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Removing Duplicate Photos

by Alan German

Previously, I have used *Awesome PhotoFinder* to identify duplicate images in different folders (https://opcug.ca/Reviews/dupe_finder.pdf). While this program certainly does identify duplicate photographs, one downside of the software is that there is no facility to mark multiple images for deletion. A list of duplicate files can be exported as a CSV file for further processing but this is not particularly convenient and an alternative solution is desirable.

This may well take the form of *Duplicate Cleaner Free*. This is a general-purpose program for identifying and removing duplicate files. The free version may well have sufficient features for most users who wish to remove duplicate photographs; however, should this prove not to be the case, the more-powerful *Duplicate Cleaner Pro* is available for purchase.

The program provides an intuitive user interface, albeit with a wealth of customizable options. To identify exact duplicates of photographs in two different folders, all that is required is to use the directory-tree pane to add the required folders to be searched and press the *Start scan* button. The program makes its comparison by creating hashes of all the files in the selected folders which typically occurs very quickly. A summary pop-up window displays the numbers of files scanned, groups of duplicates, files that have duplicates, and the time taken for the scan. Closing this window, displays the details of the duplicate files found, grouped in coloured bands in order that like files can be readily identified.

File Name	Folder	Group	Size
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IMG_20190223_064715.jpg	C:\Ghana_Morocco_Gold\Alan_gold\...	1	3.60 MB
<input type="checkbox"/> Ghana_Alان_001.jpg	C:\Ghana_Morocco_photos\Alan\Gh...	1	3.60 MB
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IMG_20190223_072036.jpg	C:\Ghana_Morocco_Gold\Alan_gold\...	2	3.77 MB
<input type="checkbox"/> Ghana_Alان_002.jpg	C:\Ghana_Morocco_photos\Alan\Gh...	2	3.77 MB
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IMG_20190223_074925.jpg	C:\Ghana_Morocco_Gold\Alan_gold\...	3	4.03 MB
<input type="checkbox"/> Ghana_Alان_003.jpg	C:\Ghana_Morocco_photos\Alan\Gh...	3	4.03 MB
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IMG_20190223_075008.jpg	C:\Ghana_Morocco_Gold\Alan_gold\...	4	3.72 MB
<input type="checkbox"/> Ghana_Alان_004.jpg	C:\Ghana_Morocco_photos\Alan\Gh...	4	3.72 MB
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IMG_20190223_075024.jpg	C:\Ghana_Morocco_Gold\Alan_gold\...	5	4.04 MB
<input type="checkbox"/> Ghana_Alان_005.jpg	C:\Ghana_Morocco_photos\Alan\Gh...	5	4.04 MB
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IMG_20190223_075049.jpg	C:\Ghana_Morocco_Gold\Alan_gold\...	6	4.98 MB
<input type="checkbox"/> Ghana_Alان_006.jpg	C:\Ghana_Morocco_photos\Alan\Gh...	6	4.98 MB
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IMG_20190223_075144.jpg	C:\Ghana_Morocco_Gold\Alan_gold\...	7	6.05 MB
<input type="checkbox"/> Ghana_Alان_007.jpg	C:\Ghana_Morocco_photos\Alan\Gh...	7	6.05 MB
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IMG_20190223_075521.jpg	C:\Ghana_Morocco_Gold\Alan_gold\...	8	4.83 MB
<input type="checkbox"/> Ghana_Alان_008.jpg	C:\Ghana_Morocco_photos\Alan\Gh...	8	4.83 MB

By default, the listing shows the file details but this can easily be changed to a thumbnail view that displays like images side-by-side. Check boxes allow individual images to be selected for deletion or the *Selection Assistant* in the left panel provides options to mark multiple files according to some selection criterion. In the screenshot, selecting *All but one file in each group* has resulted in all of the duplicate images files from the first selected folder to be marked for deletion. The deletion process can be activated by pressing the *File removal* button and responding to the subsequent prompts to double check this action.

An on-line manual, a version of which is also available through the program's help menu, provides clear instructions on how to use the software. In addition, the program developers have established a YouTube channel (<https://www.youtube.com/c/DigitalvolcanoUk>) that provides a number of video tutorials.

In addition to identifying duplicate photographs the program can be applied to audio and video files; however, for the free version of the program, this once again applies only to finding exact matches. As indicated earlier, the Pro version provides many more features, including finding files with similar content, matching rotated images, scanning the contents of ZIP files, identifying non-duplicate files, and moving files to another folder. Nevertheless, for most users, the simple exact file matching criterion and the ability to delete duplicates if desired may well be sufficient.

Bottom Line:

Duplicate Cleaner Free (Freeware)

Version 1.4.1

DigitalVolcano Software Ltd.

<https://www.duplicatecleaner.com>

