



## FAQs

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**Q What is BLUBOX?**

A BLU-BOX is a revolutionary development in the management of digital image files. It creates a secure, password protected, archive of your images. It massively reduces the file sizes of the images. Your image files are completely viewable and printable WITHOUT extracting. When you do extract the files, they return to their native file format with the exact dimensions that they started with.

**Q What are the benefits of using BLUBOX?**

A Send more. Store more. Secure more.

**Q How do I get started with BLUBOX?**

A After installation, simply double click the BLUBOX icon on your desktop.

**Q Do I need to register BLUBOX?**

A Yes, if you want to be able to CREATE, ADD and EXTRACT files. The free viewer does not require any registration.

**Q How does BLUBOX work?**

A It uses a combination of binary compression, state of the art image compression techniques and 256 bit encryption algorithms to create small and secure archives for storage or communication.

**Q Do I need to create a password?**

A No. You can leave the password field blank and then your archive can be opened without a password.

**Q What happens if I lose my password?**

A You will NOT be able to open that archive. We suggest that when you create passwords, you stick to phrases or character combinations that are easy for you to recall.

**Q How secure is the BLUBOX encryption?**

A A 256-bit encryption algorithm is impossible to crack by "brute force" using currently available computing techniques. A "super computer" was built capable of cracking a 56-bit key (72,057,594,037,927,936 combinations) in a few hours and a network of 100,000 computers connected via the internet did it in 22 hours. Even if a super computer was built that could crack a 56-bit key in 1 second it would take about 149 thousand billion years for it to break a 128-bit key! To put this into perspective, the universe is believed to be less than 20 billion years old!

**Q How do I create a BLUBOX archive?**

A You hit the NEW button on the taskbar, name your archive, select its location and you're done.

**Q I've created an archive but I can't see it, where is it?**

A You probably don't have your EXPLORER view open. Hit the EXPLORER button on the taskbar and you can see your archive represented at the top left of your page.

**Q What is a .blu file?**

A This is the file extension that denotes a BLUBOX archive.

**Q Are there any other applications that can open .blu files?**

A Not at present although it is likely that other applications may work with .blu files in the future.

**Q Does the recipient of a BLUBOX archive need the BLUBOX software on their machine?**

A Yes. This software is easily and freely available from our website. The viewer software is completely free of charge.



## FAQs

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**Q How do I add my images to a BLUBOX archive?**

A Simply hit the ADD button on the taskbar, select the location of the image files that you wish to add, highlight them and then hit the OPEN button.

**Q Why are my files getting bigger when I select “lossless”?**

A The “lossless” option is not appropriate for jpg files, it recognizes that jpg files are aggressively compressed and compensates for this by re-instating the additional data to make the file “whole”. For jpg files we recommend selecting other settings in OPTIONS.

**Q What compression setting is best for digital photos?**

A This depends on their size and file format. You should experiment with the OPTIONS settings and you will soon find the combination of settings which produce the ultimate result for your digital photos.

**Q How can I increase the BLUBOX compression?**

A In OPTIONS you can increase the compression settings in increments from LOSSLESS (lowest compression) to MAXIMUM (highest compression).

**Q Can I drop multiple folders and sub folders into a BLUBOX archive?**

A Yes. With a BLUBOX archive open, just drag and drop your folders from a standard explorer window onto the BLUBOX archive icon and the integrity of your current file structure will be maintained.

**Q How do I add a whole folder into a BLU-BOX Archive?**

A You simply drag and drop the folder onto the BLUBOX archive icon.

**Q Can I use BLU-BOX as a transport for other file types?**

A Yes. You can transport almost any file type in a BLUBOX archive. BLUBOX supports over 480 file extensions.

**Q Which compression is best for which image formats?**

A You should experiment with the OPTIONS to find the best compression settings. However, in most cases, it is unnecessary to select LOSSLESS with most image formats.

**Q Can I add images to a BLUBOX archive straight from my camera?**

A Yes.

**Q Why can't I add images to a BLUBOX archive opened directly from an email attachment?**

A We recommend that you SAVE archives from email attachments before you ADD or EXTRACT from that archive.

**Q Can I add more images to a BLUBOX archive that has been sent to me?**

A Yes, after you have saved the file.

**Q Is it safe to delete my original photos when they are in a BLUBOX archive?**

A Yes, if you want to. Please bear in mind that if you have PASSWORD protected your archive and you forget your password you will not be able to access your images.

**Q What is the PREVIEW function for?**

A The PREVIEW function gives you the ability to view and print any image in its compressed form. You can also see standard properties under the GENERAL tab, and image information under the IPTC/File comments tab.

**Q Can I preview images on a full screen?**

A Yes. Right click on any file in the EXPLORER window, select “Show File Properties in a new window”, you now have a full page view of the image available to you.



## FAQs

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**Q Can I run a slide show within BLUBOX?**

A No. It is very easy to scroll through the images with the PREVIEW window open and you can easily change the size of the image view.

**Q How do I extract image files from BLUBOX?**

A With a single file highlighted, click on the EXTRACT button on the taskbar. Select a suitable location for the extracted file and then hit the OK button. Your image file is now extracted.

**Q Will my images return to their original size?**

A All extracted images will re-constitute to their original dimensions and file extension.

**Q Can I extract a whole series of folders at one time, or do I have to do it image by image?**

A You can extract a whole folder. Simply highlight the folder and EXTRACT as normal.

**Q Why are my jpegs extracted at a different file size than the original?**

A BLUBOX will re-constitute jpeg files to the most appropriate size based on the settings selected in OPTIONS at the time of adding the image to an archive. Another contributing factor is whether the jpeg was originally "over-filled" or "under-filled" in its native form.

**Q Why can't I extract images anymore?**

A Your evaluation period for the fully-functioning product has expired. You can restore full functionality by buying a license for the software from the BLUBOX website. [www.blubox.com](http://www.blubox.com)

**Q What is the difference between the free viewer and the full software?**

A The free viewer does not require any registration and is free for life.  
In the full software, the ADD, EXTRACT and PRINT functions are fully enabled.

**Q When I close an archive does BLUBOX save it automatically?**

A Yes.

**Q How do I delete a BLUBOX archive?**

A You cannot delete a BLUBOX archive from within the program. You should delete BLUBOX archives in the standard windows explorer way.

**Q Will BLUBOX interfere with any other software/AV that I have installed?**

A No.

**Q What is the difference between BLUBOX and Zip applications?**

A Most zip based applications only use binary compression and as such have negligible effect upon image files. BLUBOX has developed complex compression algorithms specifically designed and optimized for digital image file formats.

**Q Can I use BLUBOX to compress PDF files?**

A Yes. BLU-BOX uses standard binary compression with PDF files.

**Q Can I use BLUBOX to compress an Excel Worksheet?**

A Yes. BLUBOX uses standard binary compression with xls files.