

Photo albums on your site



In this issue, we look at photo albums which are an effective way of showcasing your work to potential clients especially if you are a designer, artist or photographer.

We are used to sharing photos online through third party websites like [Flickr](#), [Image Station](#) and [Yahoo Photos](#). They are easy, convenient to use and allow one to quickly share photos across borders, free, with a few mouse-clicks .

Today, we explore an [Open Source](#) application that allows you to integrate an album manager onto your site and allows photo sharing effectively. It is called [Gallery](#).

Important note – Check with your hosting company that you have enough space and bandwidth to support the number of images you plan on uploading.

Considerations for choosing an Open Source Application :-

1) Typically there are a plethora of features available in these open source applications but in the event you find it lacking in one or more functions you need, it will be difficult to customize it to your exact requirements. So shop carefully and select the right application.

2) You might also find a feature quite cumbersome to use but there's not much you can do about it. For example, suppose you have a running business and client list. In [Gallery](#), you will have to upload the client list one client at a time into the database, as opposed to uploading an entire file.



Key Features of Gallery:-

- Uploading Individual Photos or Entire Albums
- Giving Specific Permissions to Different Members – specifying who can view, edit, download, review, view reviews, buy, upload albums and photos, etc.
- Allowing people to view images in different sizes and creating thumbnails
- Viewing images as a slide show
- Allowing Albums to have different categories and subcategories
- Password protecting certain albums
- Number of times an album is viewed
- Adding reviews to albums or per photo – These are dated and timed.
- Shopping cart - Allows you to pay for photos that you have ordered. Payment can be marked via cheque (where information is passed to your specified e-mail) or PayPal.
- Water Marks – This is important for copyright protection.
- There are certain default layouts that come with Gallery – you should look at all of them and see which fit most of your design requirements.

For further details on Gallery functionalities, please click [here](#).

Who might be interested in this product:-

- The Photographer – This is a useful tool for photographers for a number of reasons:-
 - a. It allows you to showcase a variety of pictures in albums so that a wide spectrum of artistic styles can be viewed.
 - b. It allows the uploading of certain password protected files. The username and password can be passed to the client who can then access those albums once they log in. The clients can then order prints, or add comments to pictures or albums.
 - c. Administrators can control the process of images, allowing different members varying access as the image is passed through stages. Eg.
 - i. Photographer is given access to take photos and upload them onto the site
 - ii. Client is given permission to view albums created and add comments to the photographs for various touch-ups required. No other client is given access to view or add comments to that album

- iii. Photo Editor is given access to download particular albums, do the changes specified in the comments and upload the edited item for the client to view.
- iv. Again the client is given the permission to view the item. If all is ok with the new image then it can be ordered and paid for before the printing takes place. If clients have issues with the editing the comment stream can be checked to confirm instructions so that there are no points of contention.

It is important to note that the Administrator of the site needs to ensure that the flow is always adhered to effectively.

- d. It can allow online payment through Pay Pal

We have implemented this product for a client for a site that you might be interested to look at ([BScene Studios](#)). Please click on "View & Order Prints" in order to see the album. Again, a number of albums are password protected so you will not be able to view all of them but you should get a general idea of what the application can do.

Artists – This can be an ideal method of showcasing specific paintings, different views of sculptures, ceramics etc. It can be a purely representative piece of the artist's capabilities or you can allow the buying and selling of the pieces online, The power here is that one can have an entire gallery of different painters with sub-categories to feature each artist's work.

Pictorial Documentation – Great method of documenting chronology of events, family trees, family photographs, holidays taken and stored in easily accessible albums.

To view some sites that use this tool please access the link below.

<http://gallery.menalto.com/gallery>

You might find some use for Gallery on your site.



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