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With the Android version of Lightroom, Adobe primarily targets an enthusiastic photography audience. The slick and feature-heavy interface offers nearly all photo-editing tools available with the desktop version. Though it lacks certain workflow features, plug-in capability, and printing, Lightroom is still a pretty good choice.Edit, organize and share raw files with ease.Using Adobe Photoshop Lightroom (Android), editors can do their job quickly, and easily. Advanced features like gesture control and sync control make Lightroom a better choice than RawTherapee, LightZone, IrfanView, and other competitors.A range of advanced featuresWhen you run Lightroom, you'll notice a grid of synced images with expandable toolbars. While Lightroom works perfectly fine on an Android phone, you may want to consider simplifying the interface on a tablet. Thankfully, gesture control gives you the power to easily declutter the screen.For editing raw camera images, you can use Adobe Lightroom 'Profiles'. It's a major improvement on the limited options for raw file conversion from the previous version. Additionally, you can check out some artistic profiles resembling Instagram filters.Lightroom offers a 'Curves' tool, which makes tone adjustment a breeze. With the Android version, you get most of the adjustments for color and lighting. There's also a 'Crop' tool for presetting aspect ratios and auto-straightening. You can use the touch-input mode, and leverage advanced features like the healing brush, local adjustment brush, and gradient and linear adjustments.Unlike its competitors, the AI-powered object search allows you to you find almost anything you want. You can import images from a folder or a memory card, but not VSCO images. Lightroom is not just a photo-editing tool. It also lets you organize everything by keyword tags and albums. Only LightZone has paid more attention to organizing files within the app.Lightroom pretty much beats every other competitor with face recognition. It's the perfect way to organize your photos. Once you're done with editing or organizing, easily share the final output to Adobe's online galleries or a disk.Gesture control is probably the most amazing feature of the lot. It makes everything on the app easier and faster to maneuver. Additionally, you get certain areas and sliders to click, which can be double-tapped to view new displays with metadata.Using Lightroom, you can do basic enhancements, while leveraging advanced features for complex workflows. Apart from this, you can crop images. On the downside, it is not possible to sync all the adjustments from a single image to an entire batch. It is an area where apps like RawTherapee win over Lightroom.Having said that, Lightroom (Android) is backed by Adobe, which has always been the go-to brand for creative apps. Like other software and apps available, this one is popular worldwide, thereby providing you with an opportunity to learn from experts around the world.With Lightroom (Android), you get access to tutorials from experienced photographers and influencers. In a world that's connected on every social media platform, it gives the much-needed exposure to your creativity.Application in the real-worldWhile experienced professionals and businesses will still prefer Adobe Lightroom's desktop version, the Android app has been increasingly popular among individuals and freelancers. Portrait photographers, wedding photographers, creative designers and Instagram influencers not only need an editing tool but a comprehensive organizer.Offering the best of both worlds, this is where Adobe Photoshop Lightroom beats the competition. Moreover, the ability to sync files in Adobe's galleries, and the possibility to use the entire Creative Cloud suite make Lightroom (Android) an excellent choice.You can edit and adjust your images with ease on your phone without having to access your computer. The updated version of Adobe Photoshop Lightroom (Android) brings the app closer to the powerful desktop version.Where can you run this program?Adobe Photoshop Lightroom is available for Android, Windows and iOS, which lets you sync photos cross-platform with ease.Is there a better alternative?Although Adobe Lightroom is available for free, you still need a Creative Cloud account. The limited free storage space might also be a deterrent. If you're looking for a few alternatives, here are some good options.One of the most popular alternatives to Lightroom, RawTherapee offers advanced features for editing photos. Yet, it primarily wins over Lightroom with amazing batch processing speed. An open-source platform, it's an excellent choice for dealing with compressed images and raw files.IrfanView combines excellent organization features with an amazing editing system. While using Lightroom, you might be troubled by the lack of cataloging options. There is no way to edit metadata. IrfanView offers these features, and more! Overall, it is a great alternative to Adobe's Lightroom.If you're only interested in organizing photos, LightZone is a great choice. It lets you organize and stack filters according to your preferences. Though it is a simple editing tool, it has some exceptional raw file processing features. There is just one catch!A fast, powerful and clean photo-editing and organizing tool, Adobe Photoshop Lightroom is a quicker platform than the desktop version. While it's an excellent tool to have in your kitty, Adobe's cloud storage is expensive, and transition for existing users could be tricky. Should you download it? Yes, definitely! Though Lightroom has always been considered a powerful platform, the Android version feels like a breath of fresh air. With a cleaner interface, simpler options, and comprehensive online storage, editing or organizing your photos will be easier, faster, and more efficient. While you do lose a few features, you get a lot more in return. Adobe Photoshop is the reference app when it comes to image editing and many years at the top haven't dimmed its shine. It's also a serious app: Photoshop has a steep learning curve and will take practice, often over many years, to get to grips with. For the average user is Photoshop the best option or is it just more power than most people need?Hands-down the best all-round image editing app Adobe Photoshop is a powerhouse of an app and has had many years on the market to refine and improve its features. It's paid off, as few people would deny that Photoshop is the app of reference when it comes to image editing. It's never been considered accessible and other apps have sought to take advantage of this by launching competing software offering specific Photoshop features (and the occasional app trying to recreate all of Photoshop's features. As a result, for many people, the question is: do I opt for Photoshop or do I save effort and money by trying out one of the many alternatives? One thing that is undeniable: Photoshop is the photo editing and all-round image editing app par excellence. If you are specifically looking to edit photos or you regularly need to carry out a wide variety of assorted edits to images, Photoshop offers exactly the features, power, and control you'll need. Now, harnessing these powerful features isn't an easy task. It typically takes users dozens of hours to learn how to use Photoshop and even longer to learn how to use it well. Luckily, people have been having a similar problem for decades, so modern users will be able to take advantage of the huge quantity of user-generated and official support documents, videos, and tutorials that have grown over the years.Bear in mind, however, that Photoshop has been updated many times in this period and older material might be difficult to relate to if you're using a recent version of the app. If you're not an enthusiastic photo editor or you typically use a smaller number of editing tools, the fact that Photoshop takes so much practice and is so intensive on your computer's resources (older and less powerful Macs will have a hard time keeping up), it might be more practical to look towards another app that isn't quite so focussed on all-round greatness. It will be easier on your brain and your computer. Where can you run this program? This version of Photoshop runs on Mac, version 10.12 or later (Sierra). There is also a version for Windows. Is there a better alternative? In terms of an all-round image editing app or photo editor, no: Photoshop is the best. Users should bear in mind, however, that not everyone needs an all-around app or powerful photo editor. If you think that your needs might allow more flexibility, check out Krita or Corel Painter, which are both less resource-intensive, have a shorter learning curve, and offer more specific features than Photoshop. If you're looking for a free all-around option, try GIMP. It might meet your needs but isn't the polished hero that Photoshop is.Ever heard the expression "With great power comes great responsibility"? It might have originally referred to politics and royalty, but it also describes Photoshop perfectly. It is king of the photo editors but takes serious effort (and RAM) to use properly. Make sure that you really need Photoshop before jumping in. Should you download it? If you need Photoshop beyond a doubt, then it's a definite download. Adobe Photoshop is the market leader when it comes to photo retouching, image editing, or even creating new images from scratch. However, for most people's uses, it may just be too many features to wade through, too much money to spend, or too complicated to use. Thankfully, there are plenty of powerful alternatives that also have tons of features. Here's a look at five of the best. Earlier this week we asked you which Photoshop alternatives you thought were the best, or which ones you preferred when you needed to do image editing or photo editing. You responded with a ton of great suggestions, but here are your top five, in no particular order. If you need to edit images, touch up photos, remove objects, or just make an image look the way you Read moreThe polls are closed and the votes are counted! To see which of these five great Photoshop alternatives took the top spot, head over to our hive five followup post to read more and discuss the winner! Adobe Photoshop is a powerful tool. It's at the top of the market for a reason. It's also pretty...Read moreGIMP (Win/OS X/Linux)The GNU Image Manipulation Program, aka GIMP, is well known and well loved for more than a few reasons. It's incredibly powerful, packing as many features as Photoshop itself, the fact that it's cross platform and supports Windows, OS X, and Linux machines with ease (and with feature parity across all devices), and of course, because it's completely free. It has a completely modular and customizable interface, so you can keep your most oft-used tools front and center. It also features image correction utilities that make photo manipulation and retouching easy. Those of you who nominated GIMP praised it for coming in at the low low price of $0, but many of you also reported issues with its interface and usability. It's true, the interface certainly leaves more than a few things to be desired, and it can be difficult to get used to if you're more accustomed to other image editing tools. Some people love it, some people hate it, but everyone acknowledges that it's difficult to find a comparable feature-packed utility for free. Pixelmator (OS X)Pixelmator is a richly featured image editor for OS X. It'll set you back $30, but it often appears in bundles and app packs along with other useful utilities, so it can be had at a bargain. Pixelmator is remarkably powerful; packing a flexible, customizable interface that's designed for OS X, multiple layer styles and filtering/editing tools, and an adaptive engine that switches to the right tools or features when you need them. It's packed with photo and image editing and retouching features, so if you're looking to clean up photos before posting them to the internet, or getting them printed and framed, this app comes at a fraction of Photoshop's price and offers a ton of useful features. There's a reason that we said that Pixelmator is a seriously good replacement for Photoshop, and while some people will always have a use case that requires Photoshop specifically, (eg, you need non-destructive editing, channel support, or adjustment layers) for the rest of us, Pixelmator is worth a look. Those of you who nominated it praised its RAW file support, and its depth of features, not to mention its price tag. Of course, it's Mac only, so those folks doing image editing on Windows or Linux machines don't have it as an option. OS X: Most Mac users know that Pixelmator is pretty much the best Photoshop alternative you can...Read morePaint.NET (Windows) Paint.NET is one of our favorite image editing tools. Part of it is because the app is feature packed, offering layer editing, a customizable interface with plenty of room to work but also plenty of tools at your disposal, unlimited undo, tons of effects and filters, and a community of passionate users. Part of it is because Paint.NET is completely free, and for the vast majority of people looking to touch up a photo before they post it to the web, resize or crop an image, or do basic image editing, it's more than enough, and it's completely free. It doesn't have the same features as more advanced tools like Photoshop or even GIMP, but not every Photoshop alternative needs to have the same breadth of features—just the ones that matter. Those of you who nominated Paint.NET noted this explicitly. Advanced users may run up against its limitations after a while, but advanced users probably already know the tools that have the features they need. The rest of us though, who just need to open a tool to do some basic work here and there and want a fast, flexible, and free utility to do it, Paint.NET Is the way to go. Adobe Photoshop Lightroom (Windows/OS X)Adobe Lightroom stands out from a number of the alternatives here partially because it's designed specifically for photographers, and has the broad variety of tools and features they need to get their photos edited, retouched, updated, and corrected before they're printed, framed, posted online, or even professionally judged. Color correct your images, remove objects or people, straighten images, and more. Lightroom is part of Adobe's Creative Cloud suite, so you have the option of buying access to it alone, or making it part of a larger subscription to Adobe's other utilities as well. The full version is $149, but it's frequently available with discounts. We were initially surprised that another Adobe product, much less Lightroom, got the nominations for the top five. However, it makes sense if you're a photographer looking for a great image editing tool that's not quite Photoshop, and it looks like a number of you are doing just that—editing photos specifically, not just images, and not necessarily creating images from scratch. Pixlr Editor (Web)Pixlr Editor is actually part of a suite of Pixlr apps, including the previously mentioned mobile app Pixlr Express, and photo filter and tweaking app, Pixlr-O-Matic. Pixlr Editor on the other hand is a richly featured webapp that offers a healthy dose of features for editing photos and images. It packs adjustments, layers, filters and effects, basic features like rotation, resizing, cropping and editing, area selection, and so on. It's not as feature-packed or as streamlined as a lot of other tools, but the fact that it's free and runs in your browser alone makes it worth your attention, and your use if you're away from a computer with a tool you already know installed. Android/iOS: Made by the same team behind Pixlr-o-Matic, one of your favorite photo filter apps,...Read moreThose of you who nominated Pixlr highlighted that fact as well; it does just about everything the average user needs, and while professionals will likely find it lacking, amateurs and everyday users have a lot to like here. Plus, the fact that it's a webapp means it runs in any browser, on any OS, with the same features. Sign up for an account and you can save images for future work. There you have it, your top five. Now it's time to put them to an all-out vote. Not much in the way of honorable mentions this week, with the exception possibly of Google Picasa, which some of you noted you use to touch up your images, do some light image editing before sharing them or posting them to the web, and also to organize and manage your photo library. Similarly, we should give a nod to SumoPaint, another free, cross-platform tool that's web-based and offers a ton of useful tools and features. Have something to say about one of the contenders? Want to make the case for your personal favorite, even if it wasn't included in the list? Remember, the top five are based on your most popular nominations from the call for contenders thread from earlier in the week. Don't just complain about the top five, let us know what your preferred alternative is—and make your case for it—in the discussions below.The Hive Five is based on reader nominations. As with most Hive Five posts, if your favorite was left out, it didn't get the nominations required in the call for contenders post to make the top five. We understand it's a bit of a popularity contest. Have a suggestion for the Hive Five? Send us an email at tips+hivefive@lifehacker.com!Photos by Robert Freiberger and Blake Patterson.