Thumbscrew 1.0

Introduction

Screw it! Making thumbnails for the Web used to be painstakingly slow if you wanted to apply borders, drop shadows, transformations, alpha channels, and so on. Or if it was fast, you ended up with a boring field of rigid columns and rows. Thumbscrew allows you to quickly and easily chew through a bunch of images, applying scaling, random rotation, border, and drop shadow to each – even resizing the original, and processing the batch as a whole afterwards.

Images can come from a variety of places:

• Drag images (or folders of images) in from the Finder
• Paste images from the Clipboard
• Paste or drag in URLs to images

When images are being processed, the image well in the main window will be briefly replaced with the original, and as the thumbnail is created, with the thumbnail. A progress bar at the bottom tracks overall progress of the batch.

After a batch has run, a batch file is created in *~/Library/Application Support/ Thumbscrew/Batches/* and the selected post-flight script is run with this file as its only argument.

Thumbnails

This pane controls how Thumbscrew will process the thumbnails in a batch.

Maximum Angle

This sets the largest angle (in degrees) that Thumbscrew will rotate any image in the batch. Thumbscrew picks a random number between *-angle* and *+angle*.

Size

This sets the maximum size of the longest side of the image, before rotation, border and drop shadow are applied.

Border

You can select the size of the border (in pixels) to be added around the image, and its color.

Suffix

The thumbnail will be named based on the original source, except when the original source is image data on the Clipboard[1]. You can have Thumbscrew add a suffix to the base name of the thumbnails.

Format

Thumbscrew can create thumbnail images in the following formats:

- PNG
- JPEG[2]
- TIFF
- GIF[3]

Background Color

You can have Thumbscrew set the background color of the thumbnail to match a website or document background. By default, Thumbscrew uses a transparent background color.

Save to Location

You can choose where to save thumbnails, defaulting to the same location as the original. When you add new entries, Thumbscrew remembers them between runs. Clearing this list returns it to the default entry *Same as original*.

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[1] When images are pasted in from the Clipboard, an image is actually created first in ~/Pictures/ Thumbscrew/. The name of this file is Untitled*n*.png where *n* is the number of Untitled images already present in the folder. So the first one is named Untitled0.png.

[2] You cannot use a transparent background with JPG. Choose a background color to match its intended use.

[3] GIF provides a single replacement color for transparent backgrounds, so the drop shadow will not blend smoothly. Choose an opaque background color to match its intended use.

Originals

If you choose, Thumbscrew can also resize the original images.

Resizing

Check the box if you'd like Thumbscrew to resize originals, and select the maximum size of the longest side of the image.

Suffix

The resized original will be named based on the original source, except when the original source is image data on the Clipboard[4]. You can have Thumbscrew add a suffix to the base name of the new images.

Save to Location

You can choose where to save resized originals, defaulting to the same location as the original. When you add new entries, Thumbscrew remembers them between runs. Clearing this list returns it to the default entry *Same as original.*

Batch Processing

When each batch is finished, Thumbscrew will run a post-flight script on the batch. These scripts live in *~/Library/Application Support/Thumbscrew/Scripts/*. They can be written in just about any language. The only restrictions are that the script must be executable, and it should be written to take a single argument: the absolute path to the batch file.

Post-flight Script

Select the script you want to use to process batches here. Thumbscrew will remember your selection, and will scan the Scripts directory when the Preferences window is opened. You can select *None* to not run post-flight processing.

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[4] When images are pasted in from the Clipboard, an image is actually created first in ~/Pictures/Thumbscrew/. The name of this file is Untitled*n*.png where *n* is the number of Untitled images already present in the folder. So the first one is named Untitled0.png.

Updates

Thumbscrew uses Sparkle+ to check for updates. The first time Thumbscrew is launched, it will ask if you want to include an anonymous system profile including:

- OS version
- CPU Type
- CPU Sub-type
- Mac Model
- Number of CPUs
- Preferred Language
- Application Name
- Application Version
- CPU Speed
- Memory

Check for Updates

Select how often you'd like Thumbscrew to check for updates. You can choose *Manually*, and Thumbscrew won't do automatic checking. You can also update at any time with *Check Now*, or by choosing *Check for Updates...* from the Thumbscrew menu.

Boring Stuff You Probably Don't Care Too Much About

Thumbscrew wouldn't have been possible without help from:

- [Matt Ball](#) for his free icon collection (used for the Update pane in Preferences).
- [Sparkle+](#) framework for appcasting and auto-updating
- [Growl](#) framework for ooey-gooey pretty notifications
- [PyObjC](#) framework for writing Cocoa apps in Python
- [Scott Stevenson](#) for Objective-C tutelage, and help implementing the background thumbnailer