

Using Lightroom on Two Computers (Desktop and Laptop)

It's preferable
to use only one Lightroom catalog.
Sometimes you need a 2nd catalog, like when traveling
Here are two options.

Easiest

Note: This method may result in decreased performance. Lightroom prefers your catalog to be on your fastest internal Solid State Drive (SSD).

Use one external drive and store both your Lightroom Catalog *and* Photos. Swap drive between computers as needed

Make a back up of your images and catalog

Make another back up of your images and catalog and store off-site

Almost As Easy

Use one computer (usually a desktop) as your primary Lightroom computer downloading your images by Year and Month



On the 2nd computer, use a USB or external drive and create a new Lightroom catalog on that drive.

Create an Import preset that downloads your image by Year and Month, like the preset on your desktop computer. Create a folder called Photographs within the Lightroom catalog on the USB drive and set it as the designation for downloading images. Under File Handling, Make a 2nd Copy To, create a folder on the laptop and set that as the destination for the 2nd copy. Import, sort, and edit images as usual.

To merged the two catalogs, open Lightroom on your primary computer and connect the external or flash drive. Go to **File | Import from Another Catalog...** Navigate to your external or flash drive, open the folder with the exported Lightroom catalog and select the file ending in **.lrcat**

In the Import from Catalog dialog box, Under Catalog Contents, select images to import. Under New Photos, select "Copy photos to a new location and import" Under Copy to, click Choose and select the parent folder of your Lightroom photos. For example, if all your photos are stored by Year and Month under Master Photos, select that folder and click Import. Make a back up of your images and catalog

Open the Lightroom catalog on the USB or external drive, select all the images, click delete, choose "Remove from Disk."