Resizing Photo Images for E-mail and the Web

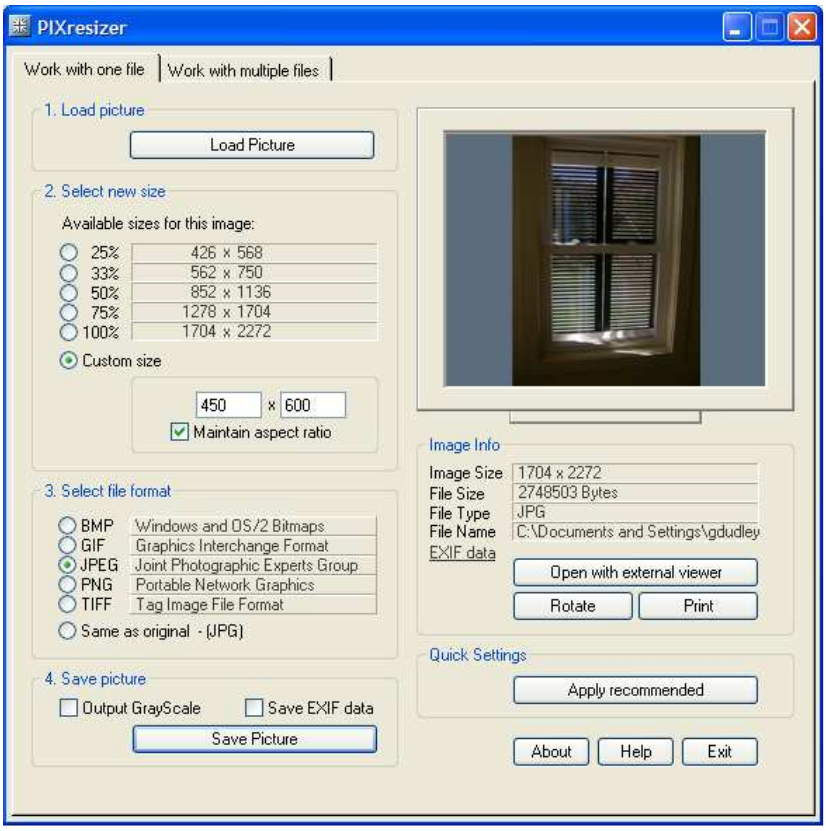
Depending on your camera or scanner, you can create photo images that are quite large. Sending these images in an e-mail can slow upload and download times and can even crash a person's e-mail service if the total size of the images you send exceed the limit of their mailbox.

I see many photos posted to Forsale that are simply much larger than they need to be. Even as I approve them I realize I'm adding to the load on the College's bandwidth. Save our bandwidth and save load times by resizing your images before sending them via e-mail. It also saves storage space for the recipients.

If you don't already have some image software that allows you to resize photos I'll point you to one that's free and simple to use. In fact, if all you want to do is resize, you'll probably find this is the easiest approach. I'll provide the link to download "PIXsizer" at the end of this tech tip.

PIXresizer is easy to use and doesn't overwhelm you with bells and whistles you don't really need. The program allows you to resize one image or a whole folder full. It saves the resized images separately so you don't lose the integrity of your original photos (when resizing a single image it is renamed and saved to the current folder, when resizing all pictures in a folder you must save them to a different folder). You can choose among some default sizes or create a custom size. I simply use the default of 600 pixels to get a nicely sized photo for e-mailing.

Below, you see the program's home screen.



The example I used is a picture of one of my windows with shutters closed. Because there's very little white space (which doesn't require as much memory to reproduce) the original image is a whopping 2,685 KB or 2.865 MB in size. That was taken with only a 4-megapixel camera. Newer cameras are running 7 to 8 megapixels (great for printing out enlargements or posters but definitely overkill when sending images over the Internet).

I loaded the image by simply clicked on the "Load Picture" button then browsed to the picture's location on my hard drive. I accepted the default values and clicked on the "Save Picture" button. A "Save As" window opened where I could rename it and choose a save location. Again, I accepted the defaults and clicked "Save".

That's all there was to it. The result was a resized image that was 65.4 KB or .0654 MB in size, which reduced the original image size by a factor of 40. Not all images will reduce the same but you can generally get them below 100 KB and that's quite manageable for e-mailing.

As you compare the two photos attached to the tech tip e-mail, I think you'll agree that the smaller image manages to preserve the essence of the photo but at a much smaller file size. So resize those photos before sending them to family, friends or the Forsale list. Your friends will thank you and our network administrators will thank you.

Here's the link for PIXresizer: http://bluefive.pair.com/pixresizer.htm . Scroll down to the free download link and download the compressed file. Double-click the new folder on your desktop, PIXresizer.zip, to uncompress it (if you have downloaded files go somewhere other than your desktop, go to that location). You now have a still newer folder called PIXresizer. Open this folder and the one inside, then double-click the setup.exe file to install PIXresizer.

That's it. Now start resizing those photos and stop flooding the Internet with bloated image files. Consider it a form of conservation.