

Photo2Read Tasks

Starting Photo2Read

Photo2Read can be started from the Windows start menu. Opening documents can then be done via the File menu.

It can also be started by dragging a file or a folder to a shortcut icon of Photo2Read placed on the desktop. In this case the menu bar is hidden. To make it visible, press the “**esc**” escape key (Pressing it again hides the menu bar).

If a folder is selected all the images it contains will be viewed in sequence. The images in a folder are seen before those in a sub-folder. The viewing sequence starts with the first image. Selecting a file has the same effect as selecting its enclosing folder, but the viewing sequence starts with the file selected

The Help menu has, in the “Preferences” tab, a checkbox “Scan sub folders”. Uncheck it to prevent Photo2Read from including images from sub folders.

Terminating Photo2Read

To end using Photo2Read the user can use the Menu “File/Quit” or press the “Quit” key (by default the “**Q**” key). Depending on options sets in Help Preferences the user may be asked whether or not to save to disk the generated icons and the bookmarks. If the bookmarks are saved to disk the page indices that may have been created are also saved.

The Viewing modes

Zoom Fit : When photographing it is often preferable to set the photo size to several meg pixels so that the small details are not lost when zooming. As a result photos are usually much larger than the computer screen size. Photo2Read proposes four viewing modes. Pressing the “Zoom Fit” key (by default the keyboard “**Z**” key), toggles between resizing the images to the screen size and viewing the image in its true size. In the latter case, the screen is used as a track pad. Mouse cursor displacements over the computer screen allow all of the image to be seen. The mouse speed can be adjusted to the taste of individual user from the Windows Control Panel. A panning indicator is displayed at the bottom right of the screen (note that is the image that moves and not the screen).

BookReading : in the bookReading mode obtained by pressing the “**B**” key the images are adjusted to the size of the screen so that a column of text can be comfortably read. Pressing one the number keys, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 specifies that the images of the document you read have 1, 2, 2, 3, 5, columns. Moving the image is

as in ZoomFit mode; however, when reading a long column, the user may wish to constrain the image movements to the vertical by setting the “Caps Lock” key on.

Fit1D : The user may wish to make maximal use of the screen size to view images. Fit1D mode adjusts the image size so that the whole image can be seen by either vertical or horizontal mouse displacements. The “Fit1D” key (by default the “**A**” key) toggles between the fit1D mode and whatever display mode was before.

The Mouse Wheel : The mouse wheel can be used to resize the image to the user convenience in all modes except the bookReading mode where it is made ineffective.

Freezing the image : By pressing the “Freeze image” key (by default the “**F**” key) the user can freeze or unfreeze the current image view. As a result the image does not move in response to mouse moves. This can be useful to liberate the cursor to move over any part of the image currently seen, as when explaining something to someone.

Image capture : Pressing the “Capture screen region” key (by default the “**R**” key) the image currently on view freezes and by clicking the mouse the user can define a portion of the current image view that is captured to the Windows Clipboard. At the same time the Photo2Read main window is reduced to a small size and dragged anywhere on the screen. Then the user can open any software (MS Word, PowerPoint, MS Paint, any graphic editing software) to receive the image from the clipboard. The captured image corresponds to actual size of the corresponding image region. Note the captured quality still need to be improved so is not recommended for art works. It is good enough for capturing technical text or drawings.

Image transitions:

To move to the next image, just click the mouse or press the “Right Arrow” key.

To move to the previous image, shift click the mouse or press the “Left Arrow” key.

Moving beyond the last image takes you to the first image and moving before the first image takes you to the last image. These transitions are accompanied by a beep sound that can be eliminated by unchecking a box in the Help Preferences.

A slide show of images (in whatever viewing mode you selected) can be obtained by pressing the “Slideshow” key (by default the “**S**” key). When the shift key is down, the slideshow goes backwards. The slideshow is stopped by pressing the

Slideshow key again. The default duration an image is displayed is set by default in the Help Preferences tab. While viewing a slideshow, it can be accelerated (decelerated) by pressing the Down (Up) arrow key. The new display duration (in thousands of a second) is displayed briefly on the bottom left of the screen. When in slideshow mode a red dot is displayed at the bottom left of the screen.

Display Indicators

Display Indicators provide feedback to the user actions. The cursor can be made invisible or visible by pressing the “Cursor visibility” key (by default the “**C**” key).

The Panning indicator can be hidden or made visible par pressing the “Panning indicator” key (by default the “**P**” key). It is always hidden when the image actual size is smaller than the screen.

The Display status indicator indicates the current image viewing mode. It is usually displayed as a small letter at the bottom left of the screen. It can be hidden or shown by pressing the “**D**” display status key.

Page icons are small images that are can be displayed at the bottom of the screen. When a folder is opened for the first time, icons of the images found are created (in a different process so that the user can start viewing the images before all the icons are created). When Photo2Read is terminated, users are asked if they want to save the icons to disk. If yes, the icons are saved in a new folder “A Photo2Read Data” placed in the folder the user opened. The next time the folder is opened with Photo2Read, the icons are retrieved nearly immediately. Also retrieved are any page indexing the user has done.

Clicking on a page icon brings you to the corresponding page, except for the center icon surrounded by a red rectangle, that when clicked open a panel of information about the current image on view. Note a button on the left of this panel that can be used to index the page. On the left of the panel notice the access path to the current image and below some facilities to define a save path and a button to a copy of the current image to that destination. To close the panel click anywhere.

User Modes

From the preceding, you can see that in Photo2Read there are quite a number of user preferences to manage. To simplify this management task Photo2Read provide three default preference mode that can be viewed and edited in the Help Preferences tab. The “New user” preferences display by default all the indicators described above, fit the images to the screen size. By default the “Expert user”

preferences do not display any indicator and the images are displayed at their actual sizes. The “Current user” preferences is an additional type of preferences to display an intermediate set of indicators, such as those used when “BookReading”.

The user can alternate between those User modes by successively pressing the “User modes” key (by default the “X” key).

Bookmarking images

By pressing the “Mark page” key, (by default the “K” key) the current image location is memorized. By pressing the “Go marked page” key, (by default the “O” key) the user is brought back to that page.

For longer term bookmarking, the current page can be bookmarked as an image icon by pressing the “Bookmark current image” key, by default the “V” key).

By pressing the “View bookmarks” key, (by default the “W” key), a window opens showing the bookmark icons. Double clicking on one of these icons brings you to the corresponding image. The icons in that window can be rearranged by dragging them for a sufficient distance (Currently the rearrangement is not saved between sessions). The icon menu in that window makes it possible to delete unwanted bookmarks. Right Clicking on a bookmark deletes it. An option in the Help Preferences tab activates the possibility to save the bookmarks when quitting Photo2Read.

When the cursor is over a bookmark icon, its corresponding file path is displayed at the top of the window. To change that to a name or description of your choice, click on the icon to select it and then click on the button “Rename Selected Icon:” to enter the new text in a text field. Now hovering the cursor over that icon, displays the text you entered.

Indexing documents

In the context of Photo2Read, indexing means assigning a page number to an image. When the document has page numbers, it would be nice to be able to use the page contents and subject index of the document if it has any, to be able to jump directly to a particular page, from the content or index. In Photo2Read, indexing is done by successive approximations. Suppose your document has pages 1 to 300. To index these pages, go to the page 1 and index it with number 1; then go to page 300 and index it with 300. Now suppose you want to go to page 131. Press on the “Jump to” key (by default the “J” key) and you will be led

to a page obtained by interpolation. If the sequence of images contains all the pages from 1 to 300, then the page you will be led to will be exactly page 131.

If some pages are missing, only a few transitions to that page will be necessary. To improve future searches, it is not much work to index page 131. As you can see, this approach of indexing by successive approximations avoids the tedium of precisely indexing a document, ahead of actually using these indices.

Tree View

The TreeView facility displays in a separate window all the files of a view sequence, that preserves the folder hierarchy in which they may be. To access it press the “TreeView” key (by default the “T” key). To omit some files or folders from the view sequence, uncheck the corresponding check boxes. When the cursor is dragged over a file name, the corresponding icon is displayed. A default icon is displayed if the icon has not been generated yet. Notice on top, a progress bar indicating the progression in icons creation. Double clicking on a file name brings you to the corresponding image.

Use of Help

The Help window can be opened from the Help menu. It can also be opened (or closed) by pressing the Help key (by default the “H” key).

The “**Most Important!**” tab is just to remind users of keyboard keys that are an absolute must.

The “**Keyboard keys**” tab, gives a summary of all the keyboard key actions. You can change the default behavior of a keyboard key by dragging its letter over another letter. You are asked if you want to do the exchange. To render the changes effective, quit and restart the Photo2Read application.

To view details of a particular key actions, just move the cursor over the corresponding letter key.

The “**Preferences**” tab display modifiable user options. The radio buttons on top enables the user to select default settings when starting Photo2Read.

The all user preferences apply to all setting preferences above. The reset button reset all preferences to factory settings, including the key action preferences. The “Save Preferences” button appears when any preference setting has been changed.

The “**File Filters**” tab sets options how files are selected for viewing. By default the “**Apply Filters**” checkbox is unchecked, meaning that all the images with type extensions checked below will be included in the viewing. Check this box if you want to filter files by dates and/or by sizes.

The “**Tasks info**” tab shows the page you are currently viewing. This page can be printed as unformatted text.

The “**Introductory infos**” tab explains why you may want to use Photo2Read.

Saving files

You may want to save copies of some of the images you are viewing in another directory (Click on button “**New**” to create a directory). To do that, make the icons visible at the bottom of the screen. Click on the highlighted center icon. In the panel that opens, specify on the left the directory where to save the current image and then click on the button “**Save Image**”.