

Transfer photos between your mobile device & PC

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Introduction

Note – if you have a Mac computer, you already have all the photos from your mobile devices so most of the information below may not be for you. The workflow still applies.

If you use the native Photos app to edit your photos, the Photos app stores both edited and unedited photos in the same file. This adds to confusion when transferring and backing up photos. To simplify things, you can use the free Snapseed app to perform all your edits and thereby, keep the originals and edited photos separate.

Here are the steps

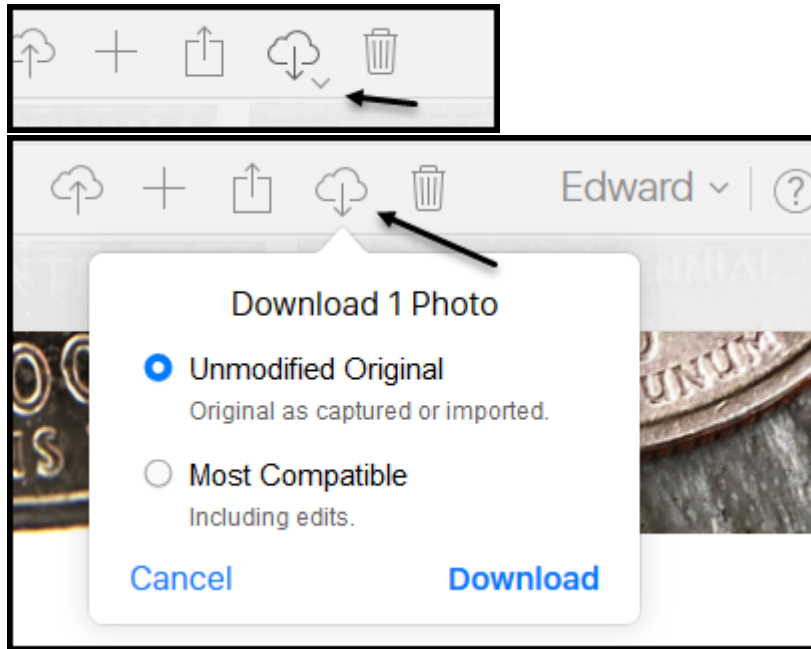
1. Open Snapseed
2. Open a photo
3. Perform the editing
4. When you're finished editing tap **Export** and tap **Save a copy** or **Export**. This will save a copy of the photo and leave the original intact. Not only that, all edited photos will appear in an album named Snapseed. Also, when you choose **Save a copy**, photos can be reopened and reverted to their original state and reedited. Read more about Snapseed at the end of this document.

Now, when you want to transfer or backup photos, you can easily locate all the edited photos – or – the original photos.

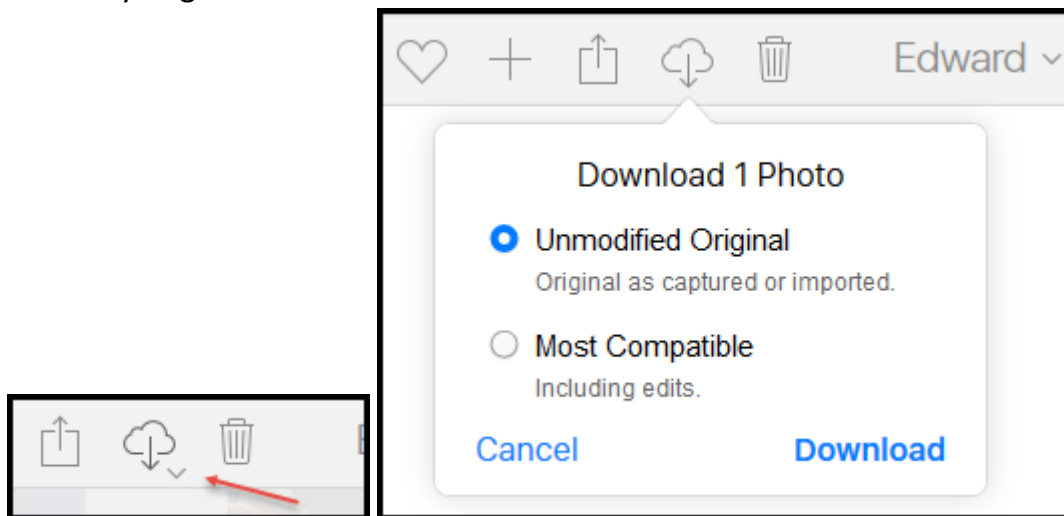
Transfer photos from your mobile device to your PC

You can go to your iCloud account online to download photos. ***Use this method if your iPhone or iPad gets lost or corrupted.***

- When you click the dropdown arrow under the cloud icon as shown in the figure below, you will get a choice of downloading the original (either an HEIC or Raw format) or Most Compatible (JPG format). You can download both if you choose. This is by far the best way to get photos from your mobile device to your PC.



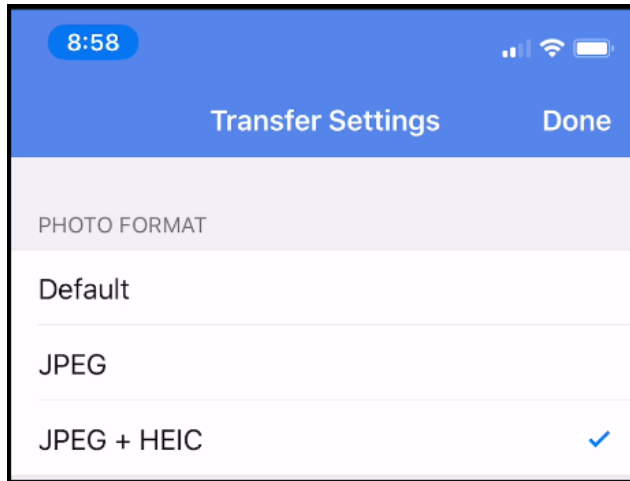
To have a choice of what to download from iCloud online, click the tiny dropdown arrow under the download icon as shown below on the left. On the right are the choices you get.



If you choose Unmodified originals, you will get HEICs and JPGs depending on your camera settings when you took the photos. You will also get LIVE photos as movies and Raw photos. If you choose most compatible, you will get all JPGs and no LIVE photos nor Raw photos.

- If you have the Google Photos app on your mobile device, all your photos including edits will show up there. You can then go to Google Photos on line and retrieve them even if you edit a photo in Snapseed.
- You can download the iCloud Control Panel for Windows [here](#) and download all your photos with very little effort. You can read about it [here](#) and [here](#).

- An app called Simple Transfer (\$4.99) will transfer photos with edits. See the app [here](#). Go to the app Settings and tap Transfer Settings and select the format of your choice.



Default and JPG appear to transfer edited photos as JPG. The JPEG + HEIC will transfer both and convert DNG to JPG. Note – this app only transfers edited photos.

- My favorite app for transferring photos to a PC is PhotoSync seen [here](#). It can transfer both original and edited photos in any format. This App is cheaper but a little more complicated than Simple Transfer. Even at a lower price it offers great features. For example, if you are using the HEIC format, it transfers the original HEIC, original JPG and edited JPG. Also, if configured properly, photo albums will be preserved when transferring to your PC.

A great device for transferring or backing up photos is the SanDisk iXpand USB to Lightning Flash Drive as seen [here](#) and pictured below..



Transfer photos from your PC to your mobile devices

I can recommend these 3 methods for this as follows:

- You can upload photos to your iCloud account and they will show up on your mobile devices. It's best to create an album on your device first. You can only upload the JPG format.
- Use PhotoSync
- Use Simple Transfer

Things to watch out for

- When you view photos on your device in the Albums view (All Photos), the photos are not necessarily displayed in the same order as viewed on iCloud.com. The photos at iCloud.com are listed by the date taken. On your device, switch to the Photos view and now the view at iCloud.com will match exactly.

Summary of transfer choices

App	Upload	Download	Notes
iCloud Free	JPG	JPG, HEIC, Raw	
Simple Transfer Pro \$4.99	JPG	JPG, HEIC, Raw	
Simple Transfer Free	JPG		Limited to 50 photos per day
PhotoSync \$3.99	JPG, HEIC, Raw	JPG, HEIC, Raw	

There are many apps for transferring photos from your mobile device to a PC but very few will transfer both the edited and original. You will not have to worry about this if you use Snapseed (free) to edit your photos.

Summary

- If you follow the Workflow at the beginning of this document, you can use almost any method to transfer or backup photos and keep the originals and edited photos separate.
- To transfer photos from your mobile device to your PC with the edits use any method in the above table.
- It's challenging to preserve albums when transferring photos to your PC unless you use Simple Transfer or PhotoSync.

[Here is the Snapseed Save, Export explanation according to Google](#)

Save the edits by tapping EXPORT

- Select **Save** to save the non-destructive edit stack on the original image. Edits can always be removed by opening the image into Snapseed and removing the stack.
- Select **Save a copy** to save the non-destructive edit stack on a duplicate image. The duplicate version will be in JPEG format. It will save to a new Album titled **Snapseed**, in addition to appearing at the end of your Camera Roll.
- Select **Export** to save a duplicate image, with the edit stack flattened. The flattened version will be in JPEG format. It will save to the end of your Camera Roll.

*Please note that Snapseed edits saved with **Save** or **Save a copy** may not appear on images when accessed through certain third-party applications. To ensure that Snapseed edits are viewable by all third-party applications, select **Export**.*

Share the image by tapping EXPORT and selecting Share...

Summary

- Simple Transfer – if you edit a photo, only the edited version will be transferred. You have a choice to transfer both HEIC and JPG. This app costs \$4.99 and has a trial version.
- PhotoSync – will transfer and any edits as JPGs and original versions in HEIC, if you're using this format and JPG. This app costs \$2.99 and does not have a trial version. It requires a companion desktop app which is free.
- iCloud.com – will allow you to download original HEIC or edited JPG – but not at the same time.