



Off line photo management: Bridge has to have the files present in order to view or sort. Lightroom allows me to keep my photos on an external hard drive and still view/sort/add keywords/create collections with the hard drive being disconnected, and then re-syncs the data when I reconnect the drive. I primarily use a laptop and store all my photography on an external drive, but I don't always take my external drive when I run around with my laptop. Lightroom allows me to continue to show/organize the photos without the extra drive...anyone behind on organizing their photos will love this flexibility. Lightroom has a back end database that stores all the information on your files.

RAW management: Bridge operates primarily as a file manager/view, I can't edit within Bridge...RAW files need to open ACR (Adobe Camera Raw) to make edits. Lightroom uses ACR as its underlying editing engine without having to leave Lightroom to make edits. I can seamlessly move between your file management and your editing without having to close anything. They also improved the interface of the ACR adjustment options in Lightroom over Bridge.

Adjustment Brush: Lightroom has this editing tool that is one of the best editing tools I've ever used. I can paint in Exposure/Brightness/Contrast/Saturation/Sharpening/Clarity/Color and change the variables of each adjustment after you've applied them. This is the perfect tool for extremely quick lossless editing. I would be shocked if Photoshop CS5 didn't have this added.

Virtual Copies: The Virtual copy feature lets me experiment with multiple editing options for a single image without duplicating the original file. For example, if I have an image that I think would look good in black and white and another with color adjustments, I can apply both fixes to the same image to see which you like best using virtual copies. Not only will I be able to view and edit these virtual copies, I can export each as a different image and I can work with them independently of each other.

Exporting: Another feature taken from ACR, but much improved....I can take any single or group of photos (including Collections/Smart Collections) and export them into JPG/PNG/TIFF/PSD/DNG in any resolution, color space, or quality within the images capabilities. This is the simplest solution for batch processing RAW into JPGs that I've seen so far. Export also lets you adjust all the export settings and save them as a preset to use in future. I have presets setup for exporting for emailing, Facebook, iPhone/iPod, Mpix online printing, and home printing. I can also use plug-ins for direct export to Flickr, Smugmug, Picasa, and many other online photo services.

Slide Shows: The Slide Show module lets me build robust slide shows with many available templates and also customize them with music and many other adjustable appearance features. Lightroom lets me save my slide show with all of my chosen options to the Collections Panel. This is a nice feature so I can pre-build my slide shows ahead of time, or if I need to use it on multiple occasions.

Web site: The Web Module acts in a similar way the Slide Show Module with its adjustable appearance feature, save with collections, and use of templates. Its templates are HTML and Flash based and simple to use, no need to be a web programmer. I also have a choice to export the web site to files on my hard drive or to directly FTP upload to my web server.