What is Lightroom Classic?

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- Lightroom Classic is a powerful, industry-standard image organization and manipulation tool launched in 2007 by Adobe Systems.

- Lightroom uses non-destructive or "lossless" image editing, keeping the original image and the edits applied to it saved separately, so that no damage or permanent changes are made to the original image, regardless of its file type.

- The changes that you make to your image files in Lightroom are saved to a *sidecar file* called an *.xmp file* (which stands for "extensible metadata file.")

- Lightroom uses catalogs to store its information; these are *.lrcat files* (Lightroom catalog files).

Lightroom LOVES Organization

- While you "IMPORT" your images into Lightroom to work with them in your catalog, the images and the catalog are stored separately. Your images live on the drive where you put them, not technically "inside" Lightroom.

- Therefore, your Lightroom catalog, rather than actually "containing" your images, is referencing them at a particular location.

- Because of this, Lightroom expects your images to be in the location where they were when you imported them. If follows a path of reference.

- This is why, with Lightroom, ORGANIZATION IS KEY! The software is an incredibly powerful file management and organization tool, and it expects to find your images in a particular place.

- If you move (or rename) your images outside of Lightroom, you will see a "?" indicating that Lightroom can't find them. This can be repaired, but it is crucial to be organized at the outset.

Some Lightroom Benefits

- As previously stated, LOSSLESS EDITING and SOPHISTICATED FILE MANAGEMENT.

- The ability to look at images from multiple folders at one time.

- A File History that lasts forever! Unlike Photoshop, which deletes its history (a list of each step you've taken on the image) every time you close the program, Lightroom's history lives on with the catalog forever.

- Major space saving through VIRTUAL COPIES (which let you work on an infinite number of "versions" without actually copying the file) and COLLECTIONS (virtual folders that allow you to gather images from multiple locations and into multiple "folders" without actually making copies of the file.

- Unparalleled image evaluation, processing, and manipulation in a RAW editor.