

## Working with Digital Images: *IrFanView*

As you may have noticed, there are literally hundreds of image editing software packages available on the Web. They range from simple image viewers to complex image manipulation tools. How do you choose one to learn and use? The right software package to edit your digital images will depend on what you want to do with your images. In a school environment, most images are of children involved in activities. This means two things: 1) a lot of images 2) variety of the quality of the images. This means you need a package that serves as an image viewer in order to review all the images you take and an editor to manipulate the images so they are usable. **IrFanView** is a very good, fast image editing/viewing package. What makes it good? It is free for non-commercial use, it has a very intuitive interface, and it is fast. It can be downloaded for free from the developer's Web site: <http://www.irfanview.com/english.htm>.

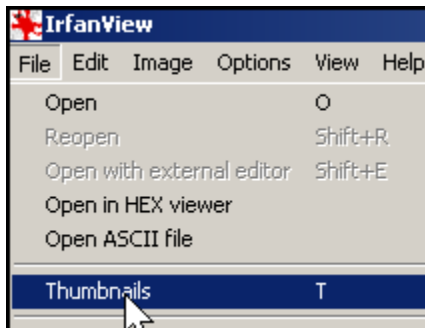
### Some Features of IrFanView

- 1) Image Thumbnail Browser and Automated Copy
- 2) Batch Processing
- 5) Adjust Image Quality

#### Image Thumbnail Browser

Let's begin by using the Thumbnail Browser.

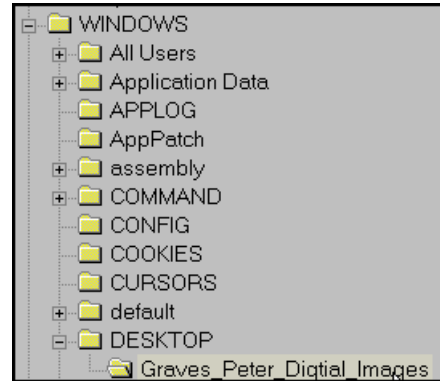
1. Launch IrFanView: **START > PROGRAMS > IRFANVIEW > IRFANVIEW 3.75**



2. Open the Thumbnail Browser by pressing the “**T**” **KEY** which is the Keyboard Shortcut or select **FILE > THUMBNAILS**

Most software packages offer **Keyboard Shortcuts**. They are located to the right of the menu commands. Many times they will involve a “**CTRL**” key stroke plus a function key.

- In the left pane of the Thumbnail browser, select the **C:** drive and navigate to your Desktop by selecting **WINDOWS > DESKTOP > YOUR IMAGE FOLDER.**



- Click on your image folder. Thumbnails of the images you took during the previous activity will appear in the right pane.

### Automated Copy Command

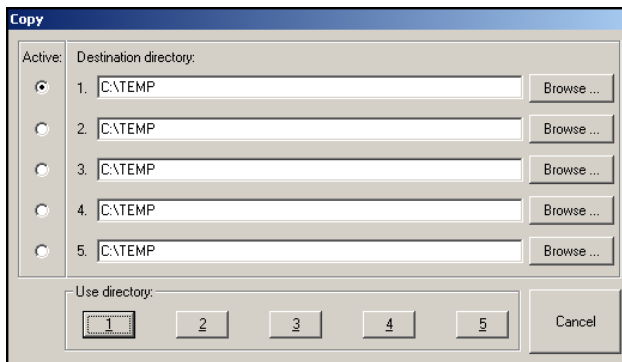
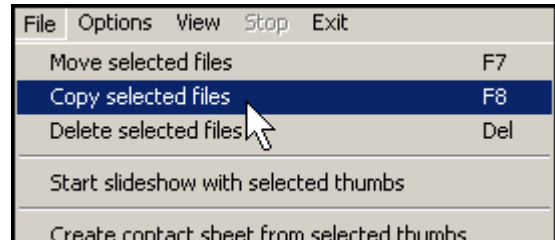
When you take a lot of digital images, the thumbnail viewer will be an invaluable tool to quickly find specific images. Another great feature of *IrFanView* is the automatic copy command. This command allows you to automatically copy selected thumbnails to a specific directory everytime.

- Insert the floppy disk with your digital images into the **A: DRIVE** and in the left pane of *IrFanView*'s Thumbnail browser navigate to the **A: DRIVE**.



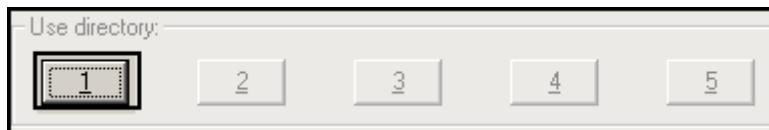
- Select the first two images by either dragging a selection box around them or hold the **SHIFT KEY** and click on both of them.

3. Select **FILE > COPY SELECTED FILES** or use the Keyboard Shortcut **F8**



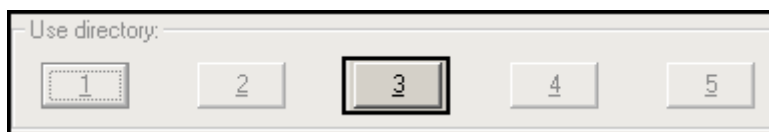
4. Click the **BROWSE** button to the right of **Destination Directory 1** and navigate to the **DESKTOP**. Repeat this step for **Destination Directory 3**, but make its destination **MY DOCUMENTS**.

5. Click on the **1** button to automatically copy the selected files to your **DESKTOP**.



6. Select the third and fourth thumbnail images.

7. Press **F8** to open the **COPY Dialog box** again and click on the **3** button.

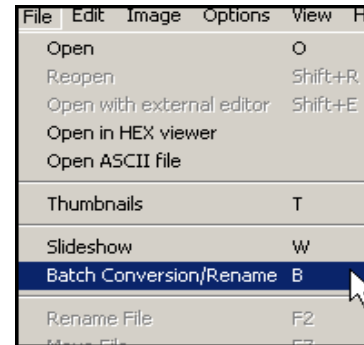


8. We have now copied your images into two separate folders. In the right pane of *IrFanView*, navigate to your **DESKTOP** to see the first two images we copied. You can now navigate to **MY DOCUMENTS** to see the second two images.

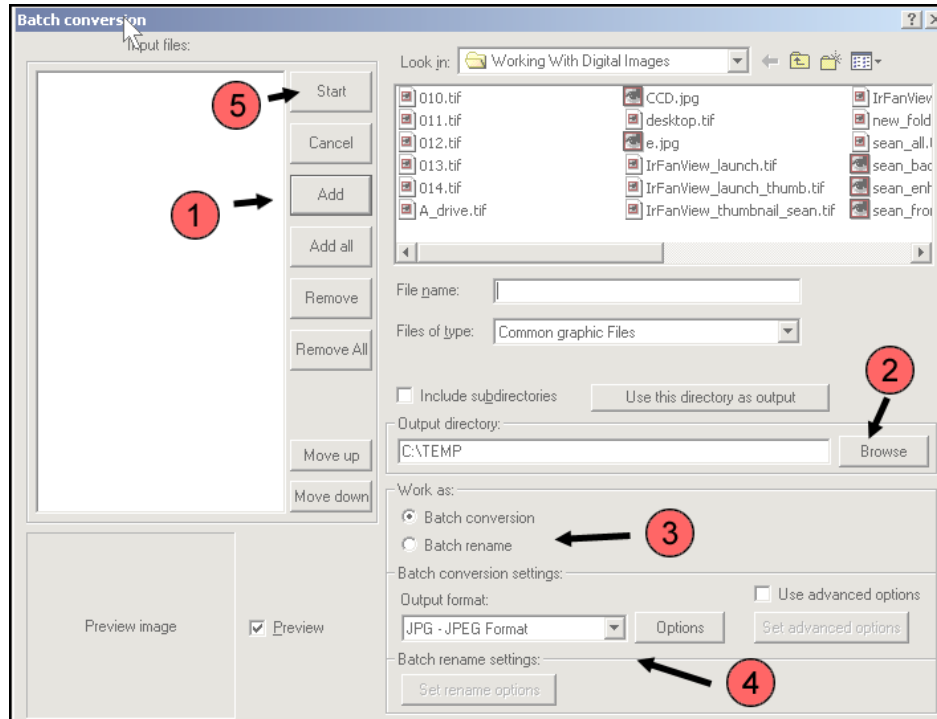
## Batch Processing

Batch Processing allows you to make numerous changes to a group of images at one time. You can change a whole directory of images type, size, name and color with one key stroke

1. To begin batch processing press the **B KEY** or click on **FILE > BATCH CONVERSION/RENAME** in *IRFanView*.

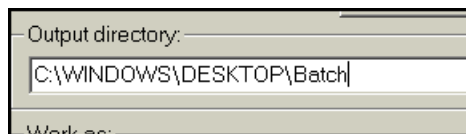


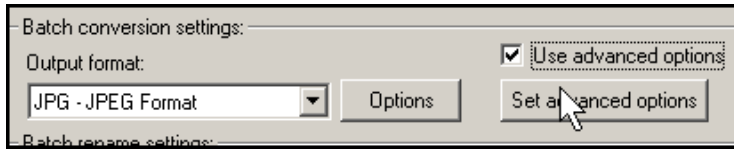
2. Within the **Batch Conversion dialog box**, there are five key elements.
  1. **Add Button:** After selecting a file by clicking on its **NAME**, click the **ADD button** to move it into the **Input Files** list.
  2. **Output Directory:** Choose where you want to put the new folders.
  3. **Batch Conversion or Batch Rename:** Choose which operation you want to perform.
  4. **Batch Conversion Options:** This is a very important option. You decided what kind of **file format** for the new pictures. Under **ADVANCED OPTIONS** you can **Resize** or adjust the color of all your images at once.
  5. **Start Button:** This will begin your conversion.



*Batch Conversion Dialog Box*

3. To begin this process, navigate to your **DIGITAL IMAGES FOLDER** on the **DESKTOP**.
4. Put all of your images into the **Input Files List** either by selecting them all and clicking **ADD** or just click the **ADD ALL** button.
5. Change your **OUTPUT DIRECTORY** by clicking on the **BROWSE** button and select your **DESKTOP**.
6. After selecting **DESKTOP**, create a new folder by typing in **Batch** after **C:\WINDOWS\DESKTOP**

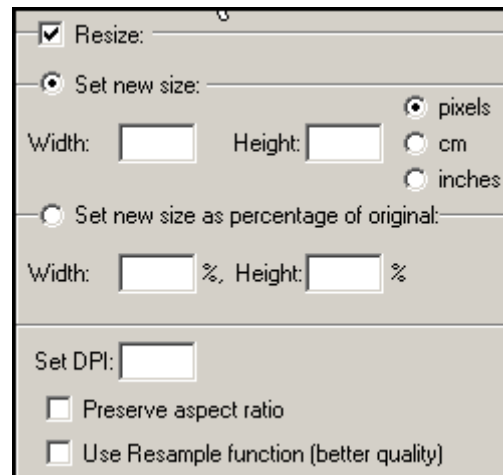




7. Change your Batch conversion settings:
  - leave your **Output format** as **JPG**
  - click the **checkbox** beside **USE ADVANCED OPTIONS**
  - click the **Set ADVANCED OPTIONS** button

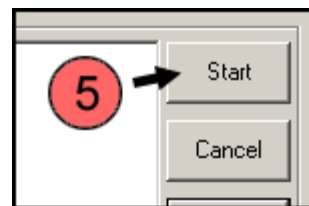
8. In the **ADVANCED DIALOG** box, click in the checkbox beside **RESIZE**.

Be sure the **Preserve Aspect Ratio** checkbox has been checked.

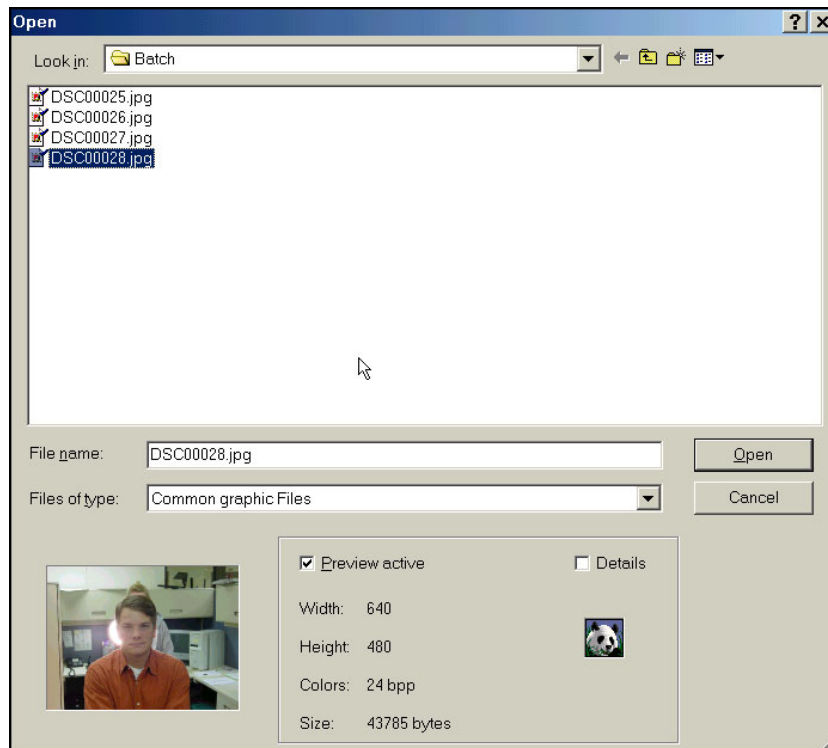


9. In the **WIDTH** box, type in **640** and in the **HEIGHT** box type **480**.
10. Click the **OK** button.

11. Now click on **START** to begin the **Batch Conversion**.



11. Click **EXIT** to return to *IrFanView*.
  
12. To see what we have just done, launch the **THUMBNAIL VIEWER** and navigate to the **BATCH** folder on your **DESKTOP**.
  
13. You should see what seems to be identical images relative to your original folder. Click on one of the images and press the **O** key to bring up the **OPEN** dialog box.

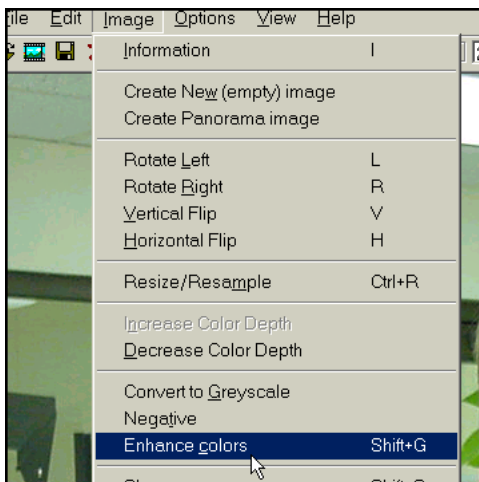


14. By single clicking on one of your images, you will get a **details box** at the bottom which should tell you your image is now 640 x 480 pixels.

## Adjusting Image Quality

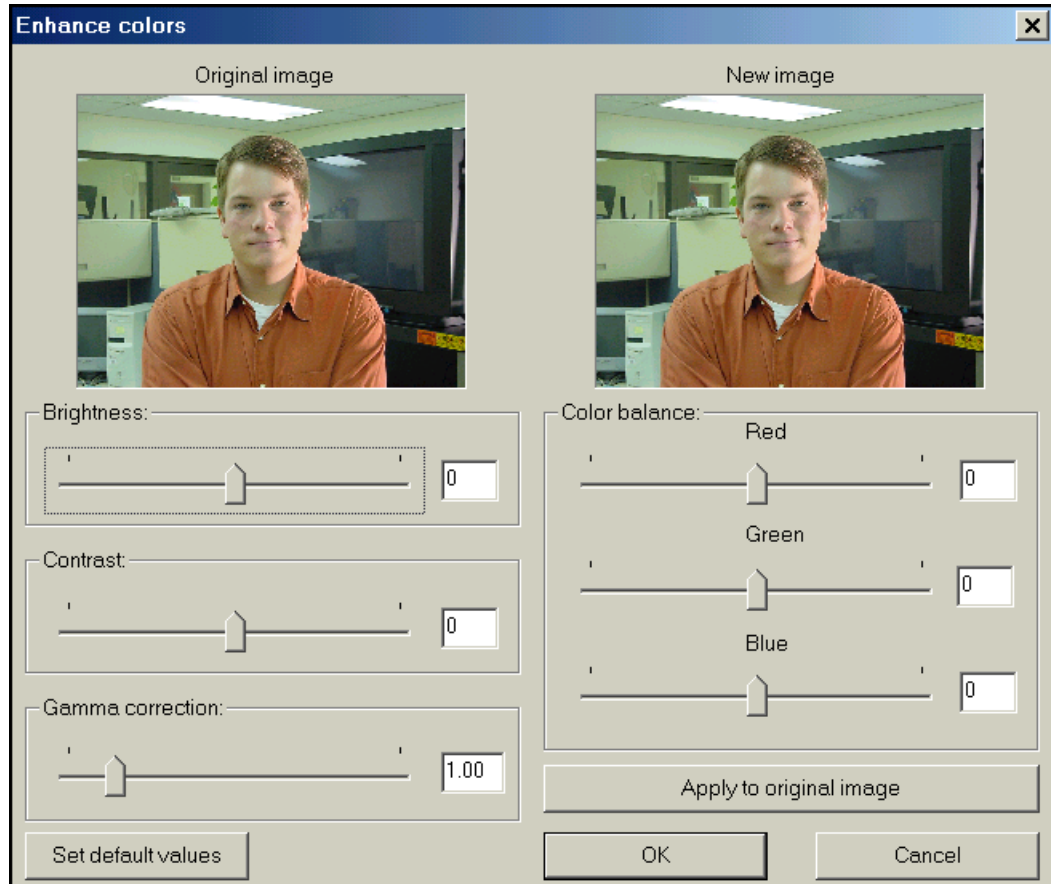
With *IrFanView*, you can improve the quality of your images by adjusting the **Brightness, Contrast, and Color Balance**.

1. Launch *IrFanView* and press the Keyboard Shortcut “T” or go to **FILE > THUMBNAILS**.
2. In the **Thumbnail Viewer**, navigate to your folder on the **DESKTOP** and **DOUBLE-CLICK** on your image to open it in *IrFanView*.



3. Click on **IMAGE > ENHANCE COLORS** to open the **Enhance Colors Dialog Box**.

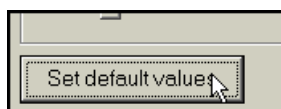
4. The **Enhance Colors Dialog Box's** 6 slider bars work together to adjust the quality of your image. It is not necessary to apply adjustments made using one bar before using the next.



**Brightness, Contrast, and Gamma Correction** will adjust the light intensity.

**Red, Green, and Blue** will adjust the color of your image.

5. Move the **GREEN** slider bar to the **left** and click on **APPLY TO ORIGINAL IMAGE**. By moving the slider to the **left**, we have removed x amount of **green** from the image.



6. Click the **SET DEFAULT VALUES** button and **APPLY TO ORIGINAL IMAGE** to restore your image.

6. Use the slider bars to adjust the quality of your image and **Apply to original image**.

Flourescent lights tint your images green. You may need to remove some green from all images.

6. To finalize your changes, simply save your image in *IrFanView*.