5 Best Ways To Avoid Losing Your Photographs In Our Digital World

Chane Cullens – Chane@CCullens.com
Presentation – ccullens.com/backup

© Chane Cullens

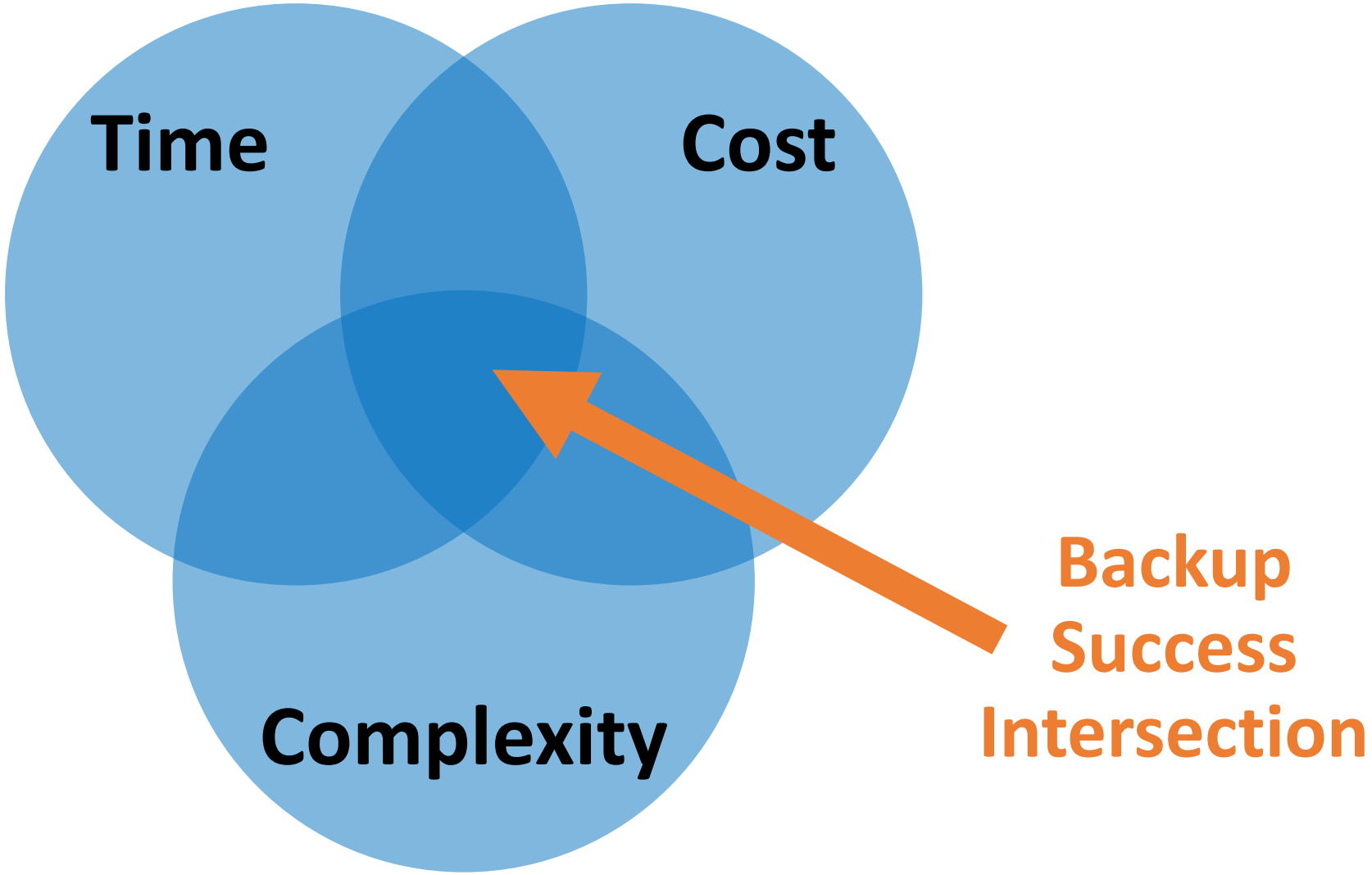
November 22, 2022
North Haven Camera Club

Agenda

1. Finding your photos
2. Sharing your photos
3. External portable hard drive
4. Internet cloud storage services
5. Multiple computers with multiple hard drives, plus cloud

Why don’t we backup enough?

Backing up photos is preserving memories



Preserving Memories Facts

Your digital memories can disappear in the blink of an eye - hardware failures, loss & disaster

Fact 1

- There are many “right ways”

Fact 2

- Backup is an “ongoing” activity, not a “one time” activity

Fact 3

- The longer you ignore backup, the worse the loss will be

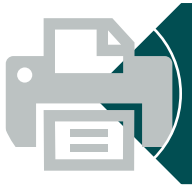
Agenda

1. **Finding your photos**
2. Sharing your photos
3. External portable hard drive
4. Internet cloud storage services
5. Multiple computers with multiple hard drives, plus cloud

Photos Exist In 5 Forms

Computer and digital media

- SD cards, USB flash drive, internal & external drives



Printed

- Prints, framed photos, holiday cards, books

Cloud

- Over the internet somewhere in the "cloud"

Optical

- CD, DVD, Blu-ray

Historical

- Prints, Negatives, Slides – Need converted to digital

Finding your photos

Consistency reduces the complexity of finding a photo
- location, organization style & labeling

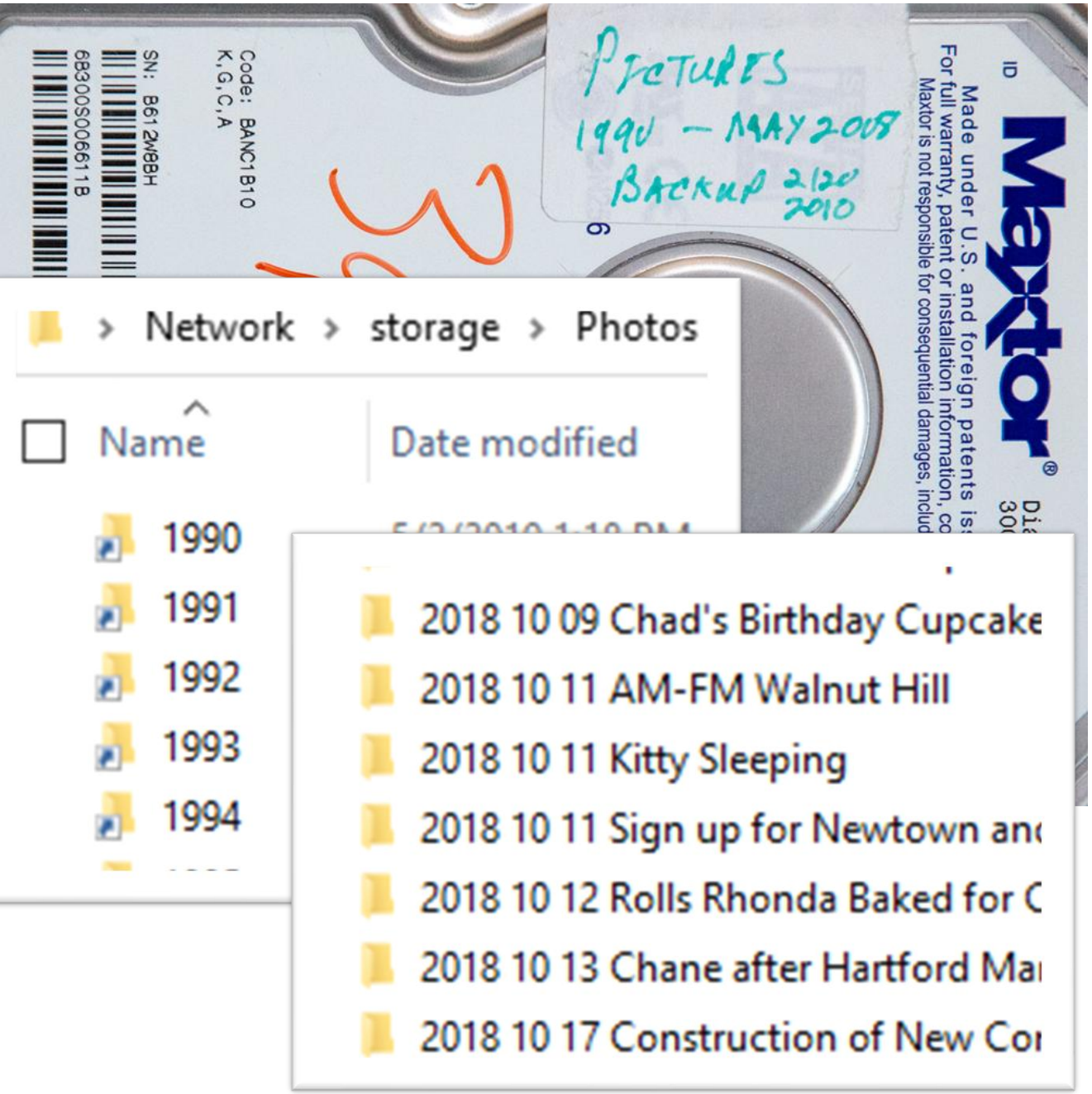
Consistent

Location

To know where to start looking

You must know where to look to find media to search

- Location, Location, Location …
- Knowing the location is more important that the actual folder
- Tell others the location
- More than 1 location is OK, more than 3 locations does not work



Consistent
Organizational Style
To find a specific area

Organization Style Hints

- Label media by occasion or date
- Name folders clear, yet verbose
- Printed info and lists
- Format as JPG, RAW, TIFF, DNG
- Use future usage plans to make choices (what is 80% of the usage)
- Automatic or manual

What is Metadata

Your camera automatically adds over 100 items on metadata

You should add metadata to help humans find photos, like

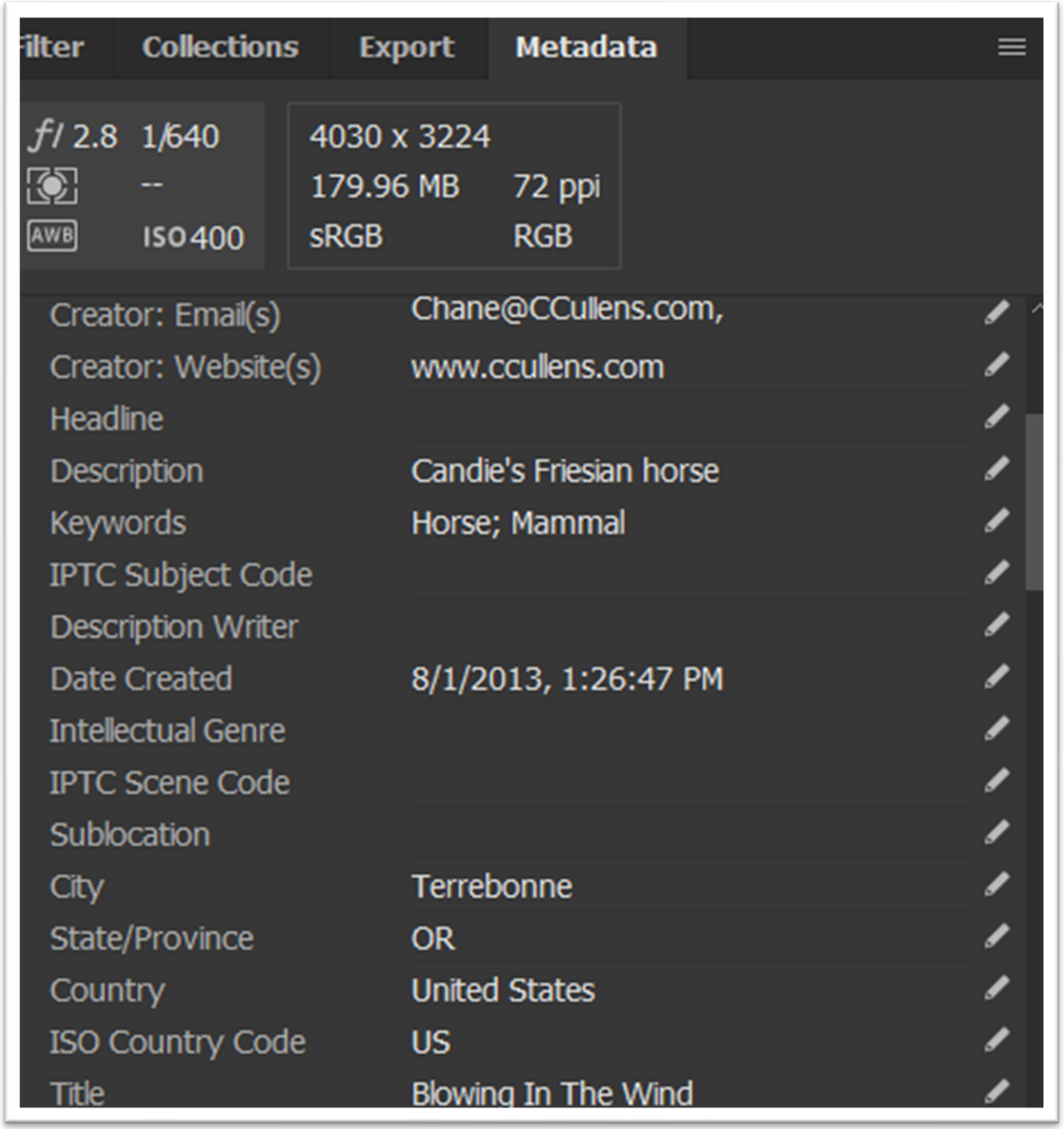
Description

City, State, Country

Keywords

Description	**Hoi An Old Town**
City	**Hoi An**
State	**South Central Coast**
Country	**Vietnam**
Keywords	**Bridge, Cityscape**
Credit	Chane & Rhonda Cullens
Creator Work Email	Chane@CCullens.com
Creator Work URL	www.ccullens.com
Aperture Value	1.8
Exposure Time	1/13
Date/Time Original	2019:05:11…
GPS Latitude	15 deg 52' 35.55" N
GPS Longitude	108 deg 19' 36.76" E

... plus 100 other items

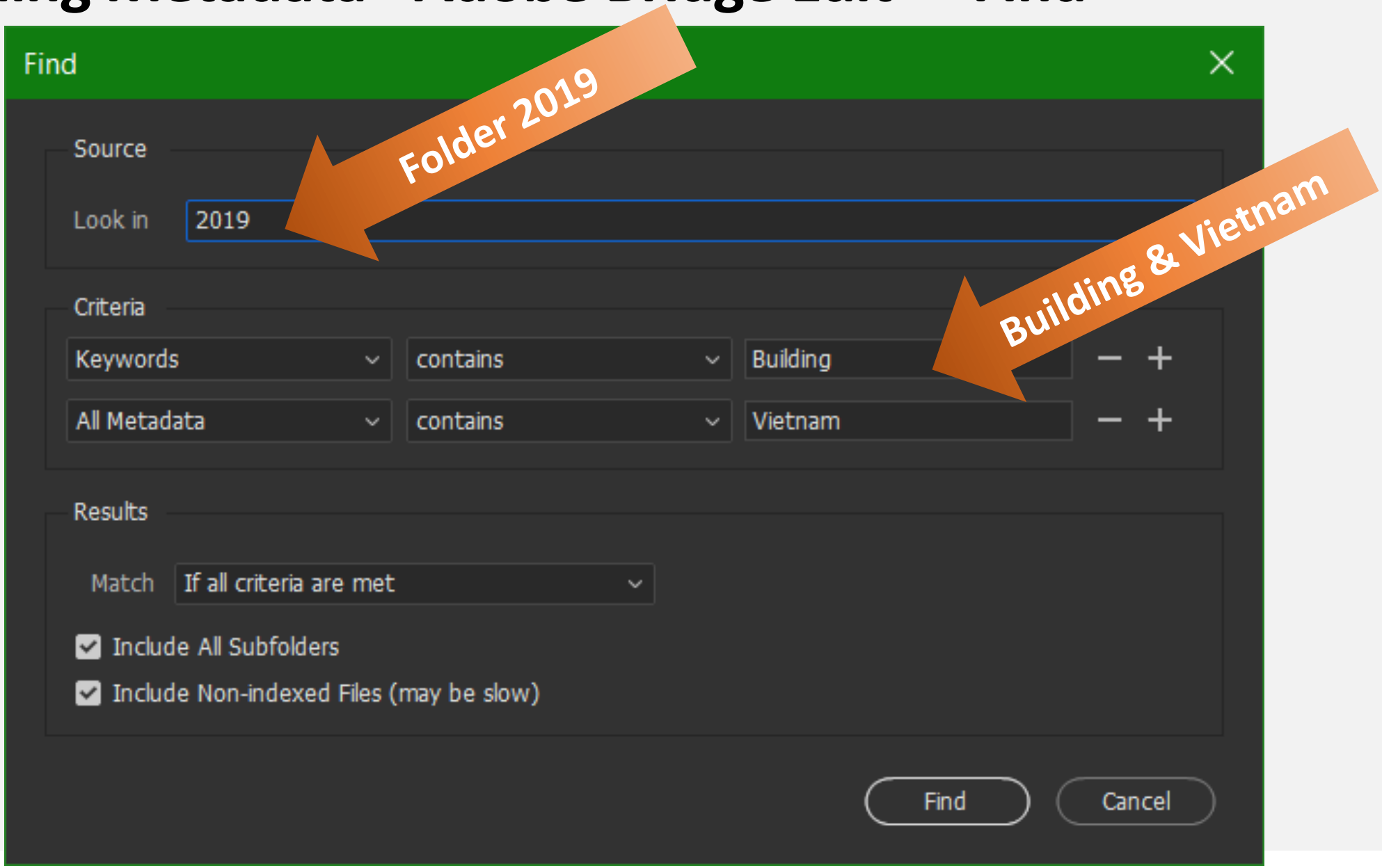


Consistent
Metadata Style
To search for a specific photo

Metadata Style Hints

- Metadata
  - What your camera adds – date, model, lens, settings, GPS coordinates?
  - What you add - Title, Keywords, City, State
- How to add more
  - During and after Download
- How to search
  - Adobe Lightroom, Adobe Bridge & Windows or Mac file explorers

Searching Metadata - Adobe Bridge Edit -> Find



Agenda

1. Finding your photos
2. **Sharing your photos**
3. External portable hard drive
4. Internet cloud storage services
5. Multiple computers with multiple hard drives, plus cloud

Printing as Backup

Sharing them with friends and family provides “offsite” backup

Photos 4x6 …

Books, Calendars …

Framed

Exhibits

Donations

Photography Club as Backup

Competitions

- Club, Interclub, NECCC
- Digital and print

Exhibits

- Prints

Club Web Albums

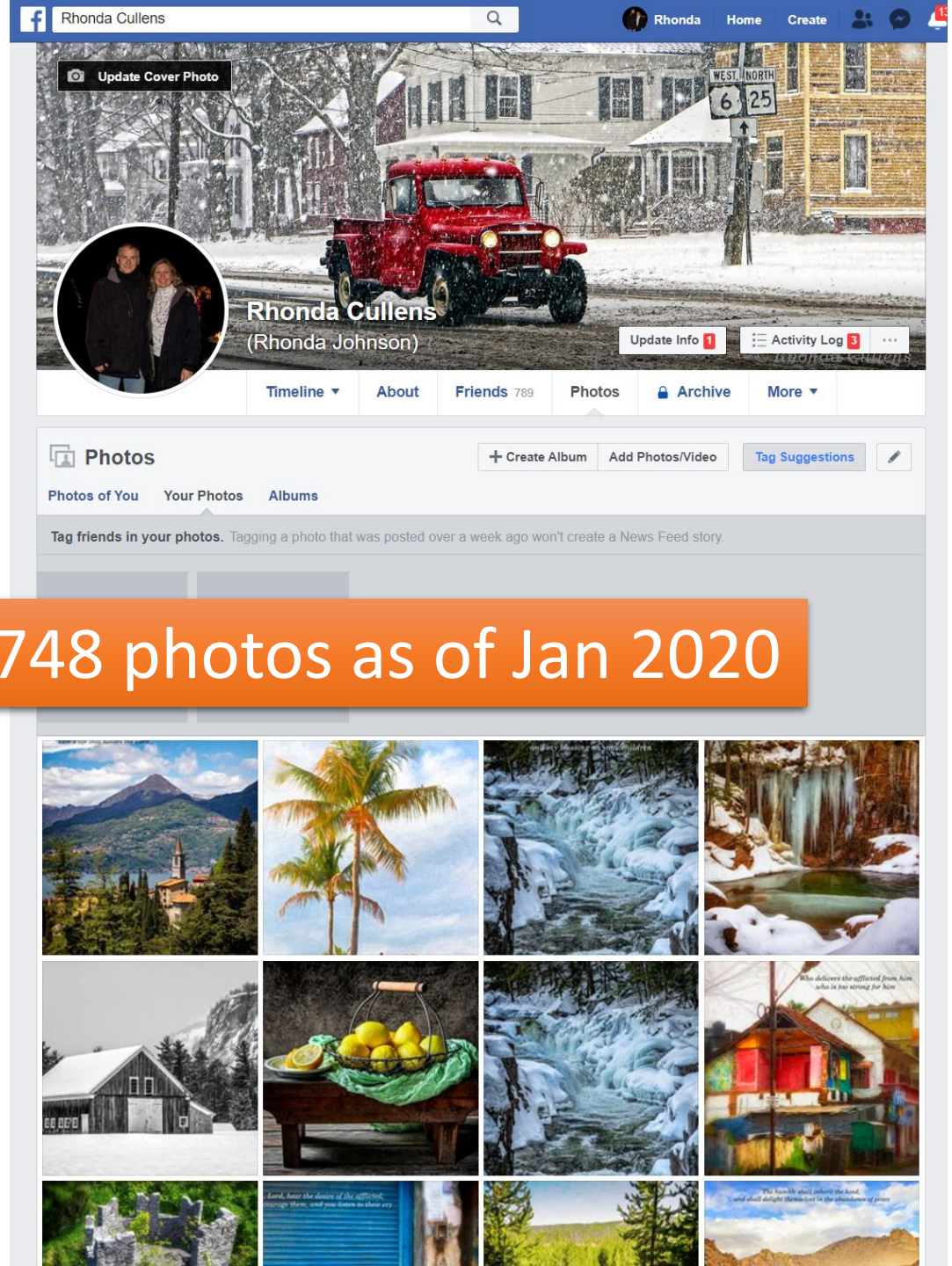
Social Media

A great free passive preservation method

Facebook

Instagram

Twitter …



16,748 photos as of Jan 2020

Agenda

1. Finding your photos
2. Sharing your photos
3. **External portable hard drive**
4. Internet cloud storage services
5. Multiple computers with multiple hard drives, plus cloud

Technology Tip

Deleted or Missing Files are often recoverable!

The most common loss is when the “index” to files has been damaged. Software and services find files even when the “index” is missing. Search for tools online.

External Hard Drive

- Works with any computer
- Lots of space for <$100
  - 1TB, is enough for 30,000 RAW or 150,000 JPG
- Lasts 3+ years with everyday use
- Lasts 10+ years in storage
- Most include backup software
- Semi-fragile

External Hard Drive

- ✓Cheap
- ✓Effective
- ✓A great choice

Many size options - 1TB to 100TB+

Target twice current usage

Step 1

- Determine your space requirements
  - How many photos, cards, drives … today
- Buy one twice this size, e.g. 4TB for $60 at Costco.com

Organize Now

Step 2

- Determine your organization style, date, folder naming …
- Choose to use or not use any backup software
- Use for all new photos
- Next month copy old photos to the new drive

Repeat

Step 3

- Every month
- Copy your new photos to the external drive
- Copy any photos you edited to the external drive
- Extend your current photo workflow

After 5 Years
Buy Another Drive

Step 4

- Every 3 to 5 years
- Repeat this process with a new hard drive
- Store the old drive, just in case something fails

Extra Effort Tip

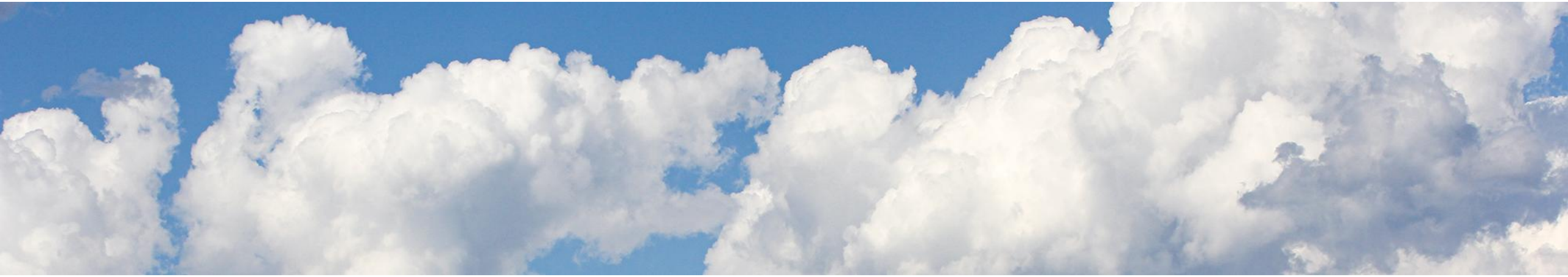
Fire, Flood, Disaster …

Make of copy of the external drive and give it to a friend for safekeeping

Agenda

1. Finding your photos
2. Sharing your photos
3. External portable hard drive
4. **Internet cloud storage services**
5. Multiple computers with multiple hard drives, plus cloud

What is the “cloud”?



A computer somewhere over the internet

For example,
Facebook data center in Prineville, Oregon
3 million square feet of computers & disk drives

Cloud Backup Services

Some space “Free” - Buy more space options

The big players

- **Microsoft OneDrive**
- **Apple iCloud**
- **Google Drive**
- **Dropbox**
- **Adobe (for Lightroom & Photoshop)**
- **Amazon Drive & Amazon Photos**

… there are dozens more choices

Software

Services include good software to choose what photos/files to upload

Dozens of online help videos

Considered failure proof

How to choose a cloud backup service

1. Avoid cloud backup if your internet service is slow
2. Decide if the free tier provides the space you need
3. Is it OK to leave your PC online for days to backup photos
4. Can the same solution be used for your phone and other devices

External Drive backup or Cloud backup

	External Drive	Cloud
Security	Physical security	Password protected
Availability	You must have the drive	Anywhere you have internet
Cost	One-time purchase	Annual purchase (higher)
Failure	New drive every 5 years	No data loss expected
Complexity	Low	Low to Medium
Time	Keep it simple	Keep it simple

The 3-2-1 rule can aid in the backup process. It states that there should be at least 3 copies of the data, stored on 2 different types of storage media, and one copy should be kept offsite, in a remote location (this can include cloud storage)

Best Practices Bonus

1. **If you are an Amazon Prime member use unlimited Amazon Photos**
2. **Use private (non-shared) Facebook albums to store 10,000s of photos**

Amazon Photos - only for Amazon Prime members

photos Download for Desktop

Download on the App Store

GET IT ON Google Play

Supported File Types

JPG, BMP, PNG, GIF,
most TIFF, HEIF …

Nikon, Canon, Sony,
Olympus …
RAW files & DNG

You do not have unlimited movie uploads

Software

Simple to use, yet powerful

Just select a folder to upload

Optional, choose how much internet bandwidth to use

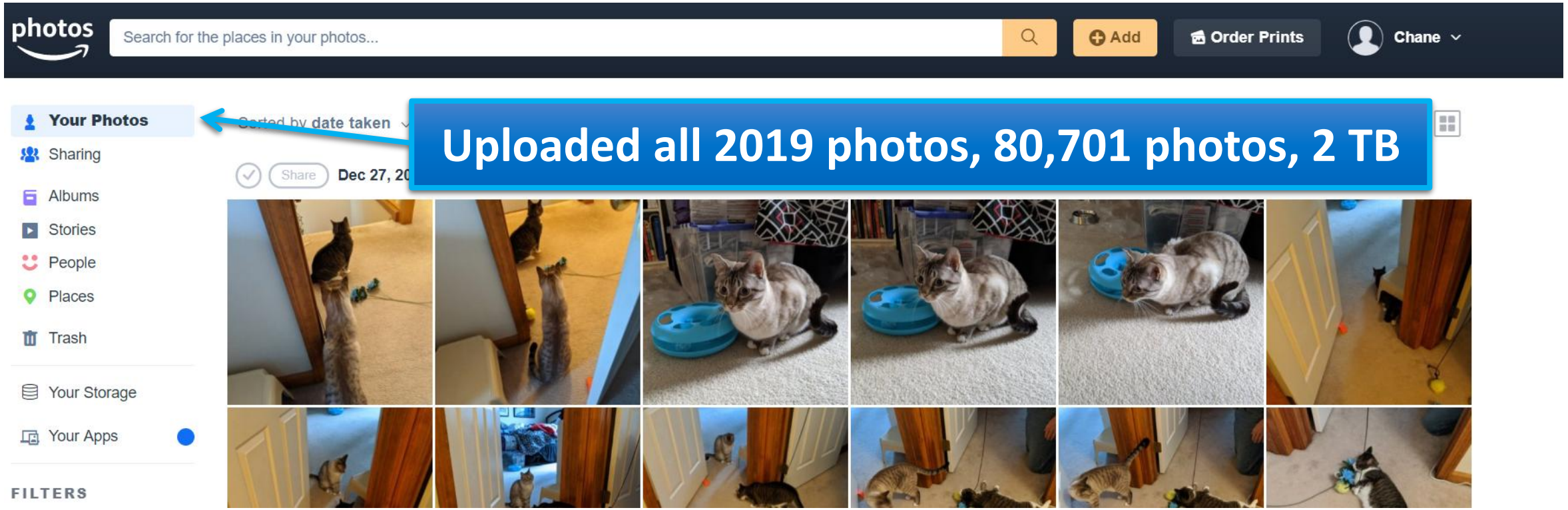
Result

Search and find photos quickly

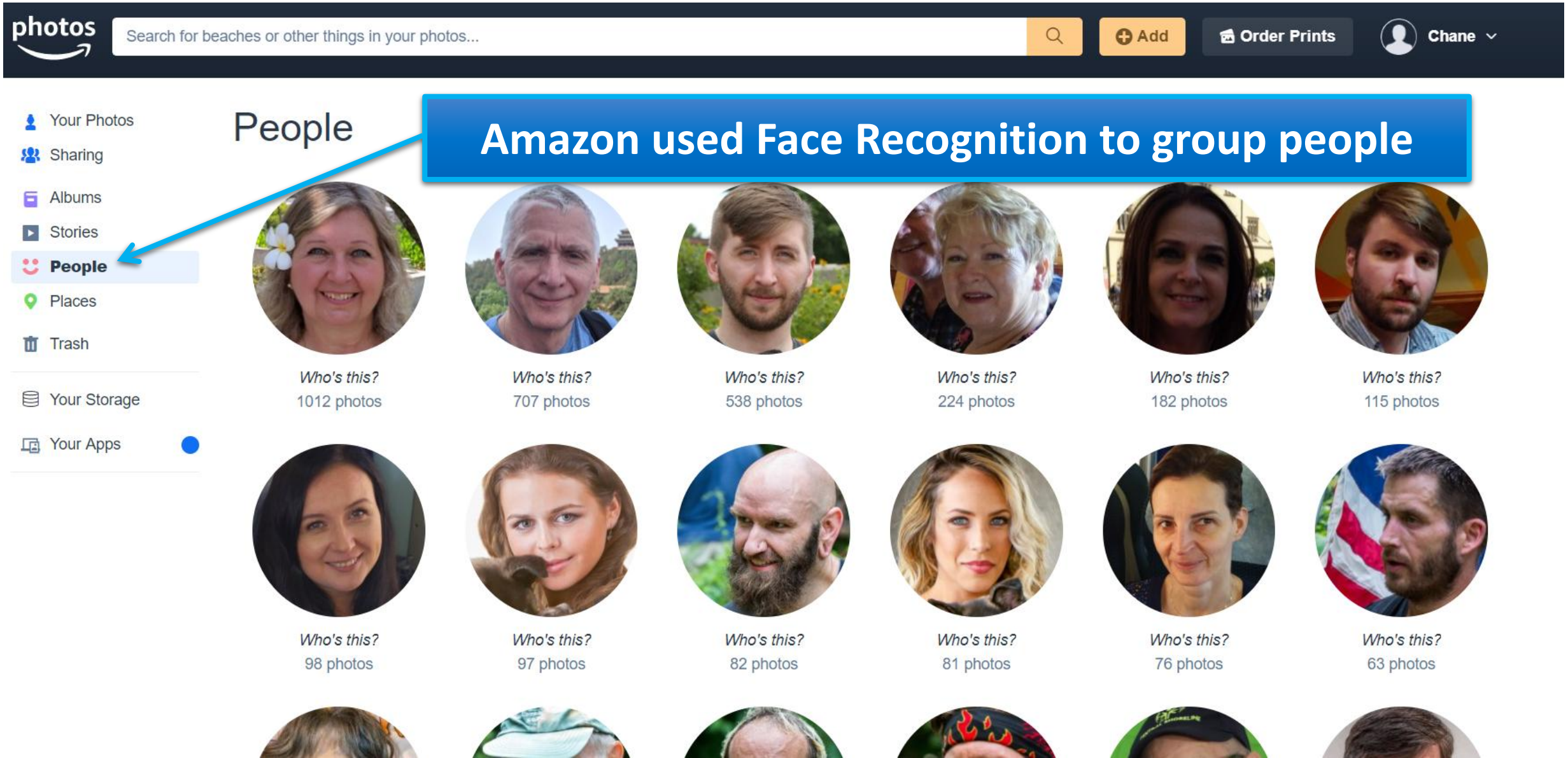
Auto-indexed by People, Places and Things

Does not know the names of people

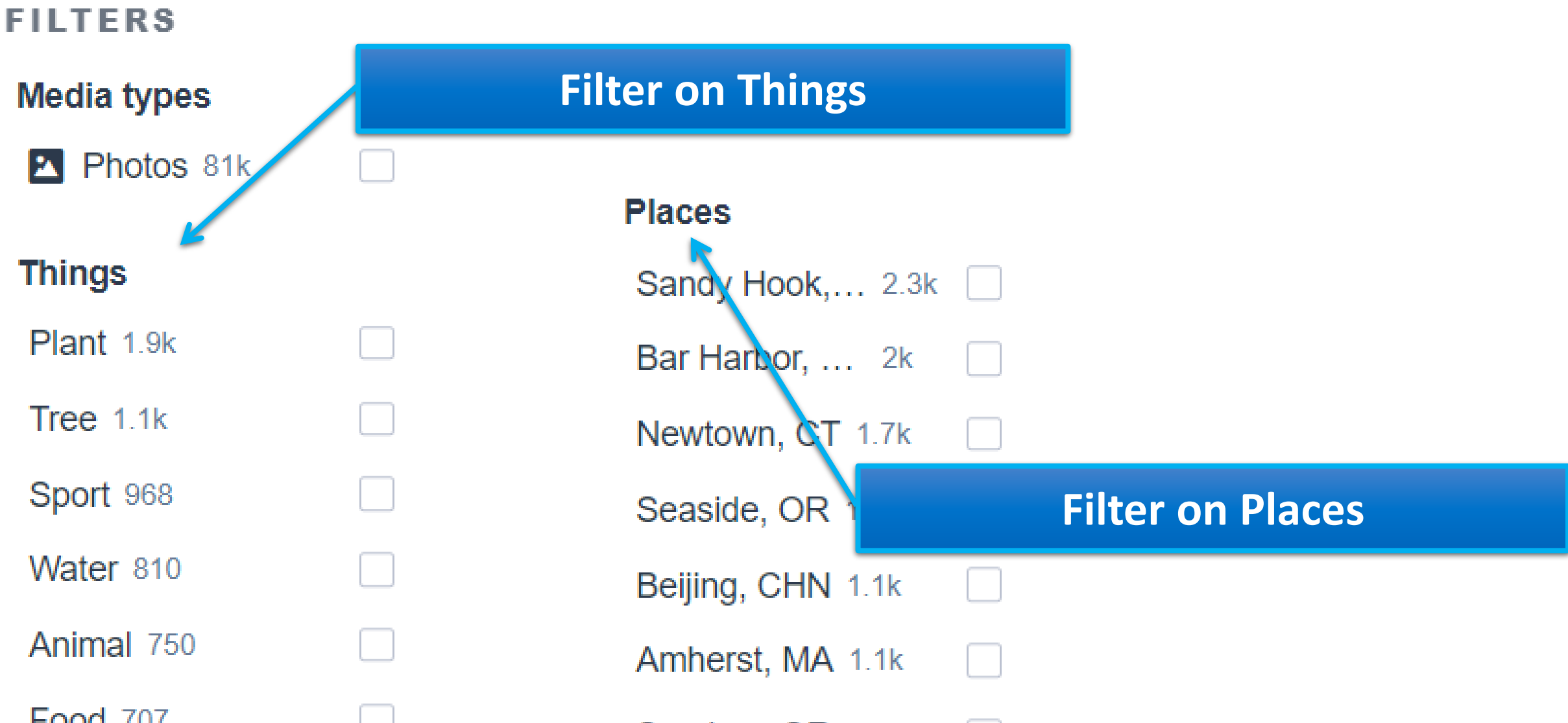
Amazon Photos - Typical View



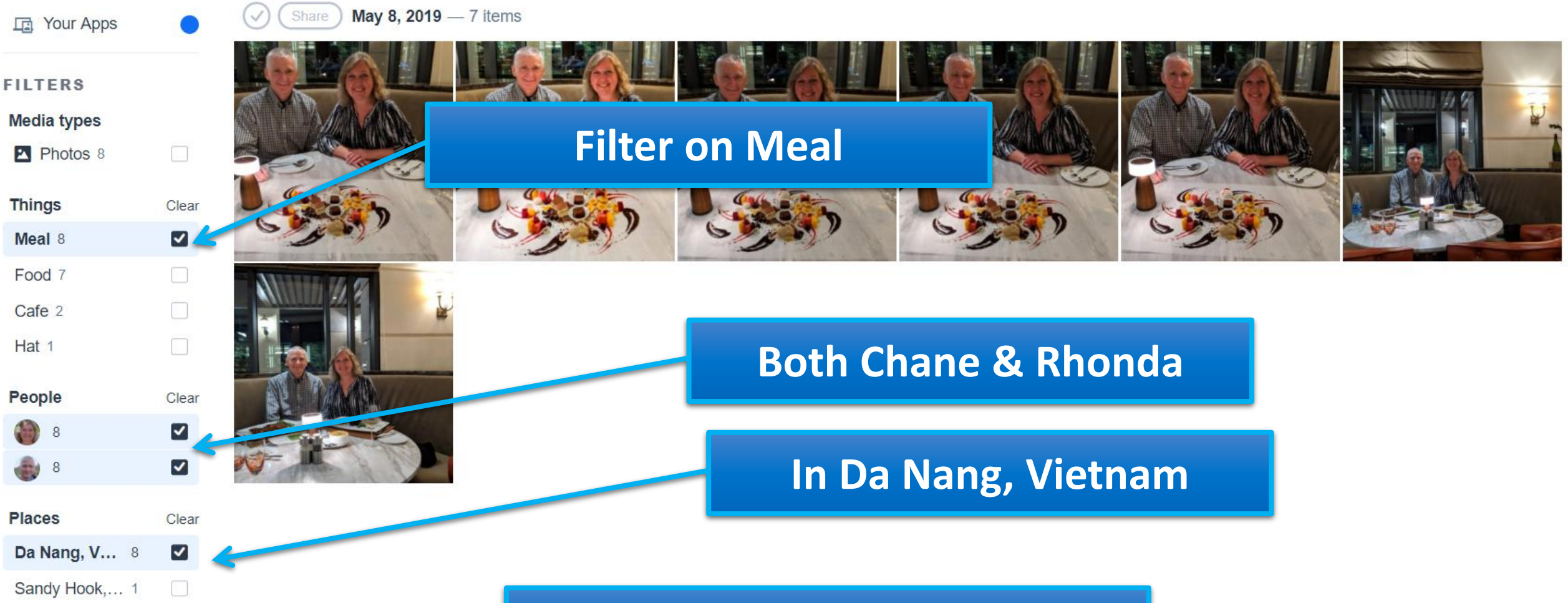
Amazon Photos - Automatic People View



Amazon Photos - Automatic Search Filters



Amazon Photos - Find Chane & Rhonda eating in Da Nang



Amazon Photos - Find

Your Apps

Share **May 8, 2019** — 7 items

FILTERS

Media types

Photos 8

Things Clear

Meal 8

Food 7

Cafe 2

Hat 1

People Clear

8

8

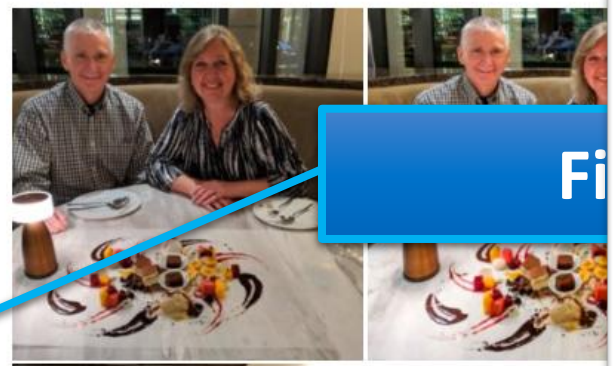
Places Clear

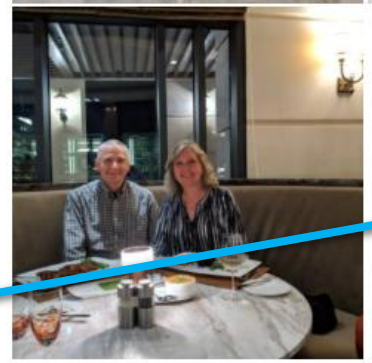
Da Nang, V… 8

Sandy Hook,… 1

Fi

Ligh





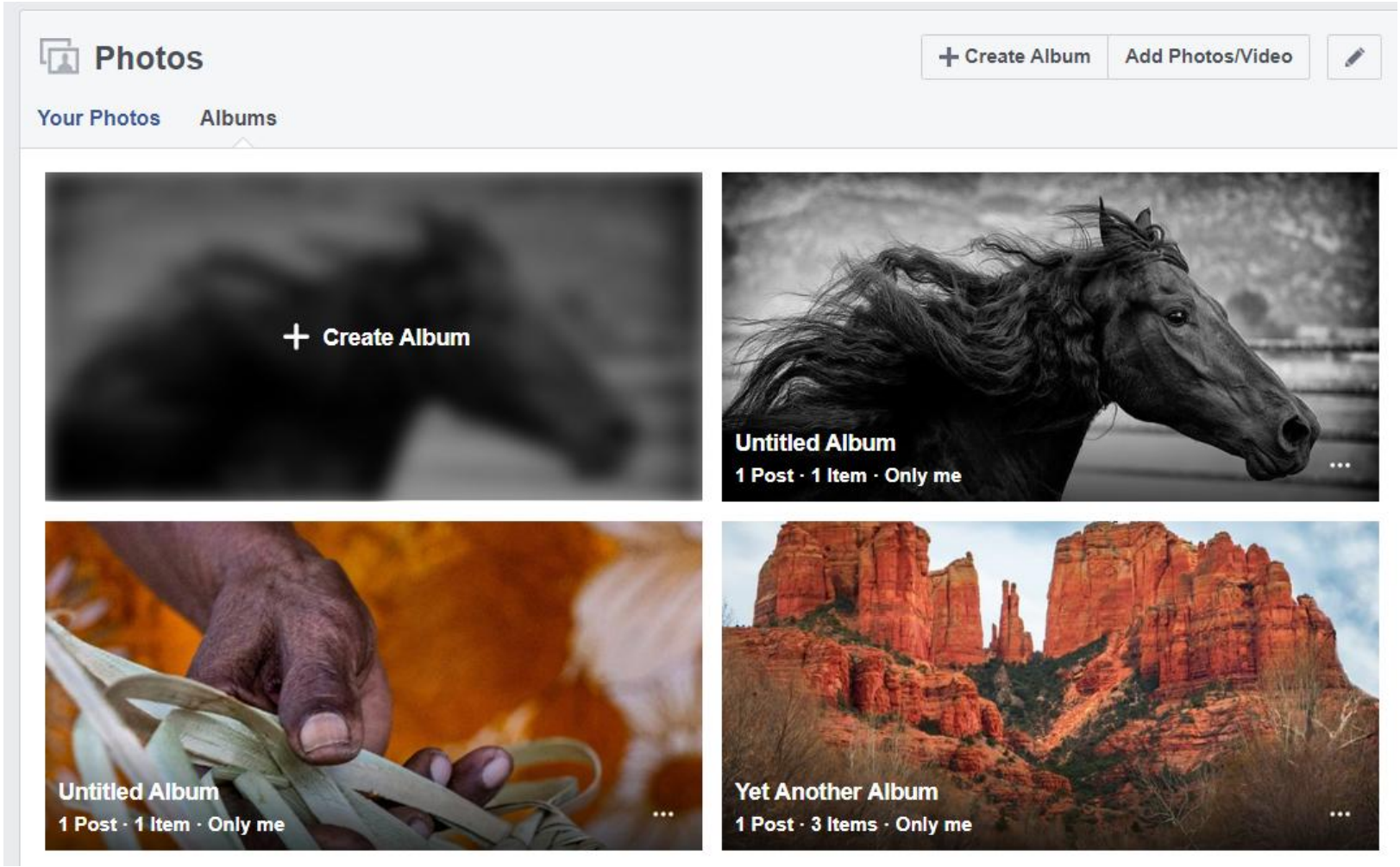
Amazon Photos - Summary

Highly recommended if you are already an Amazon Prime member

Facebook Photo Albums - Free, Free & Free!

Supported File Types	Software	Result
Photos - JPG, BMP, PNG, GIF or TIFF files	Drag and drop in Browser most common	It works!
Movies - lots of formats, MP4, MOV, MPG …	Lightroom addon	You should set your backup albums to Private
Download is a 2000 pixel JPG	Other software may exist	1,000 Photos per album

A good backup for “Non-Facebook” users



Agenda

1. Finding your photos
2. Sharing your photos
3. External portable hard drive
4. Internet cloud storage services
5. **Multiple computers with multiple hard drives, plus cloud**

Multiple computers with multiple hard drives, plus cloud

Don’t do it!

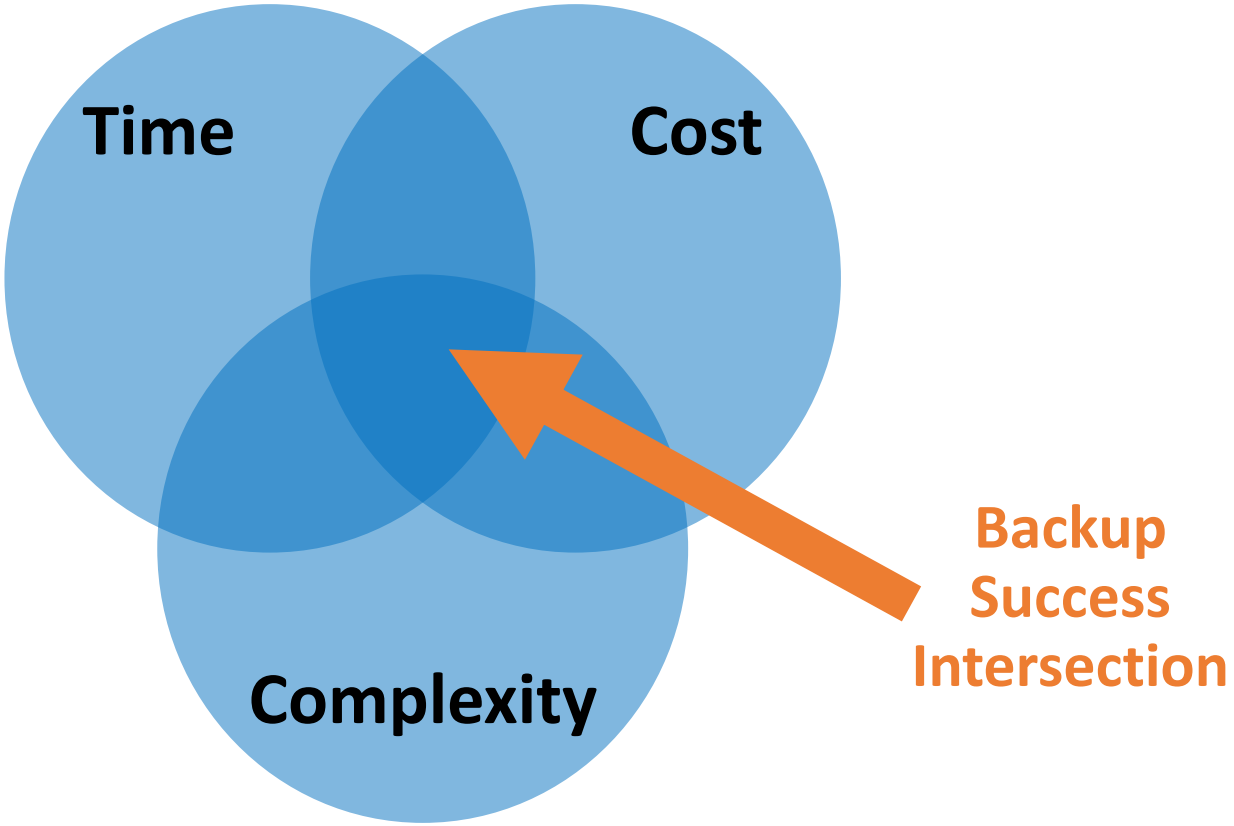
Seriously, only do it if you already know how

Everyday Tips

Travel	• Every night **copy** photos from camera to computer • Travel greatly increases the risk of damage or loss
Delete	• Reduce complexity by **deleting** photos you don't need • Simplify your life
Home	• Move photos to your computer often • Don't encrypt your backup drives
Share	• Share your most important photos to passively create backups • Let people enjoy them ☺

Summary

Match your needs to the "Backup Success Intersection"



Questions?

Chane Cullens – Chane@CCullens.com
Presentation – ccullens.com/backup