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## What is Lightroom?

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Adobe Photoshop Lightroom is a photography software program developed by Adobe Systems for Mac OS X and Microsoft Windows, designed to assist photographers managing thousands of digital images, and do post production work. It is not a file browser like Adobe Bridge, but rather an image management application database which helps in viewing, editing and managing digital photos.

### *How is Lightroom different from Bridge?*

One of the fundamental differences between Adobe Bridge and Lightroom is the way each application stores information about images. Adobe Bridge is a file browser, which navigates folders on a local drive and displays the contents. Photographers, however, often need to reference files stored on removable media such as a DVD or remote hard drive. While Adobe Bridge is incapable of displaying these offline files, Lightroom takes an extended view beyond the local disk — it can work with offline files because it is catalog-driven. Importing photographs to Lightroom is the method by which new images are added to its catalog. Photographic files do not need to be moved or copied when they are imported — the Lightroom catalog keeps track of where the originals are located, whether they are on your local hard drive or not.

The Lightroom catalog model also speeds the access to information, creating lightning-fast searches based on standard EXIF and IPTC metadata or simple keywords. And just as your photographs don't need to be stored on your local hard drive, neither does your Lightroom data. Multiple catalogs can be created, whether they are for individual clients and projects, or for students and their corresponding assignments, and they can be located on a local or removable drive for portability and security. Finally, the Lightroom catalog keeps track of information such as virtual copies; collections of images; editing history and snapshots; and slide show, print, and web templates — information that would be difficult to efficiently store otherwise.