Introduction

Pink Mouse's Image Organiser (PMIO V1.2) is a powerful and flexible tool for organising and viewing your image files. You can use it to view, copy, move, rename, delete and comment your images. You can also use it to automatically generate HTML documents for use on the World Wide Web. The program features multiple Browser Windows, an Animation Window for checking animation effects, and an Image Basket for gathering images to work on while browsing.

System Requirements

The program was written and tested on a Windows 95 Pentium system, but it fails to run correctly on Windows NT. Therefore this release of the program is for **Windows 95/98 only**. It requires at least 16MB of RAM and at least 256 colours to run properly. Note, however, that it was designed and optimised to run on a 16-bit or better display. 256 colour mode is not recommended because it is slower and doesn't look as good. On the subject of colours, the pictures in this help document are only 256-colours or less, and do not represent the quality of the actual display.

Supported File Formats

This version of the program only supports BMP and JPEG images. Support for further image files will be added if there is sufficient interest in the development of the program. GIF support will unfortunately not be included because it requires a license from Unisys which I don't have the time, inclination or funds to pursue.

License and Disclaimer

This program and all files that accompany it are **freeware** which means that you are free to use, copy and distribute the software and encourage its use. Please do not modify any of the files yourself - you should only distribute the **original** zip file.

This software is provided as is with no warranties either express or implied as to its suitablility for use on any computer system. The author cannot be held responsible for any problems caused directly or indirectly by the use of this software. You use this software entirely at your own risk.

Or, in plain English: While every care has been taken to ensure that this software reaches you in perfect condition, you may find that the contents have settled during transit. If anything goes wrong, it's not my fault.

Credits

Pink Mouse Productions presents Pink Mouse's Image Organiser V1.2. This program was written by John Croudy. It was mainly tested by Satu Ilva who also made many suggestions and wrote a set of Word macros to enable easier creation of this help file. I would also like to thank all the other people who downloaded and tested the beta versions of this program. Thanks also to all those who have e-mailed me with suggestions, most of which have been implemented in this release. This version of PMIO has a slightly different splash screen and thumbnail size picture. The original was taken from a print of John William Waterhouse's wonderful painting 'The Lady of Shalott'. I was under the impression that since the artist has been dead for over 50 years, I could use the picture. It turns out that this is not necessarily true. In order to prevent any problems, I unhappily decided to remove the image completely. The replacement was digitally created from various photos taken by myself. All images in this program were taken using an Olympus C-1000 digital camera, and processed using Paint Shop Pro 5.

About John

John Croudy `<106547.3403@compuserve.com>` is the author of PMIO and other Pink Mouse Productions software. He is currently living with his girlfriend in Turku, Finland. His favourite pastimes are programming, watching films, observing astronomical bodies, and eating spicy food that does not contain bits of animal's bodies. For more information on this strange person, go to:

http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/sprucetree/

About Satu

Satu Ilva `<sailva@utu.fi>` is the author's girlfriend and software tester. She had a large part in the design of this program, and has made many suggestions for improvement. Her favourite pastime is telling me that some caption or other doesn't fit when using Large Fonts. For more information on this wonderful human being, go to:

http://www.utu.fi/~sailva

About the Pink Mice

If you really want to know what these pink mice are, go to:

http://www.geocities.com/CapeCanaveral/9725/

Getting Started

When you start the program, it displays the main Browser Window. This window contains an Explorer-style Folder Browser for navigating folders, a Shortcut List below it, and a Thumbnail Panel to the right. It also contains the menus and tool bars. The program remembers the last folder that this browser was using and automatically opens it. If the folder already has a browse file, it will be loaded; otherwise the folder will be scanned and each image will be loaded as a thumbnail. When this is complete you can save the browse file manually or allow the program to auto-save it, depending on preference settings. Click here for a visual tour of the program.

The Browser Window

The Browser Window is the most often used window in PMIO. From here you can perform most operations on your image files. Click on the picture below for information on each object or tool.
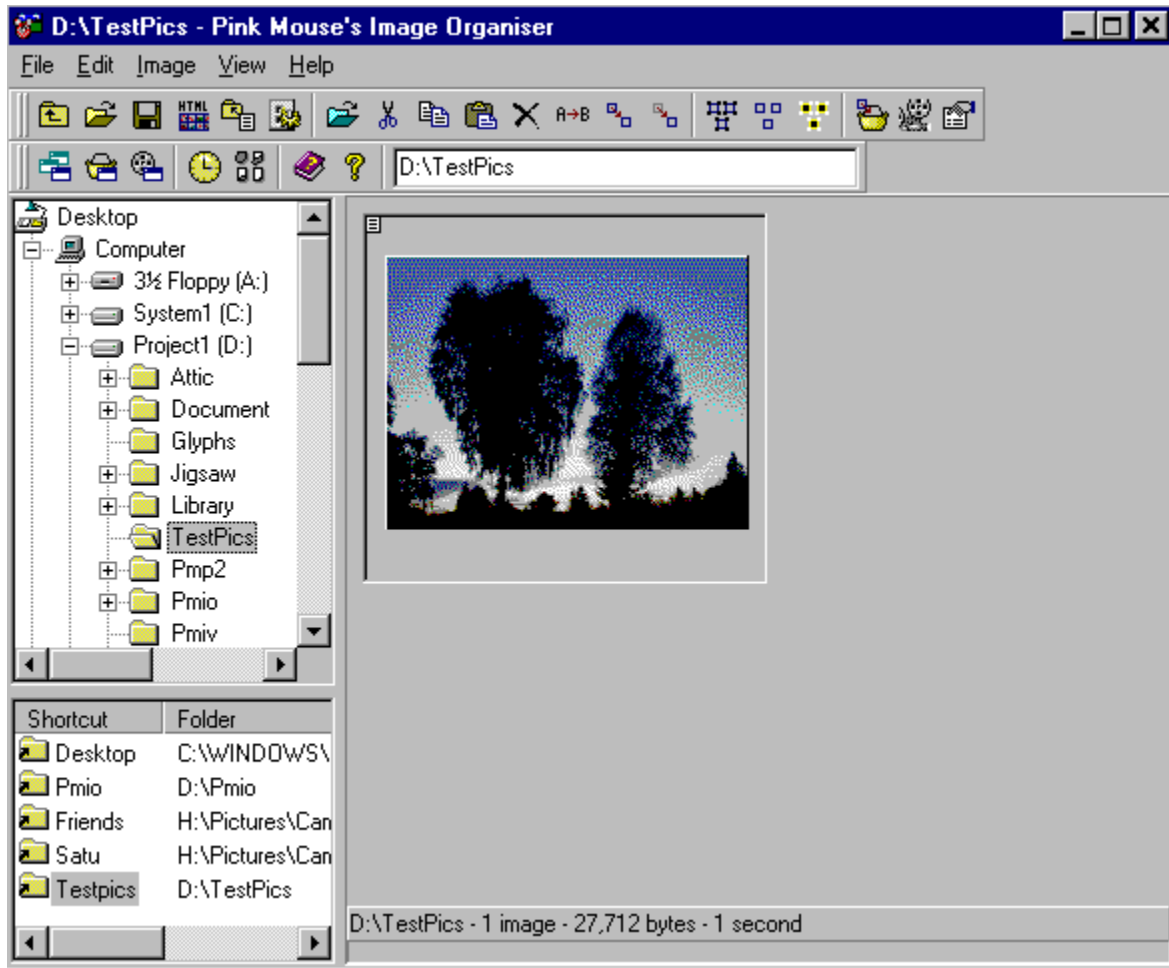
The Browser Window

Up One Level

This command provides a quick way of navigating to the parent folder.

🗁 Open Folder

This command displays a folder browser which you can use to navigate to a folder. This folder will then be opened in the thumbnail panel in the usual way. The advantages of this over the normal [Folder Browser](#) are that firstly, the thumbnail panel doesn't keep opening and closing folders while you navigate, and secondly, this window can be resized independently of the thumbnail browser.

Save Browse File

This command saves the currently selected thumbnails in a browse file. The command is only enabled if there is something to save, that is, if the thumbnails have been modified since they were last saved. If the auto-save preference is enabled, you will not usually need to use this command.

Thumbnail Wizard

The Thumbnail Wizard allows you to generate a set of JPEG files and an optional HTML document to accompany them. This allows easy creation of pages suitable for use on the World Wide Web. The wizard itself contains all the information you need to use it, so it will not be described in detail here. The label format specifiers used on page 3 of the wizard are described here.
Please read the section on thumbnail quality before using this function.

Thumbnail Label Format Specifiers

The following case-insensitive format specifiers can be used when labelling thumbnails. They can all be used on page 3 of the HTML wizard. In General Preferences you can only use the specifiers shown in black.

%f   The name of the image file.
%s   The size of the image file.
%p   The pixel size of the image.
%b   The bit-depth of the image.
%d   The date stamp of the image file
%m   The image memo text.
%n   The sequence number of this image on the HTML page.
%t   The total number of images on the HTML page.

As an example, consider the following format:

```
File %n of %t, Name: %f, Size: %p (%b-bit, %s), Memo: %m
```

This could generate the following output:

```
File 9 of 20, Name: Camelot.jpg, Size: 800 x 600 (24-bit, 94KB), Memo:
                    Scanned from an old painting.
```

Export Image Memos

This command exports the memos of all the selected images into a set of text files with similar names to the images. For example, an image called `Image.jpg` will generate a text file called `Image.txt`. If the image does not have a memo associated with it, no file is created. Any previously existing files by the same name are overwritten with no prompting.

Preferences

This command opens the <u>Preferences Window</u> where you can set your preferences regarding the operation of various parts of the program.

📂 Open

This command opens the currently selected image(s). The effect of this depends on the first entry in the application list. It may also ask you to confirm that you want to open the images, depending on the current preference settings.

Open With

This menu item brings up a sub-menu which allows you to choose which application you want to open the currently selected image(s) with. This sub-menu can be customised by modifying the application list.

✂ Cut

This command cuts the selected images to the clipboard. This means that the images will become drop highlighted (faded) and ready to be pasted into another folder. If the paste operation is performed, the corresponding image files will be moved to the destination folder.

Copy

This command copies the selected images to the clipboard. This means that the images will become ready to be pasted into another folder. If the paste operation is performed, the corresponding image files will be copied to the destination folder.

Paste

This command will paste the contents of the clipboard to the destination folder. This means that the images that were previously cut or copied to the clipboard will be moved or copied to the destination, respectively.

✕ Delete

This command will delete the selected images by moving them to the recycle bin. Note that the operation of the recycle bin depends on your Explorer settings. You can undo the delete operation and recover the images by using the Undo command in any Explorer window. In this case, you will need to Update the thumbnail panel. See External Operations. Depending on Preference settings, you may be presented with the Delete Confimation Window.

ₐ→ᵦ Rename

This command brings up the [Rename Window](#) which allows you to rename the selected images.

⚙ Copy To

This command brings up the Copy To Window, which allows you to copy the selected images to another folder.

Move To

This command brings up the [Move To Window](#), which allows you to move the selected images to another folder.

⊞ Select All

This command [selects](#) all the images in the current folder (or [basket](#)).

Select None

This command unselects all the images in the current folder (or basket).

Invert Selection

This command inverts the selection state of all the images in the current folder (or basket). This means that all previously selected images become unselected, and all previously unselected images become selected. This is useful when you want to select all but a few images. Simply select the ones you *don't* want and then invert the selection.

Add To Basket

This command adds the currently selected images to the image basket.

Animate Selection

This command sets the currently selected thumbnails as the animation in the animation window, shows the animation window, and begins playback of the animation.

Ping-Pong Selection

This command sets the currently selected thumbnails as the animation in the animation window, shows the animation window, and begins playback of the animation. It differs from the Animate Selection command in that it adds the thumbnails in a special 'ping-pong' sequence. For example, if four thumbnails are selected, they will be added in the sequence 1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 3 - 2. This allows quick checking of animations that repeat forwards and backwards.

Properties

This command displays the Properties Window for each of the selected images in turn.

New Browser

This command opens a new browser window which you can then use to create and view thumbnails of images in a different folder. You can open as many browser windows as you want, limited only by the available computer resources. One use for multiple browsers is dragging and dropping thumbnails between browsers to move images. Another use is for creating thumbnails in the background. Because creation of thumbnails can take a long time for large folders, you can open a new browser and let it create thumbnails in the background while you work on a different folder in the original browser. If you have many folders with many images in them, you can open a number of browsers, navigate them to different folders, and leave the computer to create thumbnails while you are away. Be aware that this kind of operation takes a lot of computing power and a lot of memory.

Toggle Basket Window

This command toggles the display of the [Basket Window](#) on and off.

Toggle Animation Window

This command toggles the display of the [Animation Window](#) on and off.

Toggle Image Finder

This command toggles the display of the Image Finder on and off.

Update Thumbnails

This command updates the thumbnail panel. The current folder is scanned and any new images are loaded and added to the thumbnail panel. Any images that have been deleted are removed from the thumbnail panel, and any images that have been modified are reloaded so that the thumbnail reflects the changes. This command should be used whenever a folder has been modified externally to PMIO. If the auto-update preference is enabled, this command is automatically executed when a folder is opened.

Re-Lay Thumbnails

This command re-lays the thumbnails on the thumbnail panel so that they fit the width of the panel. If the auto re-lay preference is enabled, this command is automatically executed whenever the browser window is resized.

Reload Thumbnails

This command reloads the thumbnails on the thumbnail panel. It displays a confirmation request telling you how long these thumbnails previously took to load, and giving you a chance to cancel the operation.

Load Now

This command forces the selected thumbnails to be loaded. If you have opened a folder with many images, and you are interested in some images that are not yet loaded, you can either wait for the program to get to them, or you can select them and use Load Now to force the program to load them as soon as possible.

Set As Wallpaper

This command sets the selected image as the system wallpaper. There are two sub-commands for this:

Image   Sets the actual full-sized image as the wallpaper.

Thumbnail   Sets the thumbnail image as the wallpaper.

Show As Image

This command causes the thumbnail panel to display the thumbnails as images. This is the normal default operation. Selecting this option switches off the Show As Text option.

Show As Text

This command causes the thumbnail panel to display the thumbnails as text instead of pictures. Selecting this option switches off the Show As Image option.

Show Toolbar 1

This command toggles the display of toolbar 1

Show Toolbar 2

This command toggles the display of toolbar 2

Close Browser

This command closes the browser it was issued from. If this is the last browser and there are no other PMIO windows open, this will also exit from the program.

Delete Browse File

This command deletes the <u>browse file</u> for the current folder. It is useful for removing browse files from your disk when you are no longer interested in browsing that folder.

Close All and Exit

This command closes all PMIO windows and exits from the program.

Browser Window Help

This command displays help on the Browser Window (ie: *this* help page).

Contents

This command displays Windows Help for PMIO.

🔑 About

This displays a window showing information about the program, including version number and contact information. Please feel free to send an e-mail to the author if you have any comments or bug reports.

System Info

This command shows the standard operating-system information window.

Folder Browser

The Folder Browser is used to navigate to the folder you wish to browse. It works in the same way as the Explorer tree view (left panel). When a folder is selected it is immediately opened in the thumbnail panel. This may result in the previous folder's browse file being saved, depending on preference settings.

Folder Edit Box

This edit box provides a way of navigating to a folder by entering it as text. You can also paste in a folder name from the clipboard. If you enter a non-existent folder name, the edit box will turn red. When you use the Folder Browser to navigate to a folder, this edit box is automatically updated.

Shortcut List

This is a list of shortcuts to folders. For more information see About Shortcuts

Thumbnail Panel

The thumbnail panel is the area of the browser where thumbnails are displayed. You can select thumbnails on the panel, drag them to the Folder Browser, Shortcut List, Animation Window, or Basket Window, or the thumbnail panel on another browser. You can also arrange the thumbnails manually by dragging them within the same thumbnail panel. To do this, you must drag the thumbnails to one of the vertical bars between any two thumbnails.

Horizontal Splitter

The horizontal splitter can be dragged to change the width of the Folder Browser and Shortcut List.

Vertical Splitter

The vertical splitter can be dragged to change the relative heights of the [Folder Browser](#) and [Shortcut List.](#)

Status Panel

The status panel shows information about what the program is doing, as well as information about the folder that is currently open in the thumbnail panel.

Progress Panel

The progress panel shows the progress of loading and saving operations.

« Frame Back

Goes back to the previous frame of the animation

» Frame Advance

Advances to the next frame of the animation

◂ Reverse Play

Starts the animation playing in reverse. If the Loop option is checked, the animation will automatically repeat from the end when it reaches the start.

▪ Stop

Stops the animation playback.

▸ Play

Starts the animation playing. If the Loop option is checked, the animation will automatically repeat from the start when it reaches the end.

Open Image

Opens the image corresponding to the current frame. The effect of this depends on the first entry in the application list.

✕ Remove Frame

This command removes the current frame from the animation.

Remove All

This command removes all the frames from the animation. It asks 'Are you sure?' before doing so.

Loop

If the Loop option is checked, the animation playback will automatically loop back to the start when it finishes. Otherwise, the playback will stop.

Current Frame

The current animation frame is displayed here. The size of the frame depends on the size of the corresponding thumbnail.

Speed

This slider controls the speed of the animation playback.

Frame Number

This is the frame number of the current frame within the animation sequence.

Image Dimensions

This shows the dimensions of the image (not the thumbnail) corresponding to the current frame.
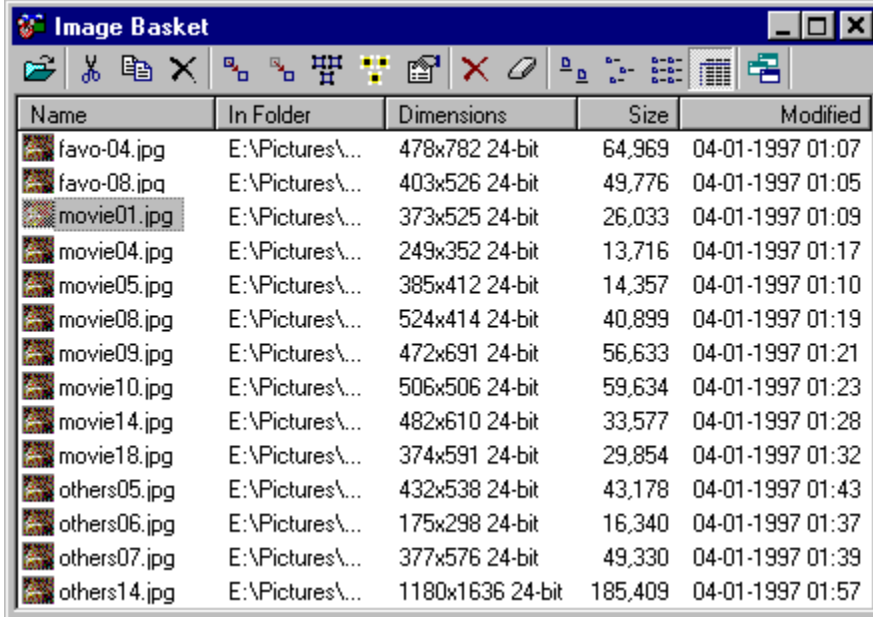
Image Name

This is the file name of the image corresponding to the current frame.

⬛ The Basket Window

The Basket Window is a useful tool for storing references to images temporarily while browsing in more than one folder. The name 'basket' comes from the analogy with supermarket shopping. While browsing the different shelves (folders) you choose items (images) that you want to buy (process). You can drag and drop files from Windows Explorer onto the basket window and have them entered into the basket, or you can drag thumbnails to the basket from any browser window. Most of the basket commands are available from a context-menu and the toolbar. The new command **Open Browser** is only available from the context-menu. It allows you to select some images and open browsers for the folders that those images are located in. Click on the picture below to get information on each item.

Name	In Folder	Dimensions	Size	Modified
favo-04.jpg	E:\Pictures\...	478x782 24-bit	64,969	04-01-1997 01:07
favo-08.jpg	E:\Pictures\...	403x526 24-bit	49,776	04-01-1997 01:05
movie01.jpg	E:\Pictures\...	373x525 24-bit	26,033	04-01-1997 01:09
movie04.jpg	E:\Pictures\...	249x352 24-bit	13,716	04-01-1997 01:17
movie05.jpg	E:\Pictures\...	385x412 24-bit	14,357	04-01-1997 01:10
movie08.jpg	E:\Pictures\...	524x414 24-bit	40,899	04-01-1997 01:19
movie09.jpg	E:\Pictures\...	472x691 24-bit	56,633	04-01-1997 01:21
movie10.jpg	E:\Pictures\...	506x506 24-bit	59,634	04-01-1997 01:23
movie14.jpg	E:\Pictures\...	482x610 24-bit	33,577	04-01-1997 01:28
movie18.jpg	E:\Pictures\...	374x591 24-bit	29,854	04-01-1997 01:32
others05.jpg	E:\Pictures\...	432x538 24-bit	43,178	04-01-1997 01:43
others06.jpg	E:\Pictures\...	175x298 24-bit	16,340	04-01-1997 01:37
others07.jpg	E:\Pictures\...	377x576 24-bit	49,330	04-01-1997 01:39
others14.jpg	E:\Pictures\...	1180x1636 24-bit	185,409	04-01-1997 01:57

The Basket Window

The Animation Window

The Animation Window allows you to animate a sequence of thumbnail images. Its primary use is for quickly checking that a set of thumbnails are suitable for animating before going to the trouble of loading the images into an animation software package. You can select one or more thumbnails and drag them to the animation window where they will be added to the animation. You can use the Animate Selection or Ping-Pong Selection commands to set the selected thumbnails as the current animation. You can use the various toolbar controls to play, stop and step through the animation. You can remove frames from the animation or open the image represented by the currently displayed frame. Click on the picture below to get information on each item.
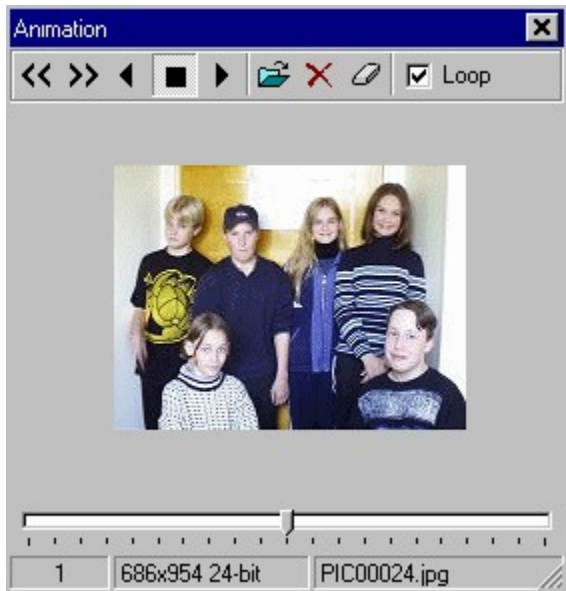
The Animation Window

✕ The Delete Confirmation Window

This window gives you extra protection from accidental deletes. If you already have the Explorer's 'delete confirmation dialog' enabled then you will probably want to disable this window. This can be done in preferences or by checking the 'Don't show me this again' option on the window itself. Click on the picture below to get information on each item.

The Delete Confirmation Window

Don't show me this again

Checking this option disables the [Delete Confirmation Window](#). You can enable it again from [Preferences.](#)

The Rename Window

Click on the picture below to get information on each item.
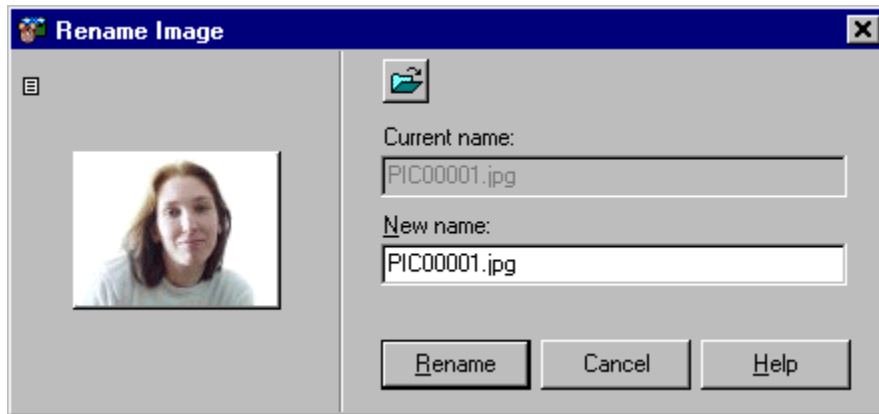
The Rename Window

⁑ The Copy To Window

This window is displayed in response to the Copy To command. Click on the picture below to get information on each item.
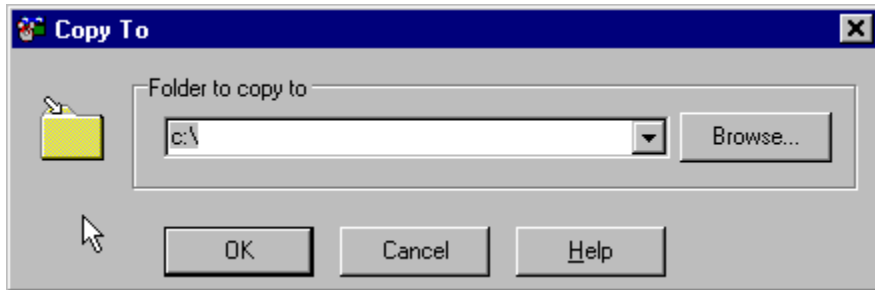
The Copy To Window

The Move To Window

This window is displayed in response to the Move To command. Click on the picture below to get information on each item.
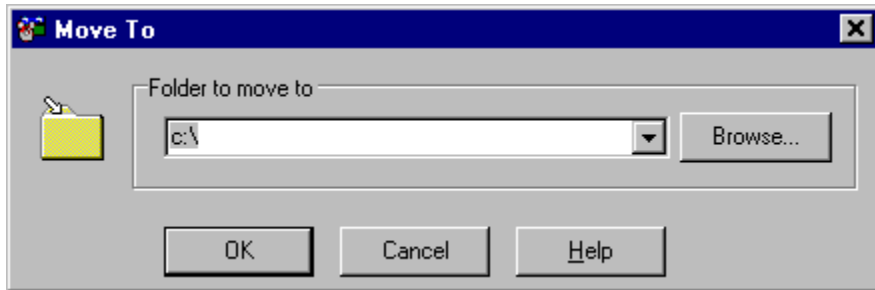
The Move To Window

▣ The Properties Window

Click on the picture below to get information on each item.

The Properties Window

⚏ The Image Finder

The image finder allows you to search for images in all browsers and the basket. Click on the picture below to get information on each item.
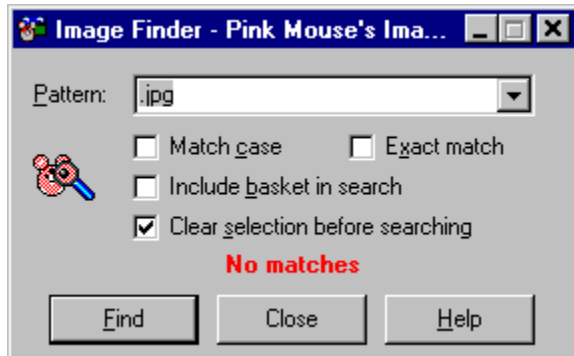
The Image Finder

The Search Pattern

Enter the search pattern in this edit box. The last 10 search patterns are remembered in the drop-down list. A search pattern is a file name or part of a file name. If the Exact Match option is checked, the search pattern must be the exact file name that you want to find. Otherwise it can be part of a file name, and any image whose file name contains the search pattern will be matched. Do not enter wildcards (*) because they are not recognised and you will get no matches at all. When an image is matched in a browser or the basket, it is selected and scrolled into view.

Match case

If this option is checked, the search will be case-sensitive.

Exact match

If this option is checked, the search will only find images that exactly match the search pattern.

Include basket in search

If this option is checked, the basket will also be searched

Clear selection before searching

If this option is checked, the current selection will be cleared before searching in each browser or the basket.

The Search Result

The search result is displayed here. For example, **No matches** or **23 matches**. This is the total number of matches across all browsers and the basket (if included).

📑 The Preferences Window - General Tab

Click on the picture below to get information on each item.
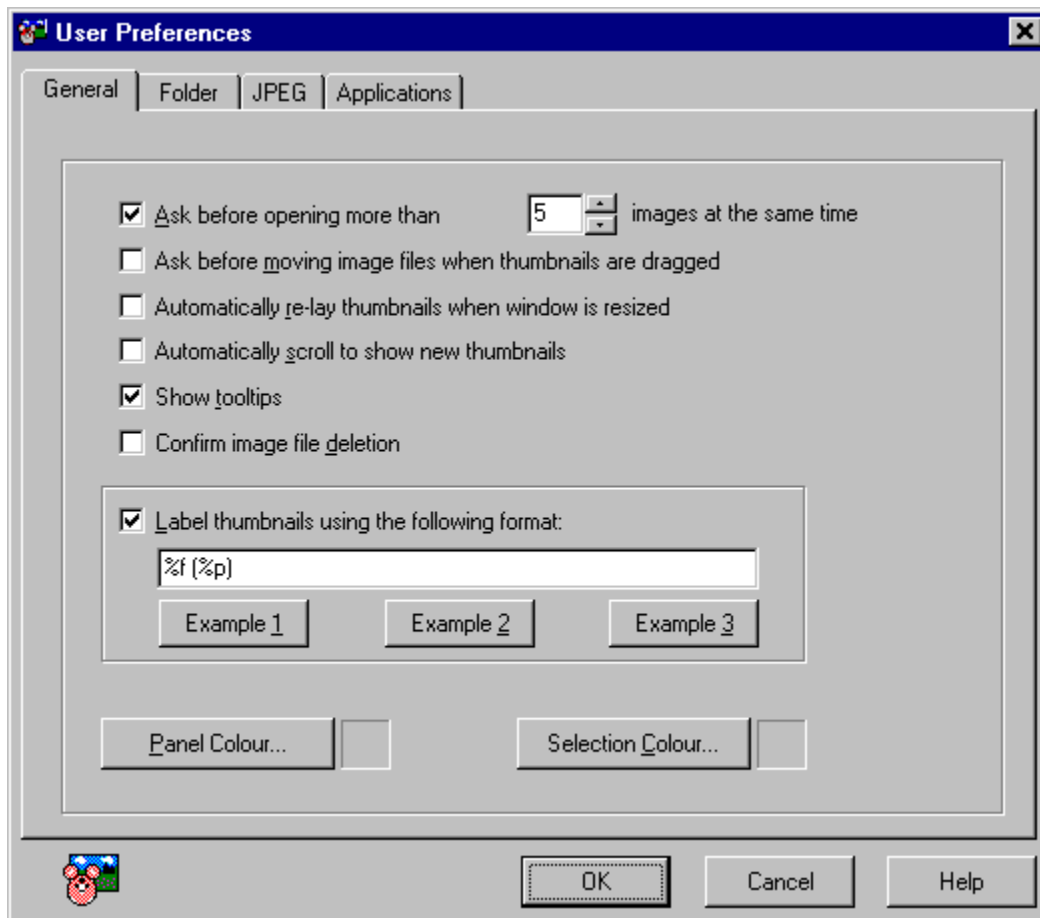
The Preferences Window

The Preferences Window - Folder Tab

Click on the picture below to get information on each item.
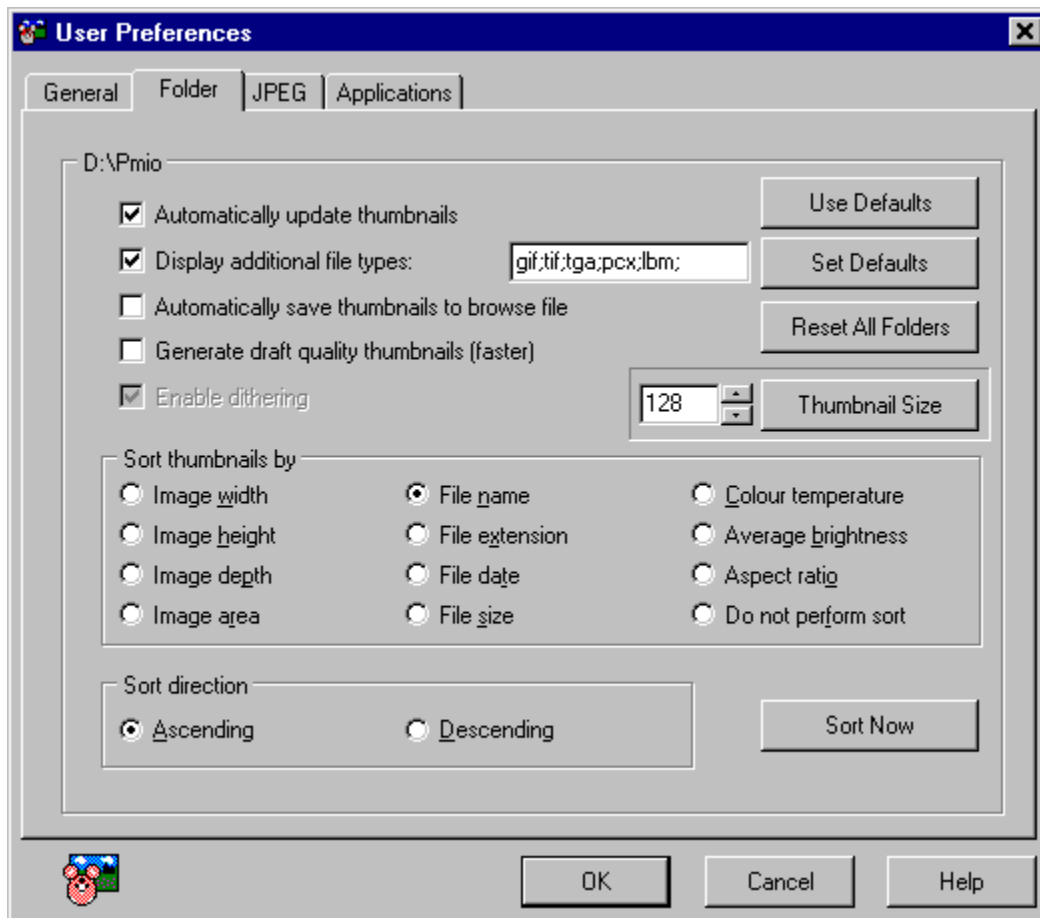
The Preferences Window

⬚ The Preferences Window - JPEG Tab

Click on the picture below to get information on each item.
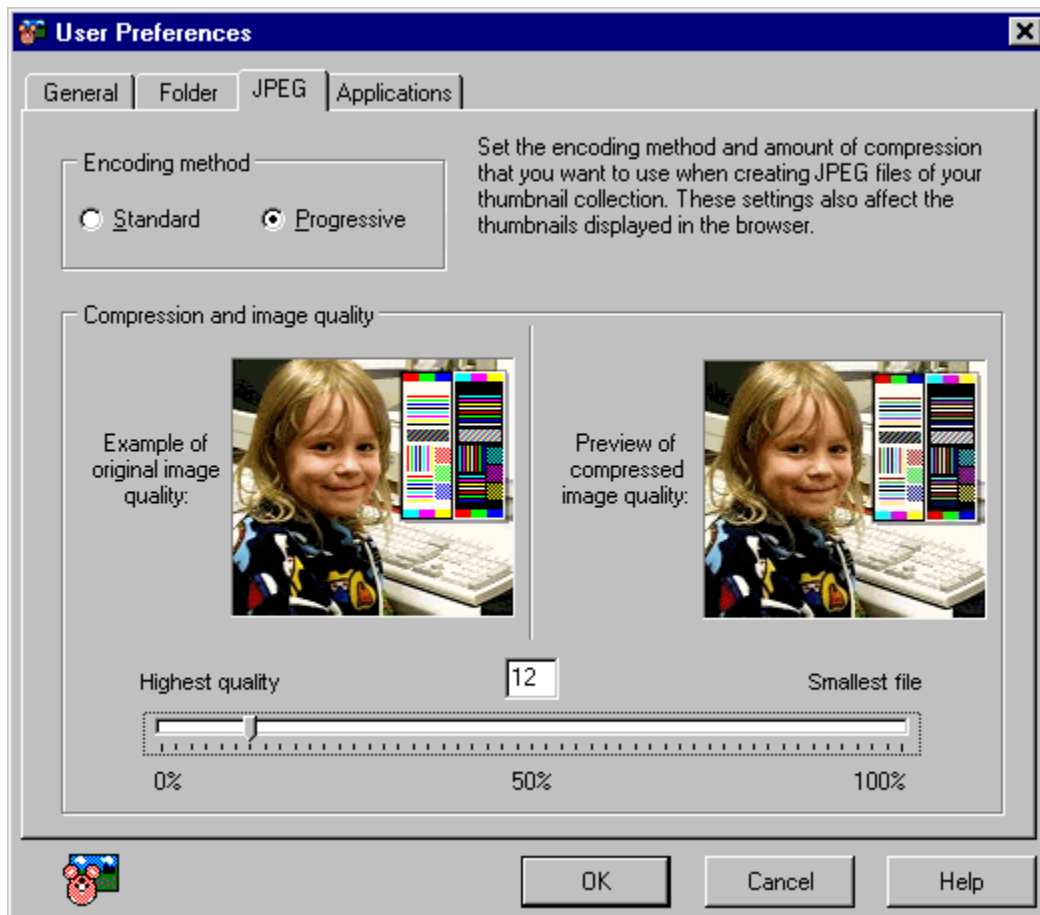
The Preferences Window

![icon] The Preferences Window - Applications Tab

Click on the picture below to get information on each item.
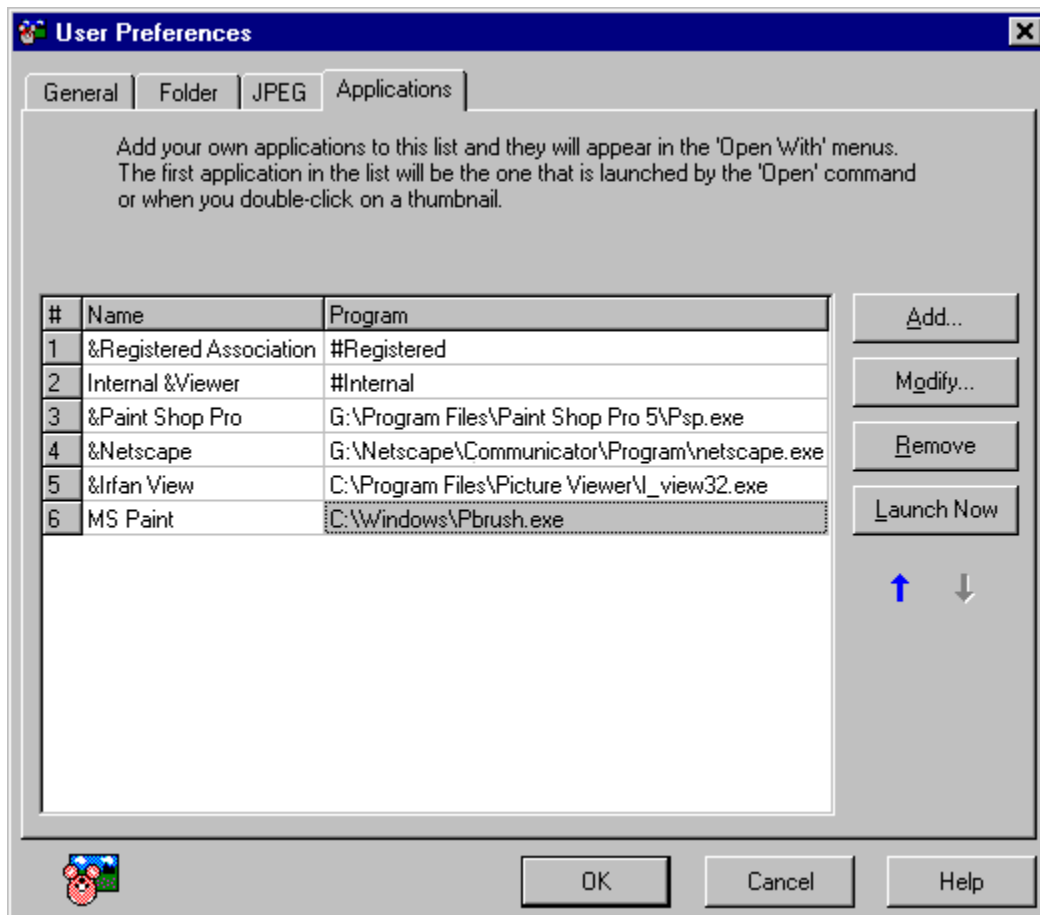
The Preferences Window

Large Icons

Displays the items by using large icons.

Small Icons

Displays the items by using small icons.

List

Displays the items in a list.

Details

Displays information about each item in the list.

Sort Headers

Click on these headers to sort the displayed information.

Basket Information

This area shows information about the images in the basket.

Basket Icons

These icons show the status of the images. If the image is loaded as a thumbnail in any browser, the icon is dark brown ( ), otherwise it is a faded blue colour (

).

✕ Remove From Basket

This command removes the selected images from the basket. It does not delete or affect the images in any way.

Remove All

This command removes all of the images from the basket. It does not delete or affect the images in any way.

Rename Button

Renames the image and closes the window.

Delete Button

Deletes the image and closes the window. This works in the same way as Windows Explorer and will use the Recycle Bin if you have that Explorer option enabled.

OK Button

Commits changes and closes the window.

Cancel Button

Cancels the entire operation and closes the window.

Close Button

Closes the window.

Help Button

Displays this help page.

Apply Button

Applies changes to the image and closes the window.

Skip Button

Skips this image and closes the window.

Browse Button

This button brings up a folder browser which enables you to choose the target folder for the current operation.

Find Button

Begins the search for the specified pattern in all open browsers. If the Include Basket option is checked, the basket is also searched.

Target Folder

This is where you enter the target folder for the current operation. You can either type it in, or use the Browse Button to navigate to the required folder. If you enter a folder name that does not exist, the OK Button will change to Create Folder, which means that the folder will be created if you choose to continue. This control maintains a list of the most recently entered folder names. You can choose from this list by clicking on the drop-down arrow to the right of the control.

Target Image

This shows the thumbnail for the image that is the target of the current operation. You can double-click it to open the image for closer inspection.

Current Name

This shows the current name of the image.

New Name

Type the new name of the image here and click the Rename button to rename it.

Open Target Image

This opens the image that is the target of the current operation.

Memo Text

Type the memo text here and press the Apply button to apply it to the image. To delete an existing memo, delete any text from this box and apply the empty memo to the image.

Image Information

Shows various information about this image.

About General Preferences

Each option on this page affects the operation of the whole program and all browsers.

Ask before opening

This option is used by the Open command. If it is checked, the program will ask you to confirm whenever you try to open more than the number of images specified in the edit box to the right of this check box.

Open Image Threshold

This edit box specifies the maximum number of images that can be opened at the same time before the program asks you to confirm the operation. It is only used when the check box to its left is checked.

Ask before moving

If this option is checked, the program will ask you to confirm that you wish to move images to another folder following a drag and drop operation. If you do manage to accidently perform a move, you can undo the operation from Explorer's undo command.

Auto Re-Lay

If this option is checked, the program will automatically execute the Re-Lay Thumbnails command whenever the browser window is resized.

Auto Scroll

If this option is checked, the program will automatically scroll the thumbnail panel to ensure that newly created thumbnails are visible. If you find this behaviour distracting, you can disable it with this option. It is still possible to scroll up to view previously created thumbnails; the auto-scroll is temporarily disabled when you scroll up, and re-enabled when you return to the last position it was active at.

Show Tooltips

If this option is checked, the program will display tooltips. Otherwise tooltips will not be displayed.

Confirm Image File Deletion

If this option is checked, the program will display the <u>Delete Confirmation Window</u> whenever you attempt to delete one or more images. If you disable this option, you will be relying on your Explorer settings to protect you from accidental deletions. This option is also disabled if you check the <u>Don't show me this again</u> option on the Delete Confirmation Window itself.

Label Thumbnails

If this option is checked, thumbnails will be labelled according to the format specifiers in the edit box. You can click the example buttons to see some example formats.

Panel Colour

Click this button to change the colour of the thumbnail panel. The current colour is shown in the square to the right of the button.

Selection Colour

Click this button to change the colour of selected thumbnails. The current colour is shown in the square to the right of the button.

About Folder Preferences

Each option on this page of the preferences window affects only the current folder. The name of the affected folder is displayed as the title of the group. By allowing each folder to have its own preferences, you can easily control the needs of different folders. For example, you may have a folder that contains hundreds of images. It might be wise to set the thumbnail size for this folder to be smaller than usual, in order to keep memory requirements to a minimum. Or you may have a folder with only a handful of images in it. In this case, you could create large high quality thumbnails since it won't take long to load the browse file for such a small folder. Furthermore, some folders will probably contain different *kinds* of images, and you may want to sort them by different criteria.

Auto-Update

If this option is checked, the program will automatically execute the Update Thumbnails command whenever you open this folder in the future. This is handly for small folders that change often, but can become a nuisance if you have a large folder that hardly ever changes, because the program will waste time scanning it every time you open it. In the latter case you can disable auto-update with this option, and manually update the thumbnails whenever you want to.

Auto-Save

If this option is checked, the program will automatically save the browse file for this folder a few seconds after a change is made to the state of the thumbnails. In some circumstances it is possible to make a change to the thumbnails that does not result in an immediate auto-save (eg: sorting). In this case, the thumbnails are still auto-saved when you close the folder by navigating to a different folder, or when you close the program. Of course, it is still possible to save manually whenever the save command is available. If this option is not checked, the program only saves after asking you to confirm that you want to do so. This is useful for very large folders where frequent time-consuming auto-saves would drive the user crazy. Note that the program only saves the browse file when it took longer than a few seconds to create the thumbnails.

Display additional file types

If this option is checked, the program will display thumbnails for additional file types (specified in the nearby edit box), but will not be able to load the images. This enables you to organise other types of files even though they are not supported by the thumbnail loader.

Generate draft quality thumbnails

If this option is checked, the program will generate thumbnails by using a simple resizing procedure. This is fast, but results in thumbnails that look jagged and grainy. This option can be used when you don't care about thumbnail quality and just want to quickly see the contents of a folder. However, if you are planning to use the Thumbnail Wizard to generate a web page, you should first turn this option off and reload the thumbnails. It takes longer to create high quality thumbnails, because the images are *resampled* rather than simply resized, but the image quality is far better. Please **don't** put draft quality thumbnails on your web page.

⁂ Enable dithering

If this option is checked, it enables dithering to be used when drawing thumbnails on 256 colour displays. *Dithering* is a method by which colours can be approximated on displays that do not support enough colours to show the correct ones. It gives better looking thumbnails but is much slower to draw. This option is unavailable (greyed out) when the program is running on high or true colour displays. The latter mode of operation is preferred, since 256 colour mode is slower and suffers from palette flickering problems. Note that this option only affects the way thumbnails are *drawn* - the files output by the Thumbnail Wizard are full 24-bit JPEG files.

Use Defaults

The effect of this button is to load the default folder preferences into the window. The default preferences for a folder are those that were last saved with the Set Defaults button. If the Set Defaults button has never been pressed, then the defaults used are those built into the program.

Set Defaults

The effect of this button is to save the current folder preferences as the default folder preferences. This means that whenever a new folder is opened in the future, these preferences will be used unless you manually change them.

Reset All Folders

This button can be used when you think you have completely messed up your folder preferences, and want to start all over again. It deletes **all** stored folder preferences and reverts to using the defaults. It should not be used lightly. It asks if you are sure before proceeding. After that, there's no going back.

Thumbnail Size Edit Box

This edit box holds the thumbnail size. The thumbnail size is the size, in pixels, of the longest edge of the thumbnail. You can set this to any value between 16 and 400. Alternatively, you can use the [Drag Thumbnail Size Window](#) to visually set the thumbnail size.

Thumbnail Size button

This button toggles the display of the Drag Thumbnail Size Window which is used to visually set the thumbnail size.

The Drag Thumbnail Size Window

This window can be displayed by clicking the Thumbnail Size button. It is used to visually set the thumbnail size. Simply drag a corner of the window until the picture inside it is of the desired size. This works together with the Thumbnail Size Edit Box; each updates the other.

Sorting options

These radio buttons control the type of sorting that is performed on the thumbnails. You can check the effect of any sort option by clicking it and then clicking Sort Now. The following sort options are available:

Option	Sort uses
Image width	The width of the image in pixels.
Image height	The height of the image in pixels
Image depth	The depth of the image in bits.
Image area	The area of the image in pixels.
File name	The name of the image file.
File extension	The extension of the image file.
File date	The date stamp of the image file.
File size	The size, in bytes, of the image file.
Colour temperature	The colour temperature of the image.
Average brightness	The average brightness of the image.
Aspect ratio	The aspect ratio of the image.
Do not perform sort	No sorting is performed.

Sort direction

These radio buttons control the sort direction.

Sort Now Button

This button sorts the thumbnails immediately, without waiting for the user to close the preferences window. This is useful when testing the effect of the sorting options.

About JPEG Preferences

These options and settings affect everything to do with JPEG files in PMIO. This includes the quality of thumbnails on the Thumbnail Panel and the quality of thumbnails output by the Thumbnail Wizard.

Encoding method

These radio buttons allow you to choose between Standard and Progressive encoding. These options modify the way that JPEG files are stored, and therefore the way they behave when re-loaded. Standard encoding is the normal method, in which the image is loaded more-or-less sequentially. Progressive encoding can be used when you expect that the image will be loaded from a slow system, for example, a web page. It enables the loader to display the image in progressively increasing quality. The advantage of this is that the user gets to see a low-quality rendition of the image relatively quickly, and can decide whether to continue looking at this image before it is even finished loading. This option is recommended when creating thumbnails for use on a web page.

Compression and image quality

This controls the amount of compression that the program will use when creating JPEG files. Since the thumbnails are created as JPEGs, this affects their quality. You can use the slider to set the quality, or type a number between 0 and 100 into the edit box. The highest quality and largest files are obtained when you use a setting close to zero. The lowest quality and smallest files are obtained when you use a setting close to 100. You can adjust the quality and compare the two sample images to see how the setting affects the quality.

About Applications Preferences

This page allows you to edit the list of applications which appear in the **Open With** menus. For each application in the list you must provide a *name* and a *program*. The names are used as menu captions, and the programs are the full paths to the applications' executable files (exe). A cell in the list can be edited by clicking once to select it, and again to open it for editing. The applications #Internal and #Registered are always present, and represent the Internal Viewer and the Registered Association respectively.

Internal Viewer

To open an image in the Internal Viewer, you can use the menu **Open With / Internal Viewer** command. This opens a new viewer window and loads the picture into it. The following commands are available from the context menu in the viewer (keyboard shortcuts are shown in parentheses):

Mirror	(H)	Flips the image horizontally.
Flip	(V)	Flips the image vertically.
Negate	(N)	Negates the image, like a photographic negative.
Monochrome	(M)	Converts the image to monochrome.
Reopen		Reloads the image file.
Close	(Alt+F4)	Closes the viewer.

These commands do not affect the image permanently.

Note: To make Internal Viewer the default PMIO viewer, move it to the top of the application list. For more information on how to do this, see Preferences - Applications Tab.

Registered Association

The registered association for a file type is the application that is launched when you open the file in Windows Explorer. For example, if the registered association for `.jpg` files is set as `C:\Viewer.exe` then the program `C:\Viewer.exe` will be launched when you open the file `Image.jpg` in Explorer. By selecting the **Open With / Registered Association** command in PMIO, you make sure that the image is opened in your preferred application for that file type. These associations are set in Explorer by choosing the **View / Options** command and selecting the **File Types** tab.

Note: To make Registered Association the default PMIO viewer, move it to the top of the application list. For more information on how to do this, see Preferences - Applications Tab.

Add

This allows you to add a new application to the list. Use the open file dialog to choose the application program which will appear in the **Program** column. Then edit the corresponding application name in the **Name** column.

Modify

This allows you to modify an existing entry. If a name is selected, it will open the name so it can be edited. If a program is selected, it will display an open file dialog which you can use to choose a different application to use. The program entries #Internal and #Registered cannot be modified because they are required for the program to operate correctly, but you can change their name entries.

Remove

This allows you to remove an entry. The entries called #Internal and #Registered cannot be removed because they are required for the program to operate correctly.

Launch Now

This launches the selected application with a test picture so you can test that it works ok.

Move Up

This moves the selected application up in the list. The application at the top of the list is the one that will be used when you choose the standard **Open** command from any menu or toolbar.

Move Down

This moves the selected application down in the list. The application at the top of the list is the one that will be used when you choose the standard **Open** command from any menu or toolbar.

Name Column

This column contains the names of the applications. These names will appear in the **Open With** menus. You can use the **&** character before a letter to specify the shortcut for that menu option. For example, if you enter the name `&Viewer` then the menu item will appear as **<u>V</u>iewer** and you will be able to select that item by pressing Alt+V.

Program Column

This column contains the paths to each application's executable file (exe). You can either type a file name straight into a program cell, or choose Modify to browse for one.

About Thumbnails

A thumbnail is a small picture which represents an image file on disk. It typically shows a scaled down version of the image, but it can also just display textual information. When you first navigate to a folder, the program scans the folder and finds all image files that it recognises. It then creates a thumbnail for each image file, and begins to load the files and create scaled down versions of them. As each image is loaded, its thumbnail changes from a text-only display to the actual scaled down image. Various preferences affect the new thumbnails, for example thumbnail dimensions and quality. The dimensions refer to the size of the thumbnails. You can create thumbnails ranging in size from 16x16 pixels to 400x400 pixels. Generally, it is a good idea to create smaller thumbnails when the folder has a lot of images in it, this keeps the memory usage and browse file size to a minimum. The thumbnail images are internally stored as JPEG data. This reduces the amount of memory required to store the images, and it also reduces the size of the browse file because the browse file is created from the JPEG data. Because of this, the JPEG quality preference affects thumbnail quality.

About Selections

When you want to perform an action on one or more images, you must first *select* them. All operations that can be performed on images affect only the selected images. Images can be selected by either selecting their thumbnails, or by selecting them in the basket. Making a selection works similarly to the Explorer. You can click to select just one item, hold down Ctrl to toggle selection, or hold down Shift to select a range of images. You can also change the selection by using the selection commands in the Edit menu. If you click on the thumbnail panel (but not on a thumbnail) you can drag a 'rubber band' rectangle around a set of thumbnails to select them. If you hold down Ctrl while doing this, you can add to the selection.

Dragging Thumbnails

Selected thumbnails can be dragged to the Folder Browser or Shortcut List - this will move the images to the target folder. You can also drag the thumbnails to the thumbnail panel on another browser. You can arrange the thumbnails manually by dragging them within the same thumbnail panel. Doing this automatically assumes that you are sorting manually, and switches the sort preferences to 'Do not perform sort'. Note that dragging thumbnails is disabled during loading and saving operations. This is because moving thumbnails around would upset the loading system.

About the Browse File

The Browse File is a 'thumbnail cache'. This means that once you have spent time building the thumbnails for a particular folder, they are saved in a file so that next time you navigate to the same folder, you only have to wait for the browse file to be loaded, instead of all the individual images. Each folder has its own browse file preferences.

About Image Memos

A Image Memo is a piece of text associated with an image. The memo text can be set for an image by selecting it and choosing the Properties command from the Image menu, tool bar or thumbnail context menu. Once a memo has been assigned to an image, a small icon (▣) will appear with the thumbnail for that image. Memos can be exported to a text file by choosing the Export Image Memos command from the File menu or tool bar. A memo can be deleted by simply deleting the text from the Properties Window. Note that the memo is associated with the *image file*, not the thumbnail. This means that when image files are copied or moved within PMIO, the memo is also copied. By the same token, reloading the thumbnails or deleting the browse file does not affect the memos. The actual text is stored in a separate folder inside the PMIO folder and is referenced by an entry in the system registry.

How to create a new shortcut

Shortcuts can be created in two ways. The first way is to navigate to the folder for which you wish to create the shortcut, and then choose the **Add To Shortcuts** command from the Folder Browser's context menu. The second way is to invoke the context menu on the Shortcut List itself, and choose the **New Shortcut…** command. This brings up a dialog box in which you can specify the target folder for the shortcut. Note that typing a non-existent folder name here gives you the opportunity to create the folder *and* the shortcut to it at the same time.

External Operations

If you perform operations on image files externally to PMIO, for example by using Explorer, then you must ensure that PMIO is informed of the changes. Otherwise it will get 'out of synch with reality'. You can do this by using the Update Thumbnails command. Generally however, performing operations outside of PMIO while it is running is discouraged.

About Docking Toolbars

The toolbars can be detached and moved around (floating) or they can be docked to the top edge of the browser. To detach a docked toolbar, click and drag the left edge of it. To dock a floating toolbar, click on its caption and drag it to the top of the browser, until the drag-rectangle snaps into place. Then release it.

About Tooltips

A tooltip is a small window containing text. Tooltips usually appear when you hold the mouse cursor over a toolbar button, and in PMIO they also appear when you hold the mouse cursor over a <u>thumbnail</u>. In this case, the tooltip gives information about the image that the thumbnail represents.

About Shortcuts

A shortcut is a quick way of accessing a folder. Shortcuts appear in the Shortcut List which is empty when you run PMIO for the first time. One of the first things you should do when you start using PMIO is set up some shortcuts to your most frequently used image folders. This will make it a lot easier to copy and move images because these shortcuts to your favourite folders are always accessible regardless of the state of the Folder Browser. The same list of shortcuts is used throughout the program, and all browsers will display the same ones. You can drag thumbnails from the thumbnail panel to a shortcut and have the images moved to the corresponding folder instead of having to navigate the folder browser to find the target folder. You can double-click a shortcut to automatically navigate to that folder and open it in the thumbnail panel. You can delete a shortcut by selecting it in the Shortcut List and pressing the delete key on the keyboard. You can rename a shortcut by selecting it and then clicking on the text, the same as renaming files in Explorer.

About Context Menus

A context menu is a pop-up menu that appears when you press the secondary mouse button (this is usually the right button). The contents of this menu depends on the object under the mouse cursor, and it allows you to perform some action on that object. This is a standard fitting in Win32 applications. Pink Mouse suggests the following course of action when you are unsure of how to proceed… "If in doubt, right-click on it!".

About Colour Temperature

Colour temperature is a term describing the overall tint of an image. The name is derived from the processes involved when an object is heated. If you heat up an iron bar, first it glows red, then white, and finally blue-white. The temperature of the iron determines its colour (the same reasoning applies to stars). In PMIO, if you have an image with an overall red tint, it is said to have a lower colour temperature than an image with an overall blue tint. The effect of sorting by colour temperature is to place all the reddish images first, followed by neutral images, and finally bluish images. This can be very useful when you are organising images that all came from the same photo shoot, under the same lighting conditions. You can use this sort option to quickly group most of the similar coloured images, and then manually drag the remaining ones into position. Note that it only works on the red to blue scale… green and other tints are not relevant.

◼ About Average Brightness

The average brightness of an image is found by adding up the brightness of each pixel, and dividing by the number of pixels. The effect of sorting by average brightness is to place all the darker images first, and all the brightest images last. This can be useful when organising images from photo-shoots in different lighting conditions. It can also be used when you want to delete all the images that are too dark or too bright; it is easier to delete them when they are all next to each other in the thumbnail panel.

About Aspect Ratio

The aspect ratio of an image is the relationship between its two dimensions, expressed as width divided by height. The effect of sorting by aspect ratio is to place all the narrow images first, and the wide images last. This can be useful when organising images from different sources, as it groups together all the images of a similar shape.

About the JPEG file format

JPEG stands for 'Joint Photographic Experts Group' and refers to a group of people who have developed one of the most ingenious graphics file formats. PMIO uses the JPEG file format internally for storing its thumbnails, in an attempt to reduce the memory usage and browse file size. Because of JPEG's incredible compression ratios, it is possible to generate 24-bit browse files that are smaller than an uncompressed 8-bit file would be. The limitation of JPEG is that it only works well for photographic images, and is not very good for line-art or other solid graphics with few colours. PMIO uses the IJG Library of JPEG functions, in other words, **this software is based in part on the work of the Independent JPEG Group**.

About Pink Mouse Productions

Pink Mouse Productions is the name of a non-existent company which is commited to producing high quality free software. In reality, the <u>author</u> is writing this software in his spare time. You can find more information at this web site:

http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/sprucetree/

File Menu

The File Menu contains the following file-related commands:

Open Folder
Close Browser
Save Browse File
Delete Browse File
Thumbnail Wizard
Export Image Memos
Close All and Exit

Edit Menu

The Edit Menu contains the following editing commands:

[Cut](#)
[Copy](#)
[Paste](#)
[Find…](#)
[Select All](#)
[Select None](#)
[Invert Selection](#)

Image Menu

The Image Menu contains the following image-related commands:

[Open…](#)
[Open With](#)
[Delete…](#)
[Rename…](#)
[Copy To…](#)
[Move To…](#)
[Load Now](#)
[Add To Basket](#)
[Set As Wallpaper](#)
[Animate Selection](#)
[Ping-Pong Selection](#)
[Properties](#)

View Menu

The View Menu contains the following display-related commands:

[New Browser](#)
[Basket Window](#)
[Animation Window](#)
[Update Thumbnails](#)
[Re-Lay Thumbnails](#)
[Reload Thumbnails](#)
[Show As Image](#)
[Show As Text](#)
[Show Toolbar 1](#)
[Show Toolbar 2](#)
[Preferences](#)

Help Menu

The Help Menu contains the following help-related commands:

Contents
About…
System Info…