

How to find the metadata of your screenshot on your Mac or Windows computer

Metadata and Exif data

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Metadata means ‘data about data’ and provides you with information about something. It is a key concept for the management of digital content. In the case of digitally produced images, this type of metadata is called Exif data, which stands for: Exchangeable Image File Format. This metadata scheme is embedded in the image and contains information about the image such as the number of pixels and bytes, the color scheme, the date of creation, and the format of the image, among many others.

A good and easy-to-use online tool for finding and examining the Exif data of an image is the website

<https://www.metadata2go.com> In addition to analyzing metadata information, it also provides explanations for a number of metadata categories or fields.

Macs, Windows, and Operating Systems

The terms ‘Mac’ and ‘Windows’ are used to refer to two different types of computers and the operating systems they come with. Mac is shorthand for Macintosh, a type of personal computers created by the company Apple Inc. Windows refers to computers that run on Windows-based operating systems and are created by the company Microsoft.

Operating Systems (OS) play a very important role in computers, as they are the software that allows you to interact with your computer. The OS, together with your hardware (the physical parts of your computer such as the monitor, keyboard, and central processing unit (CPU)), form a system that creates the capacity for your computer to perform a certain amount of mathematical operations. The speed and form of display varies.

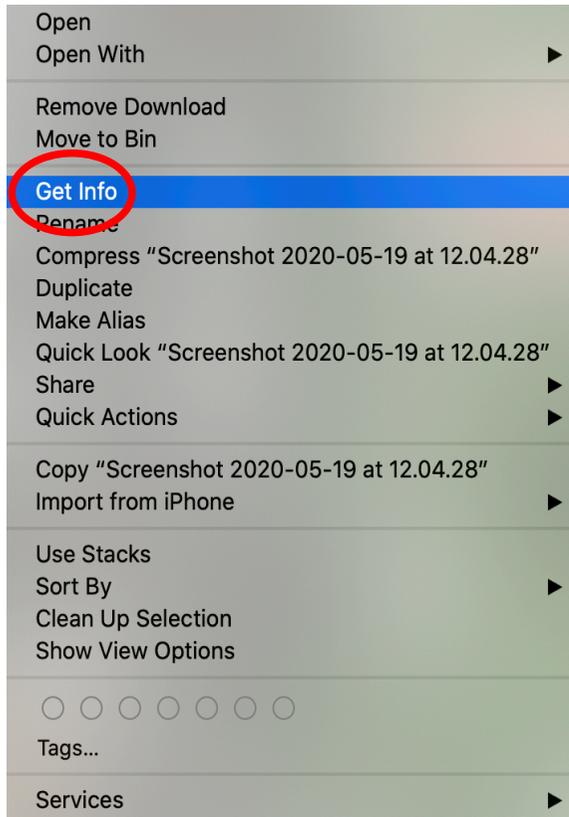
As of June 2020, for Mac computers, the most up-to-date Operating System is macOS 10.15, also known as macOS Catalina. For computers that use a Windows Operating System (Windows OS), also known as Microsoft Windows, the most up-to-date OS is Windows 10. Approximately 85-90 % of all personal computers in the world use one of the Windows OSes.

While OSes usually change every 2-5 years, and with them, the appearance of the software that appears on a computer's monitor, the data in Exif files will stay the same. Thus, even though the appearance of where to find Exif data below might change once a new OS becomes available, the metadata will remain consistent.

How to get information about your digital document

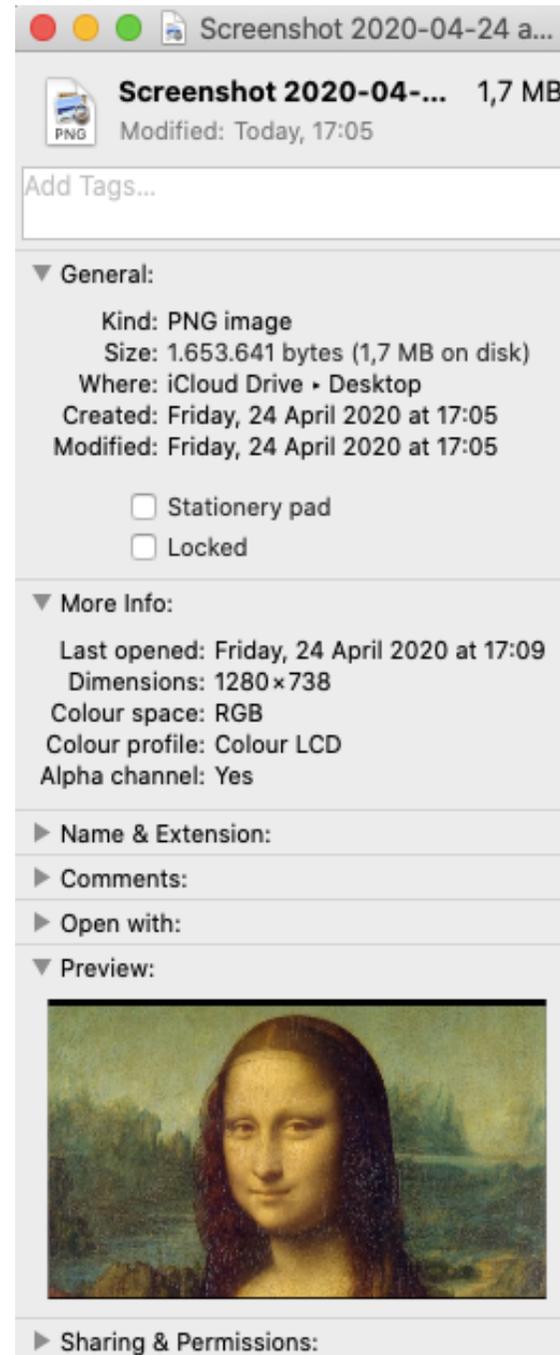


Click with two fingers when hovering over the image and you will see the following menu:



Click on the option "Get Info" and you will see this

Mac users



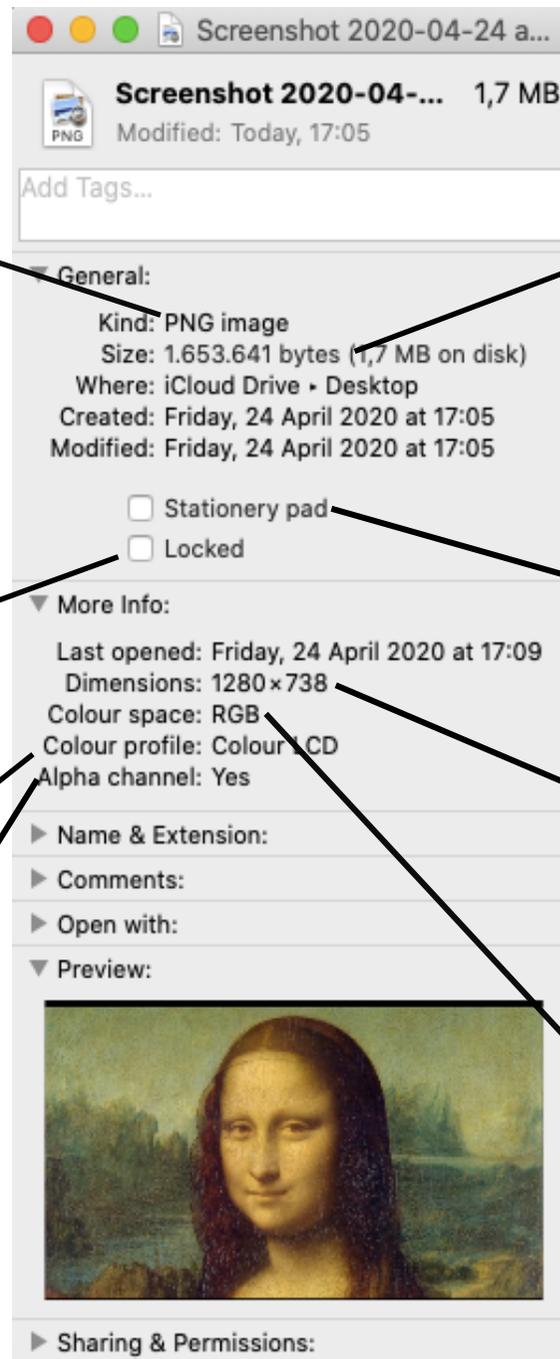
What does the meta data mean?

Portable Network Graphics is a format for images developed to support lossless data compression and transfer images on the internet in an easy way. Watch this video by Techquicky on the differences between digital formats for images: <https://youtu.be/ww12lImOJ38t>

If you flag **Locked** on, the document is protected from deleting or changing it.

A **color profile** is a mathematical representation of a color space found in a device.

The **alpha channel** is a color component that represents the degree of transparency (or opacity) of a color (i.e., the red, green and blue channels). It is used to determine how a pixel is rendered when blended with another.



A **byte** is a unit to measure computer data, each byte consists of 8 bits. A bit is an abbreviation of binary digit, and each bit either represents a 1 or a 0, which stands for sending an electrical signal to put a switch on (1) or off (0). A sequence of 1s and 0s can represent any letter, number or graphic symbol. The information about the color pixels of the screenshot of the portrait of the Mona Lisa is translated into signals that equal 1653.641 bytes. See for a very clear explanation of the binary system <https://youtu.be/Xpk67YzOn5w>

If you flag **Stationery pad** on, your document is turned into a template. You only have to click on it and an exact copy is made.

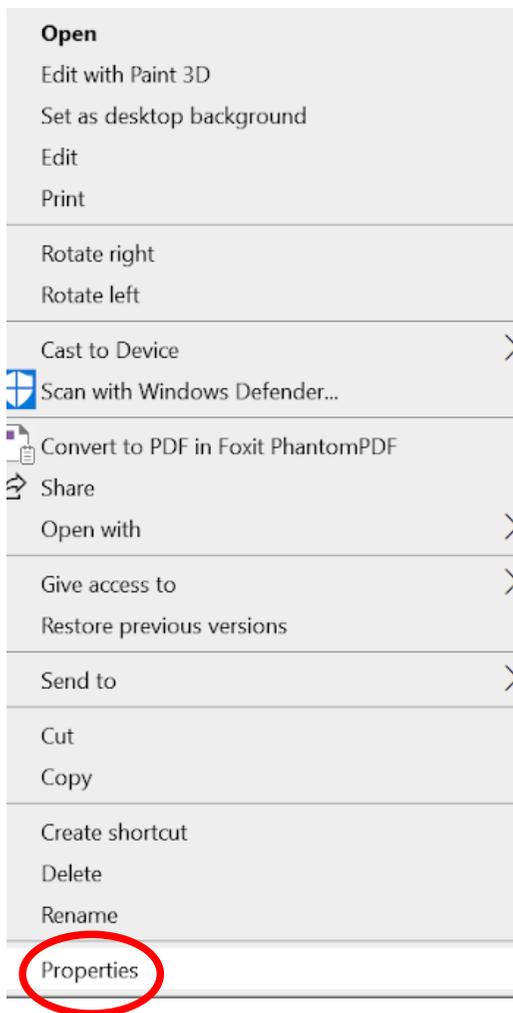
Dimensions are the length and width of an image measured in pixels, each single pixel represents a specific color

Color space indicates the color mode or model (that is, the specific organization of colors) used for the image. In this case, **RGB** stands for **Red, Green and Blue**, one of the standard color models used for displaying images and videos on the web. The combination of pixels with these three colors create all the other colors in an image. To understand how RGB works watch this video from the company Express-cards: <https://youtu.be/9hirYMZ7PQc>

How to get information about your digital document

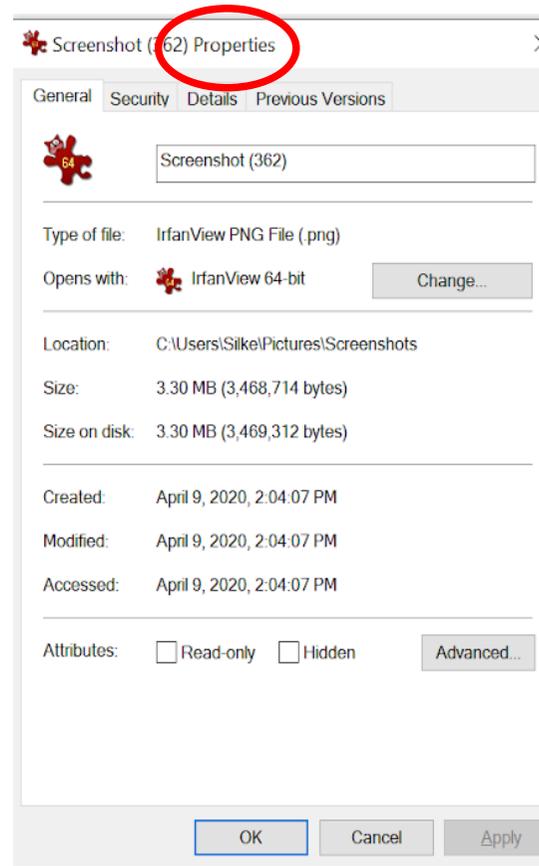


Click on the right side of your mouse when hovering over the image and you will see the following



In order to get all the information requested, you will need to click on the tab "Properties"

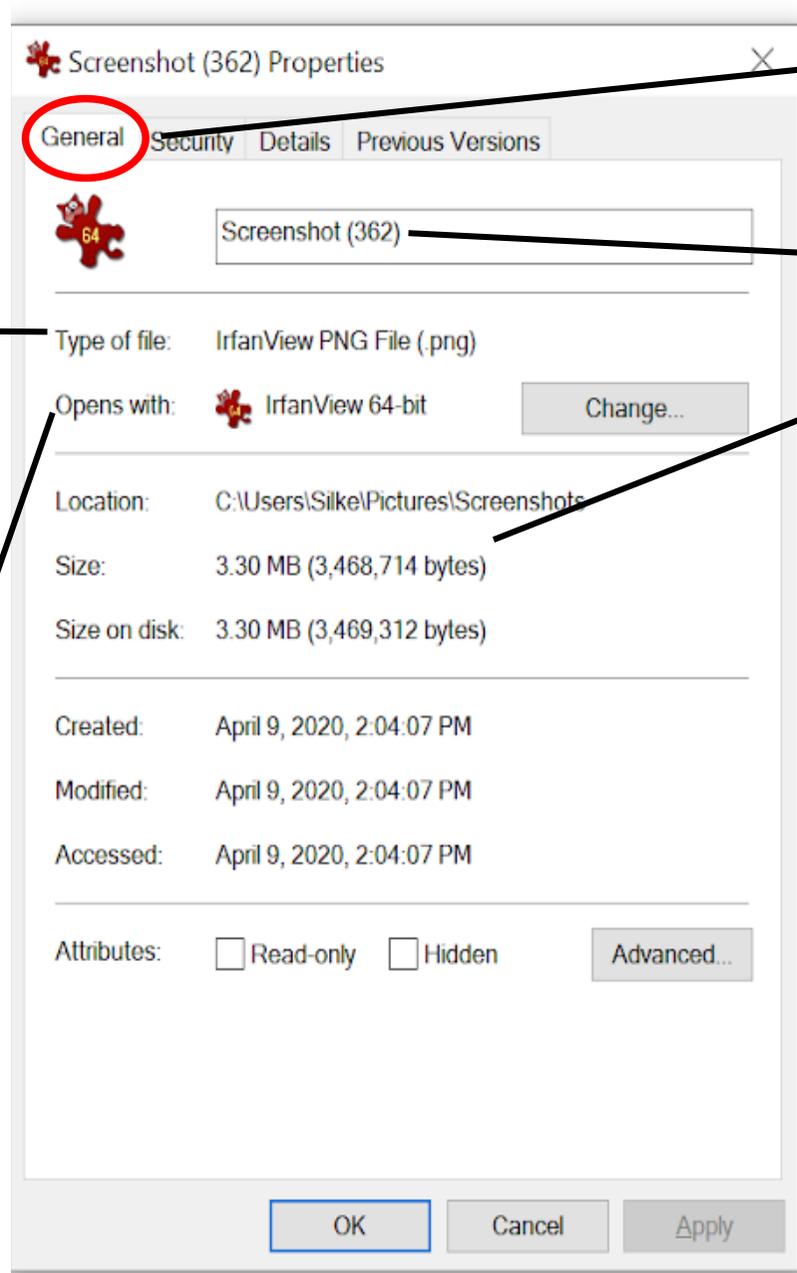
Window users



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Opens with describes the application that opens the file. For many types of files, certain applications open them by default, but you can also change the application that opens a particular document in your settings or with the “change” button to the right



This information is found under the **General** tab

This field indicates the **name** of the file

A **byte** is a unit to measure computer data, each byte consists of 8 bits. A bit is an abbreviation of binary digit, and each bit either represents a 1 or a 0, which stands for sending an electrical signal to put a switch on (1) or off (0). A sequence of 1s and 0s can represent any letter, number or graphic symbol. The information about the color pixels of the screenshot of the portrait of the Mona Lisa is translated into signals that equal 3348.714 bytes. See for a very clear explanation of the binary system see: <https://youtu.be/Xpk67YzOn5w>

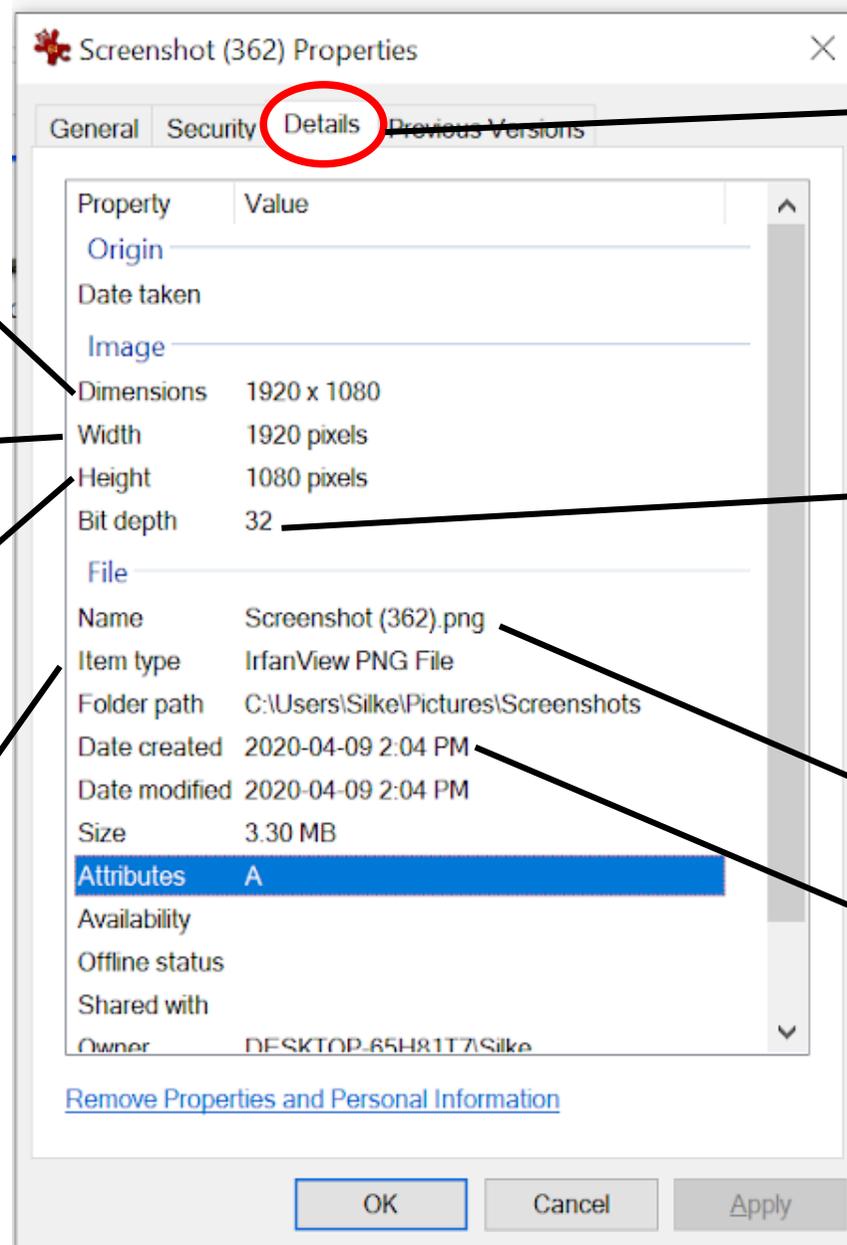
What does the meta data mean?

Dimensions are the length and width of an image measured in pixels, each single pixel represents a specific color

Width is the measurement from one side of the image to the other, measured in pixels

Height is the measurement from the top to the bottom of the image, measured in pixels

Item type describes the kind of file it is. Some popular file types are PNGs (Portable Network Graphics), PDFs (Portable Document Format), docx (Microsoft Word), and JPEGs (Joint Photographic Experts Group)



This information is found under the **Details** tab

Bit depth (also known as color depth), can refer to two different instances. It either gives information about the number of bits used to make out the color of one single pixel itself, or its color component. When talking about a 24-bit image, for example, the bits are often grouped to represent the three basic colors of the RGB spectrum. This means they contain 8 bits for red, 8 bits for green and 8 bits for blue.

Name is the name that the computer recognizes the file

Date created is when the screenshot was taken

Information gathered from:

- [How Stuff Works.com](https://computer.howstuffworks.com/mac/10-differences-between-macs-and-pcs.htm) <https://computer.howstuffworks.com/mac/10-differences-between-macs-and-pcs.htm>
- [Business Insider](https://www.businessinsider.com/the-biggest-differences-between-macs-and-pcs?IR=T) <https://www.businessinsider.com/the-biggest-differences-between-macs-and-pcs?IR=T>
- [Metadata2go.com](https://www.metadata2go.com) <https://www.metadata2go.com>
- [Techopedia's Technology Dictionary](https://www.techopedia.com/dictionary) <https://www.techopedia.com/dictionary>
- [GCFLearnFree.org](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pTdSs8kQqSA) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pTdSs8kQqSA>
- [Webopedia](https://www.webopedia.com/DidYouKnow/Hardware_Software/history_of_microsoft_windows_operating_system.html)
https://www.webopedia.com/DidYouKnow/Hardware_Software/history_of_microsoft_windows_operating_system.html

Compiled by Jordan Ricker and Stefania Scagliola, with input from Lars Wieneke
Luxembourg Centre for Contemporary and Digital History (C²DH) at the Université du Luxembourg

