about this change. You can change this setting at any time. Learning Mishaal Rahman's developers did a little more digging and told android police that, as a result of the change, the photo folders of the following apps will not be synchronized with Google Photos by default: FacebookHelloInstagramLINEMessagesMessengerSnapchatTwitterViberWhatsAppTo manually force these folders to sync as they used to shoot, Google Photos and tap the library in the bottom corner. Under Photos on the Camera, tap See All. G/O Media can get a commissionScreenshot: David MurphyLook for all folders that have the icon of a cloud with a line through it in the bottom right corner, they are the ones that are not synced up to Google Photos. Tap them, then tap the cursor to activate Back up and sync. Screenshot: David MurphyYou'll have to repeat this process if, or when, you install new apps that empty more photo folders on your device, but I'm sure Google will revisit its change at some point in the future. Regarding the iOS version of the Google Photos app, which I haven't addressed, I don't believe there are any changes you need to make at this point. Your photo library should always be saved, no matter where the photos come from. I tested this by taking a picture on Facebook and then saving it on my phone. (I haven't seen an option to sync specific folders in the iOS version of the app, so I assume the Google change is Android only for now.) now.)

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