Copying Photos from Smartphone or Tablet to a Windows Computer

Copying pictures from your Smartphone or Tablet to a Windows Computer involves understanding a few key concepts outlined on this page.

1. Your devices, most likely, all have different OPERATING SYSTEMS.
   a. An operating system is the software that more or less runs your device.
      i. An Apple Smartphone, for example, uses iOS as its operating system, and the latest version is 12.1 or thereabouts. It is important to know what operating system your device has.
      ii. An Android Phone, for example, uses ANDROID as its operating system, and is sometimes represented by snack-type words such as marshmallow or Kit Kat. The latest version is 9.0 or Android Pie.
      iii. A Windows PC typically uses a WINDOWS operating system. Currently, Windows 10 is the latest and most common, but there are also older versions out there such as Windows 8.1 or Windows Vista or Windows 7.
   b. Check SETTINGS and ABOUT to see what operating system your device is using.
      i. My Device is an _____________________   _____________________   _____ and uses the operating system: ______________________.
      ii. My Computer is a _______________________   _________________   ______ with an operating system: __________________   ______

2. WIFI is the technical, built-in ability for your device to connect to the Internet wirelessly. Do your devices have Wifi? ______________ Do you also have your wires and chargers with you to work with your devices? _______________________

3. COPYING: You can copy or duplicate your pictures from your phone or tablet to your PC, typically, by using the wire that connects your device to the PC via USB cable. This is different from doing an automatic or system backup, explained in item #4 below.
   a. To copy (instead of doing an automatic backup of) your pictures from phone or tablet to your PC, understand your reasons for doing so.
      Is it to:
      • Preserve your images for the future
      • Clear space on your device
      • Share them with others via printing or electronic use
      • Edit the pictures on a PC for future use
      • Other reasons you may have
      A combination of the above?
   b. When copying pictures from phone or tablet to PC, understand you are really doing a manual backup of selected items, as opposed to a system backup described on page 3, item 4. A backup is having two separate locations for items you are copying. Doing a manual backup (copy) allows you to readily access any of the copied items on either device without having to resort to and restore an automatic or system backup.
   c. My thoughts: I choose to have my device (Apple Smartphone) do an automatic or system backup of everything except my photos (since there are so many) to iCloud. Then I do a manual backup of the pictures, myself (what I refer to as COPY).
This is one way to **copy** (manually backup) your images.

1. With your device off, **connect** your device to the PC via USB cable with the tethering cable you brought today.
2. **Turn on the device**, and enter your passcode on the device if needed.
3. Your device may ask if you trust the computer. Tap **ALLOW** if necessary.
4. On the **Windows PC**, click once on **File Explorer** (the yellow folder in the taskbar at the bottom of the screen.)
5. Click **THIS PC** (on a *Windows 10* machine).
6. See if your device shows up in the display.
   a. **If your device does not appear** in the display, and it is turned on, turn it off turn it on, and try again. If this does not work, then turn it off, and try moving the USB connector to another port on the computer. Repeat steps 1-5.
   b. **If your device still does not appear in the display**, there are many reasons why it may not register. Consider:
      i. Is the connecting wire an official wire that goes with the brand of your phone?
      ii. If it is an **Android** device, consider reading from this Android forum for ideas:  
      iii. If it is an **Apple** SmartPhone, consider these ideas:  
   c. **If your device does appear in the display**: Double click the storage folder (it may appear as **DCIM** for **Digital Camera IMages**)
   d. If your pictures appear, you can select all, then copy and paste them to the hard drive of the computer, or to your flash drive.
      i. **Click on the first item** you wish to copy. This can be folders or files.
      ii. Press **CTRL A** on the keyboard for **Select ALL**. (you can also select only **certain** files (or some) using **SHIFT** Click or **CTRL** Click if you want to.)
      iii. Press **CTRL C** to copy.
      iv. **Locate and open the destination** – say, a flash drive.
      v. **Create a folder** on the flash drive if necessary.
      vi. **Open** the folder, if you created one.
      vii. **Click** once in the space where it says “…empty”
      viii. Press **CTRL V** for **paste**.
      ix. It may take time for everything to be copied.
      x. The files or pictures will **STILL** be on your device because you **COPIED** them.
         1. Only erase files from **the device** when...
            a. You no longer need them or want them, **for sure**.
            b. You have copied them in two separate locations if you want to keep them.
            c. **DELETE from the DEVICE only**. Not from the computer **looking** at the device.
      xi. Repeat Steps i through viii as necessary.
      xii. Close out of **File Explorer**, and turn off your device.
      xiii. Remove the device from the machine.
4. **BACKING UP:** in this case, meaning **automatic** or **system backup** *(note: this class does not focus on this type of backup)*  
   **Note:** You *can automatically BACKUP* your pictures from your phone or tablet to the Cloud, or to your computer without using Internet *(iTunes perhaps if you have an iPhone)*. However, to do a **cloud** automatic backup, you have to have **Internet Access (Wifi)**. Usually, when you backup your device to the cloud, you are also backing up settings your operating system, contacts, perhaps photos as well, although photos and videos take up the most space in a backup, so you can opt to backup your photos in a different way, which is why I explain how to copy them instead *(see page 2)*.

   a. An automatic or system **backup** for an **Apple iPhone** involves:
      i. Having an Apple ID and Password, and setting up an iCloud account.
      ii. Keeping the device “live” by putting it to sleep.
      iii. Charging the device.
      iv. Overnight, leave the device plugged in to its charger while sleeping.
      v. Your device will backup to your iCloud Account. Only 5gb of free storage is provided for free. You have to pay for more storage if you need it and want to use iCloud for storage beyond the 5gb provided by Apple.

   b. An automatic or system **backup** for an **Android Phone** involves:
      i. Having a Google Account (through Gmail) and Password.
      ii. Visit: [http://www.androidguys.com/2017/01/28/Androids-auto-backup-what-you-need-to-know/](http://www.androidguys.com/2017/01/28/Androids-auto-backup-what-you-need-to-know/) -- In my opinion, Androidguys.com offers a pretty good read on this topic. Like anything else, a backup is a copy of not only photos, but contacts, settings, and even chats or texts. If you choose to go through Google, your phone will automatically backup.
      iii. **OR** you can use another App to backup your device. You may have to pay for the app, and see how it can be configured to do a backup. *(see above article)*
      iv. Automatic or system backups are good, especially, if your phone quits – if you have to get a new phone, you can restore this type of backup to the new phone. A backup is only as good as the ability to restore it.
      v. **An automatic or system Backup** is a **separate action from copying** because first, you may not be able to retrieve **ONLY** photos from a backup, and secondly, you need to consider the act of **syncing**, that often goes along with this type of **Backup**.
         1. **Syncing** would automatically match your device’s contents (if pictures are included in the backup and are synced, for example) with that of the computer or other second device, or even third, as you can sync all devices. Good in some ways, but if you delete from one device, the synced device(s) would also delete the same. *(Sometimes this is a separate setting.)*
   
   c. **Restore** goes along with **automatic or system backup**, as usually you have to **restore** the **entire automatic or system backup** *(settings, contacts, etc.)* to take advantage of the backup you created. This is helpful if you need to retrieve the backup for a new device, or to a device that has stopped functioning correctly, for example.
      i. **Note:** You cannot simply COPY AND PASTE a system backup file. It needs a “restore” tool or option to unpack the backup file.