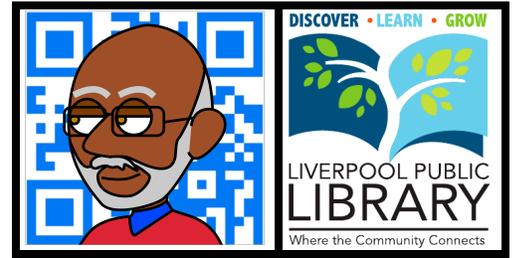


Tech Tips from Mr G

Printing Your Photos Without Buying a Photo Printer



Now that it seems that everyone has a digital camera, everyone wants to print out all of those pictures. And to do that, an awful lot of people are talking about buying little photo printers.

But wait! Before you invest \$50 in the printer alone (and more for the ongoing costs of the paper and ink), maybe there's a better way...a way that costs you less in money, time, and frustration. In fact, there is a better way, and I'm about to tell you about it.

Do the Math and Leave the Printing to Them

As I mentioned earlier, a color photo printer costs about \$50. I know that doesn't sound like a whole lot, but when you consider that places like **Kinney Drug, Rite Aid, Target, Walgreen's, and Walmart** will print your photos for about 19¢ each, that means that you could have one of those places print out about 260 pictures before you paid for the cost of just the printer. In addition, they do it with professional equipment that they maintain.

How Do You Do It

It's really quite simple. Start out by going to the website of the retailer of your choice and **create an account and password**. Now, if you've read my handout on creating passwords, this isn't one of those passwords that needs to be super secret secure and unhackable. This isn't your bank account we're talking about here. Something easy to remember is just fine, in fact, it could even be the same password you use for your **Amazon, Barnes & Noble** and **iTunes** accounts, since it deals with media. Or it could be something totally different, but easily remembered because it deals with that particular retailer, or with taking pictures.

Back when **Wegmans** was still doing photos, I might have used **shrine92d** as my password because I regularly shopped at the huge Wegmans shrine on Route 92 in DeWitt, or I could've used **photo4gb** because I have a 4gb card in my camera. Anyway, as I said before, this doesn't have to be one of those super secret passwords.

Each retailer is a little different, but they're all pretty much the same. Once you've created your account, you create **albums** or **folders** on their system to upload your pictures to, and then you choose which photos you want to print, how many of them you want to print, and whether you want to go pick them up that day or have them mailed to you. Picking them up yourself is much cheaper, and that's where you get the 19¢ price from.

Extras

A lot of these sites also let you turn your photos into posters, birth announcements, and Christmas cards that you can often pick up right in the store. You can also create photo books, calendars, and all kinds of other great things just by uploading your photos to these sites and making the right choices. These are things you can't do with a photo printer.

And Postcards

Imagine that you're on vacation, and you've had someone take a great picture of you that you want to send home to one of your friends. Thanks to **Snapfish**, you can turn that picture into a postcard, and immediately have them send it out for you. In fact, you can even write a short note on it before they send it.

Or suppose you've taken some pictures that you think would make great postcards for use later on. **Moo.com** can take care of that for you.

In Conclusion

Far from making things easier for you, buying a photo printer can actually be rather limiting. Just think of all the things you can do by taking your photos online instead of trying to print them at home!

Tech Tips from Mr G is a publication of the Liverpool Public Library.

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