

## Wallpaper and Screensavers ~ How to turn your computer into your own art gallery!



[by cc de leo](#)

There is such an incredible opportunity right now for collecting and building your own art gallery, for free!

All it takes is an interest, a little time, organization, and you will have found a hobby that will be rewarding as well as addictive!

Discover how easy it is build a collection of photography and put it to work for you on your computer! The great thing about building your own art gallery is that you can share it with family and friends in a way that they will be very appreciative, too!

Digital Photography has exploded online. You can find a photo image of about anything you can think of. Photographers, like me, have found a medium from which to share their work quickly, easily, and inexpensively.



While it may sound easy, it does take time, and you have to be aware of certain pitfalls. The biggest problem you will encounter is spyware. You want to be sure the website you are considering downloading images from states that they have not attached any spyware to their image files. If there is no indication, email them and ask. If they don't answer, pass on them, unless you just absolutely must have a photo that you see. Then use your own digression.

Once you decide you want to create your own collection of photos for your personal gallery, get organized. Your first step will be surfing the net. Go to your Favorites tab, and set up a file, something like "Photo Galleries". When you are surfing and you find a site that you like, save it to your Favorites file you created and continue surfing.

A great place to start is to surf is [Google Images](#). Enter a topic you are interested in, such as "Sunsets", and you will see a page of images. Scan through until you find one



You like, and click on it. It will bring you to the website where the image is available, and you can check out the site to see if it has more photos that you like.

It can be a real challenge to find the really good sites, you will find garbage sometimes, but you will also find gems. When you do find a great site you will know, and you will be excited! That is when you save it to your favorites!

A good site will be one that:

- states out front that there is no spyware in the image files
- has a clean, organized gallery for you to look at
- is not overwhelmed with too much advertising
- provides good quality photos
- offers the photos for free
- is active and adding new images frequently
- has photo categories that you are interested in!



After you have found a few interesting sites, and have saved them to your Favorites file, begin organizing your desktop.

Right click on your desktop, drop down to "new", choose "file". Name your desktop file "Images". Let's say you are collecting sunsets. Within your "Images" file, create a new file and name it "sunsets".

As you go back through the galleries in your Favorites file, and you find an image you want to collect, right click on the image, scroll down, and "save picture as". It will come up with a file to save it in. **Do not save it to this file!** You may never find the image again! Instead, go up to the top where it says "save in" and use the drop down box to bring up your "desktop", and locate the "Images" file, and then open the "sunsets" file, and save it there.

After you are done collecting for the day, open your sunset file and watch a slide show of the images you collected. If you find one you decide you don't really want, simply delete it!



Before long, you will have an incredible collection of photos that you have gathered, for free, from the internet. Now what do you do with them?

There are many possibilities. Choose a photo and set it as your desktop background. To do that, right click on the image you want to use, scroll down, and click on "set as background". That's all there is to it!

Shrink any windows you have open, and see the new image on your desktop! You can change your desktop image as often as you like. Keep it fresh and enjoy the changes.

You can also set up your own personal screensaver with your favorite photos. Decide which photos you want in your screensaver and set up a special file, such as "screensaver".

What I do is go through my different categories and **copy** the photo I want to the new "screensaver" file, that way my original file stays intact.



Once you have created your screensaver file follow these steps:

1. Click on your start button and select My Pictures
2. Open My Pictures, if there are any files already there remove them. You can move them to a file somewhere else on your desktop. If you need to, create a file on your desktop that you can move them to.
3. Once you're My Pictures folder is empty, drag and drop your screensaver file into the folder, and close.
4. Go back to your start button, and click on Control Panel.
5. In Control Panel chose "Appearance and Themes"
6. Pick the task "Choose a Screensaver"



7. On the Display Properties window, select the "screensaver" tab located at the top.
8. Halfway down the screen is a dropdown box. Click on it to bring up the options, and choose "My Pictures Slideshow"
9. Hit "apply in the lower right hand corner.
10. Go back to to the middle section of the screen, and click on settings. Here the choices are yours to make. You can choose the size, how often the images change, whether the title is displayed, etc. One option I always use is the "use transition effect between pictures".
11. You can preview how it will look, if you like it, hit save, or go back to options and play around with the settings until it is how you want it to appear. Then save.



Sounds complicated, but it really isn't. After you have done it a few times, it will become second nature! What other hobby can you think of that is so easy to learn, costs you nothing, and provides so much enjoyment?

Another way to enjoy the photos you have collected is to simply open the file you want and set it to slide show. Sit back and enjoy the show for a moment. Give your hands a break while you refresh your mind with a little beauty.

And remember how I said in the beginning it would be a great way to share with family and friends? Imagine the delight your friends and family would feel when you put together a slideshow for them using their photos you collected of one of their favorite passions? My son loves skydiving, my sister loves outdoors and hiking, my uncle is a flower gardener, ...your imagination is your only limit to what you can do!

Take advantage of the opportunity to start your own personal art gallery. No matter what subject, you will have a ball surfing and seeking out the treasures that are out there. And over time, you will have



built yourself a collection that may have untold value down the road. Happy Surfing!

P.S. I am always looking for good sites, so when you start finding them, send me a link! I will post them to share with others on my website. Email me at

[ccdeleo@gmail.com](mailto:ccdeleo@gmail.com)

*About the Author: cc de leo is a traveling nature photographer who shares her photography on two websites. Of course, her images are guaranteed to be free of any spyware, she only wants to share the beauty.*

[Wallpaper, Screensavers, and Desktop Backgrounds](#)

[Wallpaper by Design. net](#)