

PhotoGuru Media Player Manual (V5.10)

Contents

1	Introduction	2
2	Overview	2
3	Folder Management.....	3
3.1	Adding Folders	3
3.2	Removing Folders.....	4
3.3	Organizing Bookmarks in Folders.....	5
3.3.1	Sorting of Images.....	6
4	Playback of Images and Videos	7
4.1	Playback Toolbar	7
4.2	Playback Settings.....	9
4.3	Display of EXIF Meta Data	10
5	PhotoGuru Settings	11
6	Daydream Screensaver	12
6.1	Daydream on Amazon FireTV devices.....	13
7	Purchase	14
8	Advanced Topics	16
8.1	Starting PhotoGuru with ADB commands.....	16
8.2	Integration of PhotoGuru with Tasker and MacroDroid	16
8.2.1	Example MacroDroid Integration:.....	16
8.2.2	Example Tasker Integration:	17
8.3	System Requirements	17
8.4	Supported Hosting Services and Protocols	18
8.5	Supported File Formats:.....	18
8.6	Supported Languages.....	18
8.7	Customer Support	20

1 Introduction

PhotoGuru Media Player is designed to display photos and videos from various file- and photo hosting services on Android-based phones, tablets, smart TVs and set-top boxes. The intuitive and beautiful user interface gives users easy access to the photos and provides an inexpensive way to showcase photos, videos and media presentations in the most professional way possible.

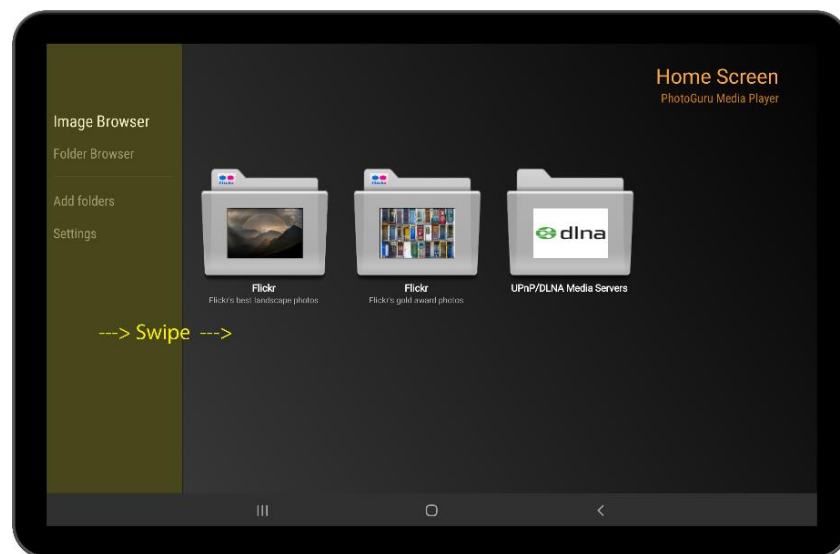
PhotoGuru is compatible with Android TV devices as well as Amazon's FireTV media players. Rendering of images in native 4K/UHD (3840 x 2160 pixel) is supported on the NVidia Shield (all versions) as well as on the newer Amazon FireTV devices.

PhotoGuru has been in constant development for the last six years and is currently used as a presentation tool by thousands of professional photographers. It is also used in countless homes and offices to display promotional material and images of family and loved ones on big flat-panel TVs.

The app can be installed from the Amazon- and Google app stores, is completely free and does not contain ads. However, in order to cover the development cost, we ask you to pay a couple of dollars to remove a watermark that appears during the photo- or video presentation.

2 Overview

When PhotoGuru starts up for the first time you will see a collapsible navigation window that slides in/out from the left. On touch enabled devices you can open this window by swiping from the left screen border to the right. If PhotoGuru runs on a TV, you can open this window by pressing the LEFT arrow button on the TV's remote repeatedly.



The navigation window provides quick access to the *Image Browser*, the *Folder Browser* as well as the *Add Folders* and *Settings* window.

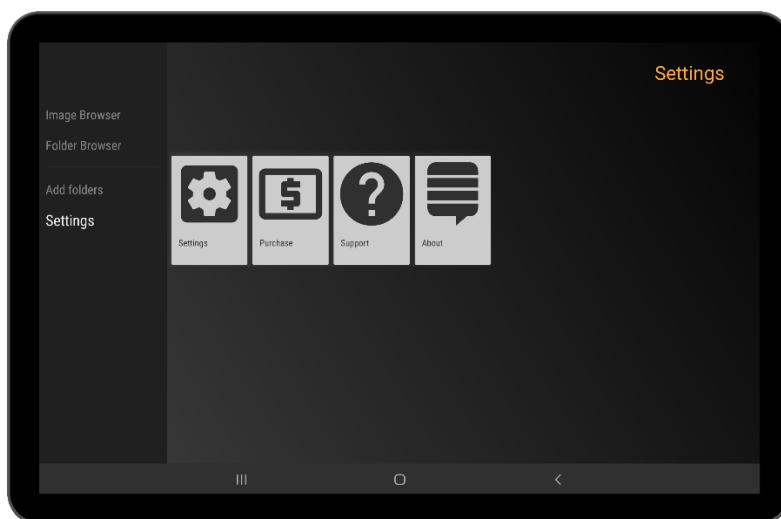
The **Image Browser** displays folders with photos and videos in a traditional 2-dimnesional grid: Clicking on a folder displays the contents of this folder and clicking on nested child folders allows you to quickly

drill into the folder structure until you get to the images and videos that you are interested in. Photos, videos and subfolders are displayed top to bottom and if there are more items than what can be displayed, the screen will scroll vertically.

The **Folder Browser** displays the contents of a subfolder in a row. Each row represents a subfolder and each row scrolls horizontally until all items in this row have been displayed.

The **Add Folders** link allows you to add additional folders to the PhotoGuru home screen. PhotoGuru *folders* are links to folders that are hosted somewhere on your device or in the cloud. For example, the PhotoGuru Home Screen could contain links to folders that are hosted in Microsoft OneDrive, on Flickr as well as links to folders that are hosted on the device itself.

The **Settings** window allows you to customize the functionality of PhotoGuru and provides links to product support and the purchase screen. See chapter 5 for more details.



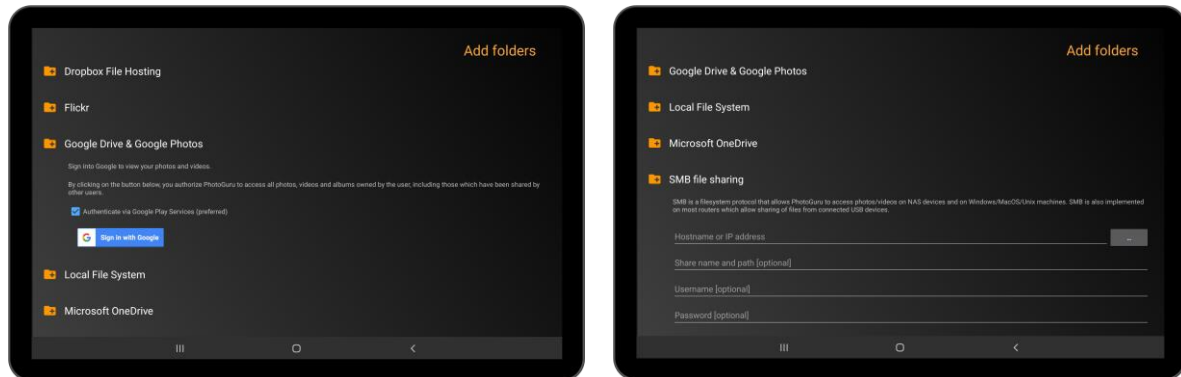
3 Folder Management

PhotoGuru *Folders* are links to folders that are hosted somewhere on your device or on the Internet. For example, the PhotoGuru Home Screen can contain (linked) folders that are hosted on Microsoft OneDrive, Amazon Drive, on Flickr as well as links to folders that are hosted on the device itself.

3.1 Adding Folders

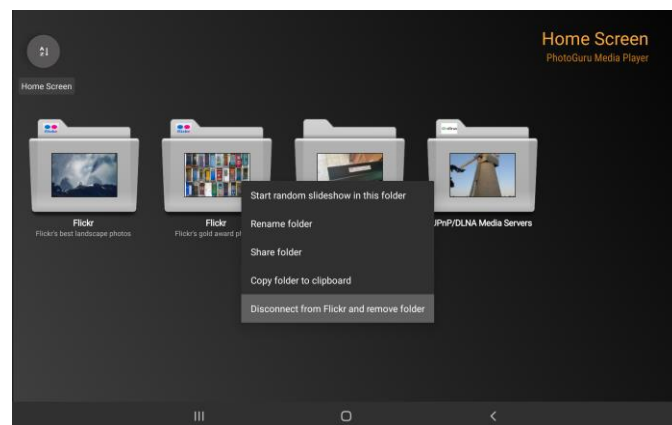
In order to add folders, you need to open the *Add Folders* window. On touch-enabled devices you can open this window by swiping from the left screen border towards the center and then selecting *Add Folders* in the slide-out window. On Android TV devices the slide-out window can be opened by repeatedly pressing the LEFT arrow button of the remote.

The *Add Folders* window has instructions how to connect PhotoGuru with each supported hosting provider. Once authenticated, PhotoGuru adds a link to the newly connected folder to the PhotoGuru Home Screen (newly added folders will be automatically marked with a yellow star).



3.2 Removing Folders

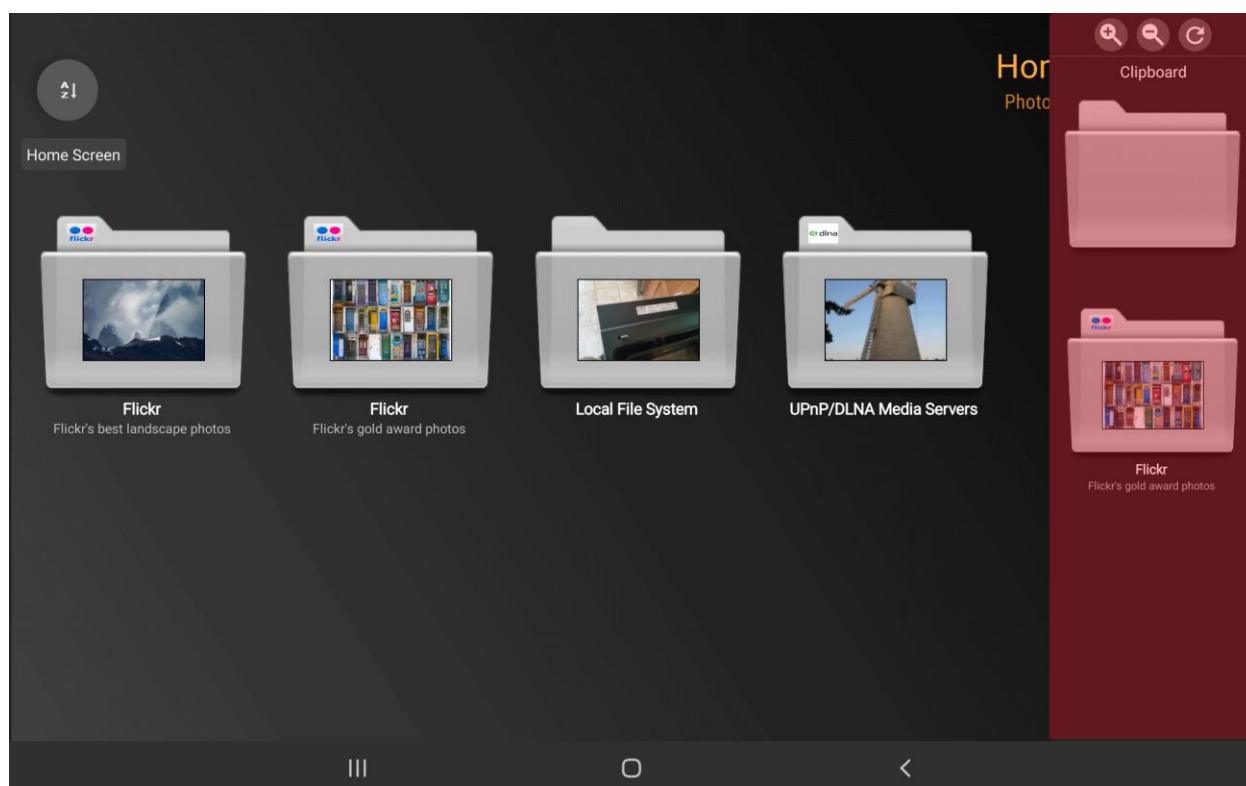
You can browse the photos and videos inside a folder by clicking on it. Alternatively, if you *long-click* on a folder for *two seconds*, you will see a context menu that allows you, amongst other options, to *delete* the folder or to *copy* it to the clipboard.



3.3 Organizing Bookmarks in Folders

PhotoGuru allows you to organize bookmarks in nested folders. Bookmarks and folders can be copied to the clipboard and copied back into another folder from the clipboard. Accessing the clipboard works by long-pressing on a folder and selecting '*Copy folder to clipboard.*' PhotoGuru will automatically display the clipboard contents if a folder gets copied into it.

On touch enabled devices, you can open the clipboard of the Image Browser by swiping from the right screen border towards the center. On Android TV devices press the RIGHT arrow button repeatedly until the clipboard opens.

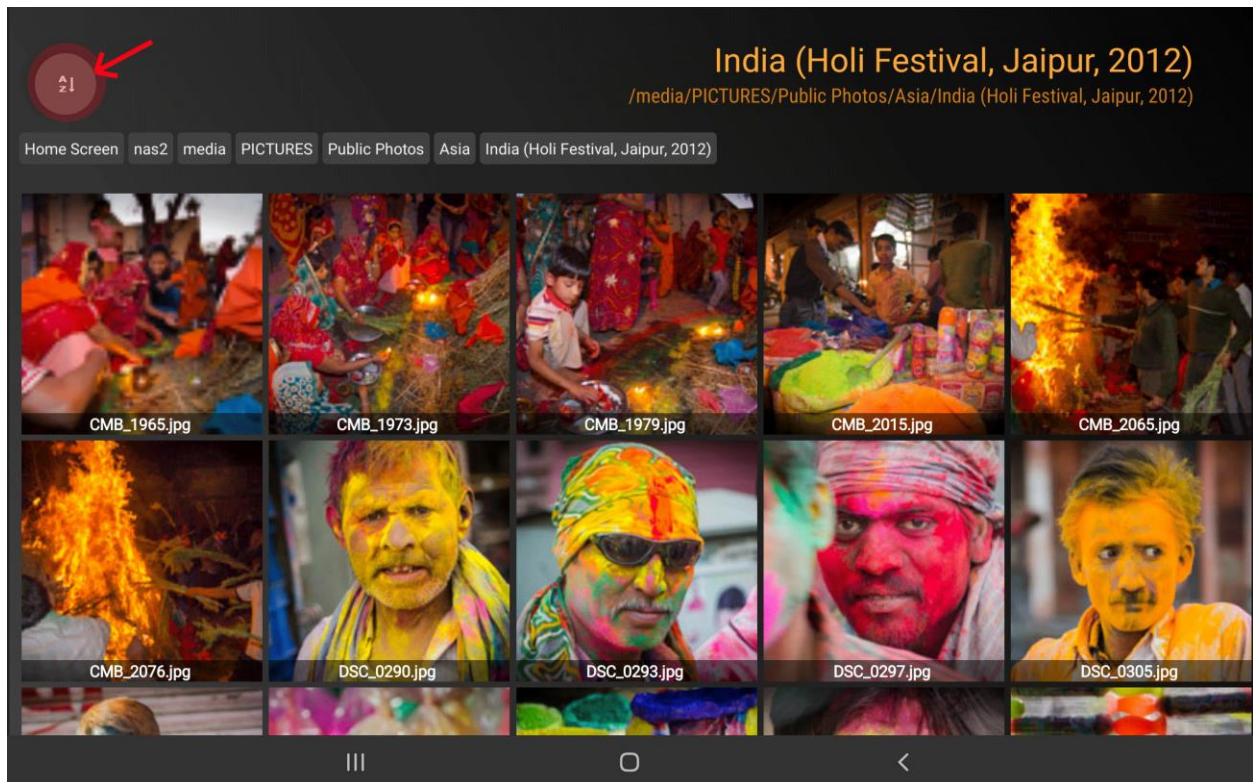


Folders that have been copied to the clipboard can be copied back to the PhotoGuru *Home Screen* by clicking on the folder in the clipboard and selecting *Paste Folder*.

When the clipboard was opened for the first time you may have noticed an empty folder called *New Folder* at the top of the clipboard. This default folder is always present and can be used to add an empty folder to your *Home Screen*. Please note that only the *Home Screen* or folders that were created by adding the *New Folder* to the *Home Screen* can contain links to user defined sub folders.

3.3.1 Sorting of Images

Pressing the button marked in red allows you to sort the images and videos based on filename, file date and capture date. Note that not all hosting services provide the necessary EXIF meta data to support all sorting schemes.



4 Playback of Images and Videos

Clicking on a photo or video in the thumbnail browser starts the slideshow. Photos and videos will get played back in the order that was selected in the thumbnail browser unless *Randomize the order of images* has been selected under *Settings > Playback Settings*.

You can advance photos and videos manually by pressing the *Arrow-Left* or *Arrow-Right* buttons on your remote control or by using *swipe-left* and *swipe-right* gestures on touch enabled devices. Alternatively, you can let PhotoGuru automatically advance images by pressing the *Pause/Play* button in the Playback Toolbar or on your remote control.

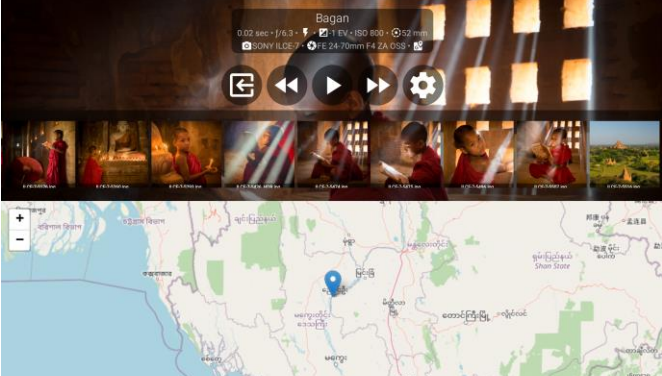
4.1 Playback Toolbar

Pressing the *Arrow-Down* button on your TV's remote or touching anywhere close to the bottom of the screen on a touch-enabled device opens the playback toolbar. The toolbar contains buttons to automatically advance images with a user-defined interval as well as buttons to manually navigate forward or backward in the slideshow.



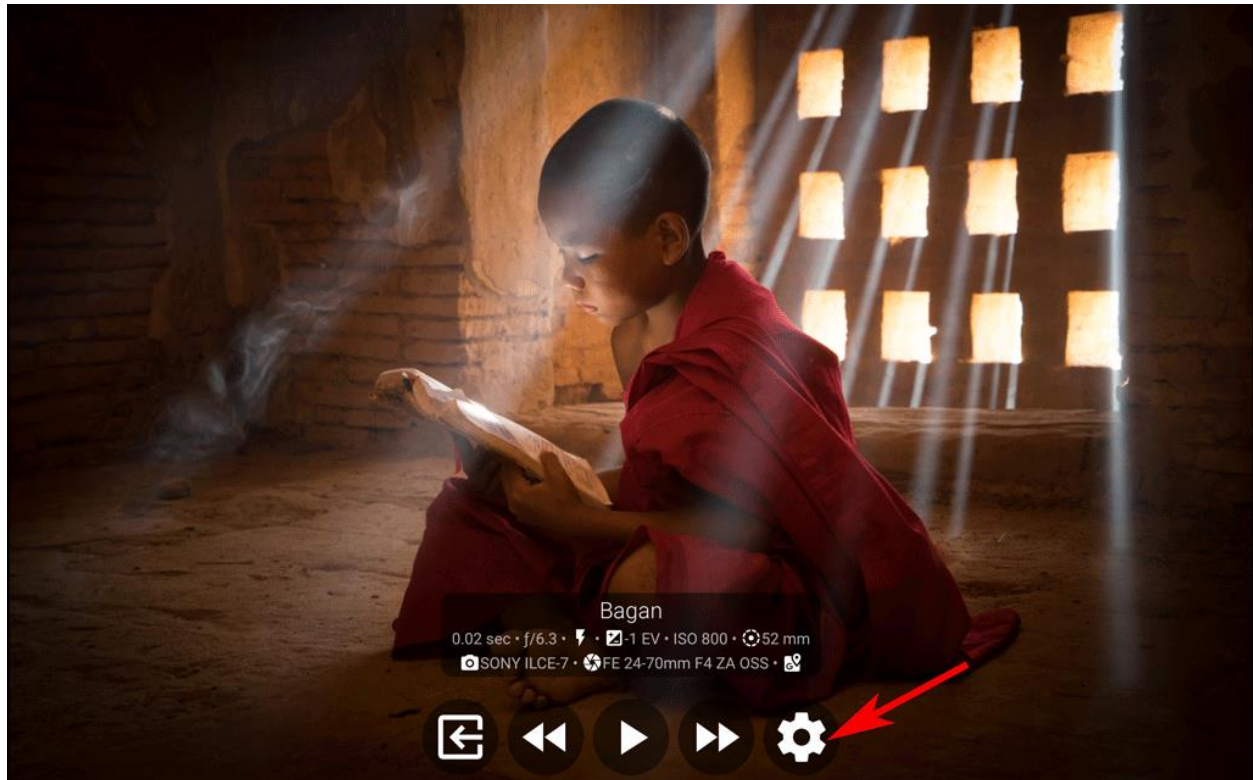
Furthermore, the toolbar can be used to display metadata such as filename, exposure data and GPS location of the currently visible image. Pressing the *Arrow-Down* button or touching the screen repeatedly cycles through several toolbar modes:

Toolbar hidden	
Display of EXIF meta data The meta data fields are user configurable. See chapter 4.3 for more details how to configure these.	 Bagan 0.02 sec • f/6.3 • 1 EV • ISO 800 • 32 mm SONY ILCE-7 • FE 24-70mm F4 ZA OSS

EXIF meta data and toolbar	
EXIF meta data, toolbar and related images	
EXIF meta data, toolbar, related images and map NOTE: If the image does not contain GPS coordinates, this option is unavailable.	

4.2 Playback Settings

PhotoGuru supports a wide variety of different frame- and transition modes. In order to configure these options, press the *Settings* button in the toolbar. Alternatively, you can open the Playback Settings via the App's setting screen as described in Chapter 2.



Most of the options under Playback Settings are self explanatory: You can select the animation speed, transition style, frame options and randomization parameters.

This section will focus on the not so obvious settings that require explanations:

1. Under **Picture Frame Style** you can select "*Display image unscaled and without frame*": This option forces PhotoGuru to display images with a 1:1 pixel mapping. This mode is useful if you are running PhotoGuru in 4K mode and you have images that are already cropped to the **4K 3840x2160** resolution. But do note that images whose dimensions do not match the screen resolution will either get displayed way too small or will be cropped - i.e. you may only see the center part of the image.
2. Under **Automatically reload image folders during playback** you can select a time interval that forces PhotoGuru to re-enumerate all images in a folder. The default value is "*No Refresh*" but selecting an interval here is useful if PhotoGuru displays images in a folder in which you frequently add or remove images.
3. Under **Video Player** you can select which video player to use: The default option is the *Internal Video Player* which is fully integrated into PhotoGuru and should be used unless you are trying to play some DRM protected video formats. *Internal Video Player in Compatibility Mode* should only be used if there are problems during video playback with the internal player. Finally, there are

two modes that require the installation of external video players: "VLC" and "MXPlayer" : Both players are excellent and have to be installed from the Amazon- or Google App Store before they can be selected in PhotoGuru. Note that "VLC" is called "VLC for Fire" in the Amazon App Store.

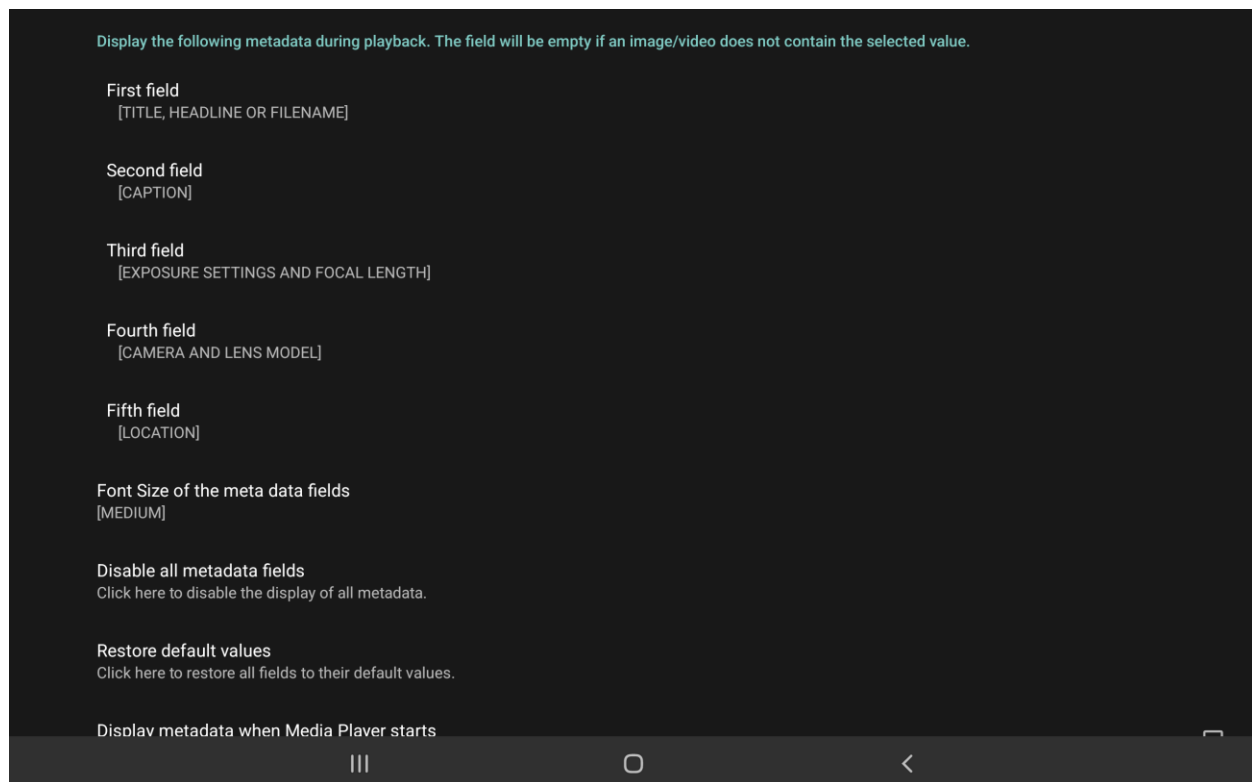
4. **Mute Videos** allows you to disable sound during video playback. The main reason why you might want to enable this options is if PhotoGuru runs in the *Daydream* screensaver mode. Enable it, unless you want to be awakened by your idling TV while it is daydreaming and playing your favorite movie. Please refer to Chapter 0 for more details.

4.3 Display of EXIF Meta Data

If enabled, PhotoGuru displays EXIF meta data during image playback. Please note that not all images contain EXIF meta data and that not all file- or photo hosting services pass them on to PhotoGuru.

In order to customize which EXIF fields get displayed during a photo presentation, click on *Settings>Playback Settings>Display Of Meta Data*.

PhotoGuru gives you the option to display up to five data fields (rows). Each field can contain any of the available EXIF data such as Filename, Captions, Copyright, Exposure settings, Camera/Lens make- and models and GPS location. If a data field is empty or if the selected EXIF data is unavailable, the field does not get displayed.



5 PhotoGuru Settings

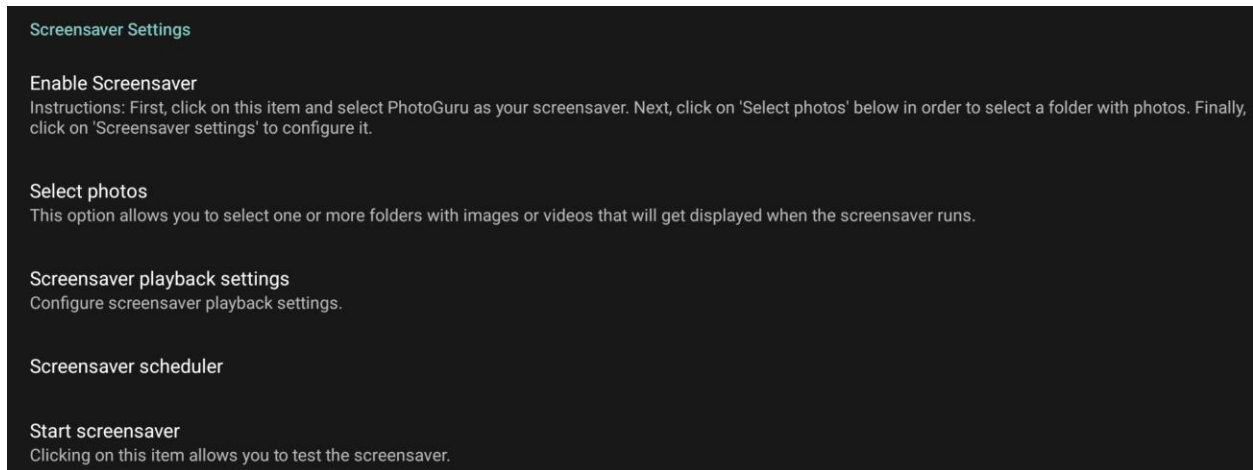
The PhotoGuru Settings can be opened by following the instructions in Chapter 2. There are several settings screens that allow you to modify the behavior of the app:

Browser Settings	<i>Browser Settings</i> allows you to configure everything that is related to how thumbnails are displayed. For example, you can select how many thumbnails you want to see in a row. If PhotoGuru runs on a tablet or phone you have to option to specify the number of thumbnails per row for the horizontal and vertical orientation of the device.
Playback Settings	<i>Playback Settings</i> allows you to customize everything that is playback related including the selection of EXIF fields that are displayed during playback. For example you can change frame- and transition- styles or you can select which video player you want to use. Please consult Chapter 4.2 for an explanation of the various options.
Advanced Settings	The <i>Advanced Settings Screen</i> contains all options that modify the overall functionality of the app. Most of them are self-explanatory and this section will only focus on the most important ones: • Image rendering quality: This option specifies the maximum resolution of images when they get displayed. The higher the resolution, the sharper the images will appear on your screen but loading and rendering images will take longer. Use a low resolution on mobile devices and use a high resolution on TVs. If you are using a 4K capable TV and the NVidia Shield or one of the supported Amazon FireTV devices, you will be able to select one of the 4K/UHD 3840x2160 modes in the drop-down list. • Reduce Network traffic: If enabled, PhotoGuru will try to download lower-resolution images from remote servers. Note that not all file- and photo hosting services support this mode. Enable this mode on mobile devices and disable it on TVs. • Temporary file and cache location: This option allows you to specify the location of the file cache if your device supports external memory expansions via MicroSD cards or USB-Sticks. You should select the device that has the most space. • Maximum size of the disk cache: Using a large disk caching can greatly speed up the loading of images and videos. Our advice is to use as much memory as possible.
Screensaver Settings	The <i>Screensaver Settings</i> are only available if your device supports the Daydream Screensaver. These settings are identical to the <i>Playback Settings</i> and allow you to specify frame- and transition styles that are used while the screen saver is running. Please note that using external video playback is not possible while the screen saver is running. Note that Amazon's devices do not allow you to select non-Amazon screen savers unless enabled via the ADB command line interface (see chapter 6.1).

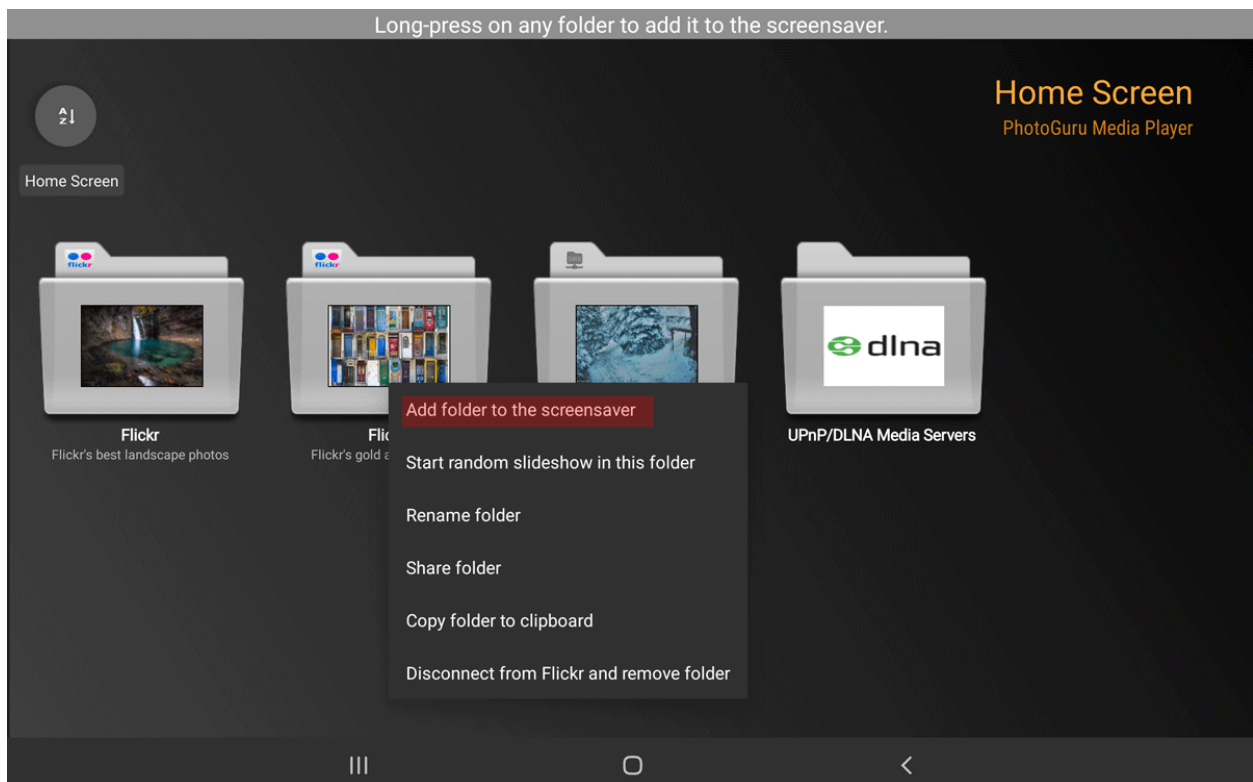
6 Daydream Screensaver

PhotoGuru can be configured to run as a screen saver that automatically starts while the device is charging or is idle. Note that not all devices support screen savers.

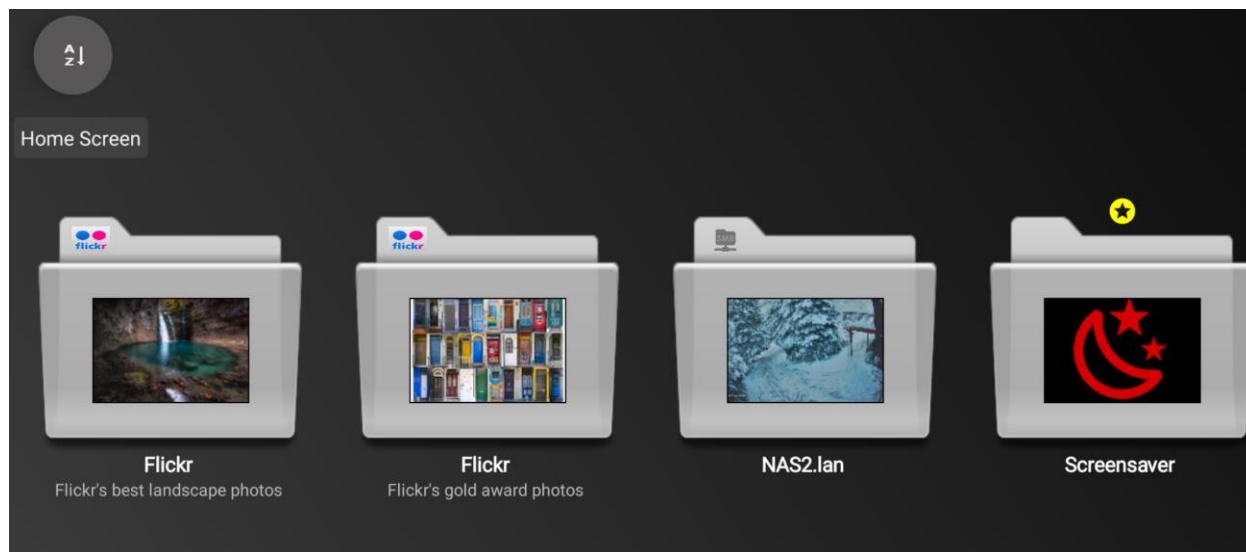
In order to configure the screen saver, open the *Settings screen* (see chapter 2) and select *Screensaver Settings*. Click on *Enable Screensaver* and select PhotoGuru as a screen saver in the system settings of the device.



Next, you need to select one or more folders with images that you would like to display when the device is idle: Click on *Select photos*, navigate to the folder that you want to display, *long-press* on it for two seconds and select *Add folder to screensaver* in the popup menu.



When you return back to the *Home Screen*, you will see a newly created folder called *Screensaver*. This folder contains links to folders that will get displayed while the screen saver is running. You can manually copy and paste items into this folder as described in Chapter 3.3 and you can delete bookmarks by long-pressing on them.



When the screen saver starts, *PhotoGuru* will pick a random subfolder of the *Screensaver* folder and enumerate its contents. If this subfolder contains images or videos they will get displayed. Otherwise, *PhotoGuru* will randomly pick a subfolder, enumerate its contents and if it contains images, they will get displayed. If the folder does not contain images or videos, *PhotoGuru* will recursively enumerate subfolders until images or videos have been found. After all images or videos in a folder have been displayed or if a user-defined time period has passed, *PhotoGuru* will start the search process again. The user defined time period can be set under *Screensaver Settings*>*Automatically reload image folders during playback*. For example, if you set this timeout to two minutes, *PhotoGuru* will automatically start the playback of another folder after two minutes even if not all images in the current folders have been shown.

6.1 Daydream on Amazon FireTV devices

Amazon FireTV devices do not allow you to select third party Daydream screen savers through the user interface of the device. However, if you have the *Android Debug Bridge (ADB)* system tool available on your PC, you can select PhotoGuru as a Daydream screen saver through external commands.

WARNING: Editing or modifying system settings via ADB can be very damaging to your device. We cannot be held responsible for any damage that may occur to your device. Since this is an undocumented feature of Amazon's FireOS, we cannot guarantee that this will work in future firmware versions of the device.

1. Follow the instructions [here](#) or [here](#) to install the Android Debug Bridge (ADB) on your PC.
2. Once ADB is up and running and you can talk to your FireTV device from your PC, type "`adb shell`" and enter the following commands in the shell window that was opened:

```
settings put secure screensaver_components com.cmpsoft.MediaBrowser/com.cmpsoft.MediaBrowser.DayDream
settings put system screen_off_timeout 5000
```

3. Follow the instructions in the *Daydream* chapter how to configure the PhotoGuru screen saver.

Note #1: The value '5000' above is the number of milliseconds (5 seconds) after which the PhotoGuru screen saver will start. Feel free to change it to whatever you desire.

Note #2: Due to a bug, FireTV devices do not reliably support 4K/UHD rendering of images in Daydream mode.

Note #3: As of now, this only works on FireTV devices. It does not work on Fire HD tablets.

7 Purchase

PhotoGuru is free, does not display advertisements and runs without restrictions but it does *politely* ask you to pay a small amount that covers the ongoing cost of development by showing an overlay with a yellow *Please Pay* watermark during image playback. We have been working on this app non-stop for more than six years and every purchase encourages us to invest even more time. Proceeds are mostly used to purchase the latest hardware and to pay for translations, customer support, etc.

PhotoGuru is very modular and every module costs \$3 to \$5: If you frequently access your images from Flickr, the *Please Pay* watermark encourages you to pay a couple of dollars for the Flickr module. Once you have purchased this module, the message disappears and you will see all of your Flickr photos without the overlay. If you access photos from another module, they will get watermarked unless you purchase that specific module. Once you have purchased three modules, we will automatically unlock all modules for you and you will see photos from all hosting services without a watermark.



Payments are done through in-app purchases that are securely handled by Google and Amazon. You can initiate a payment by clicking on the watermark and then following the on-screen instructions that guide you through the payment process.

Since Google and Amazon are direct competitors, purchases in one store will not automatically get reflected on devices from the other manufacturer. This means that if you purchase/unlock a *PhotoGuru* module in the Google store, this module will not automatically get unlocked on an Amazon FireTV device and vice versa. If you are planning to run PhotoGuru on a mix of Amazon and Google devices, please [install the Amazon App Store](#) on your Google Device and then install PhotoGuru through the Amazon App Store and then pay for the PhotoGuru module through Amazon.

Please contact us if you are running into problems. Our goal is to make this process as painless as possible.

8 Advanced Topics

8.1 Starting PhotoGuru with ADB commands

The PhotoGuru media player can be started via ADB commands:

Example: Start a slideshow in the folder with the title “Flickr”

```
adb shell am start -n com.cmpsoft.MediaBrowser/.PlayerActivity --es "folder_title" "Flickr"
adb shell am start -n com.cmpsoft.MediaBrowser/.RandomPlayerActivity --es "folder_title" "Flickr"
```

Example: Start a slideshow in the folder with title “Flickr” and the subtitle “test123”:

```
adb shell am start -n com.cmpsoft.MediaBrowser/.RandomPlayerActivity --es "folder_title" "Flickr" --es
"folder_subtitle" "test123"
```

Example: Start a slideshow in a folder with subtitle “MyPhotos” (and ignore the folder title completely):

```
adb shell am start -n com.cmpsoft.MediaBrowser/.RandomPlayerActivity --es "folder_subtitle" "MyPhotos"
```

8.2 Integration of PhotoGuru with Tasker and MacroDroid

PhotoGuru can be automated by [Tasker](#) and [MacroDroid](#) which can both be downloaded from the Google Playstore. For example, you could create a task that automatically starts a PhotoGuru slideshow at 7am or create a task that runs when some other event happens.

In order to do this, you need to instruct these apps to send an *Intent* (a start command) to PhotoGuru that specifies which slideshow to run.

There are two media players in PhotoGuru: The default media player plays images in the selected folder and allows you to navigate forward and backwards and the random media player which randomly selects a potentially deeply nested subfolder and then plays the images in it until the user interacts with the device.

The *intents* sent to both media players need to specify in which folder to start the slideshow. Folders can be selected by specifying the **folder_title** and/or the **folder_subtitle**. If a title field is omitted, it acts as a wildcard. Note that all fields are case-sensitive.

8.2.1 Example MacroDroid Integration:

Open MacroDroid and create a new Action by clicking on the +. Click on **Connectivity** and then on **Send Intent**.

Target: **Activity**

Package: ***com.cmpsoft.MediaBrowser***

Class: ***com.cmpsoft.MediaBrowser.RandomPlayerActivity***

or:

com.cmpsoft.MediaBrowser.PlayerActivity

Extras: ***folder_title*** [Name of folder]

Extras: ***folder_subtitle*** [Name of subtitle]
This field is optional

8.2.2 Example Tasker Integration:

Start MacroDroid and click on **+** to create a new **Task** and then select **System**. In the *Select System Action* screen select **New Intent**:

Extras: ***folder_title:[Name of folder]***

Note the colon ":" between *folder_title* and the name of the folder!

Extras: ***folder_subtitle:[Subtitle of folder]***

This field is optional

Package: ***com.cmpsoft.MediaBrowser***

Class: ***com.cmpsoft.MediaBrowser.RandomPlayerActivity***

or:

com.cmpsoft.MediaBrowser.PlayerActivity

Target: **Activity**

8.3 System Requirements

PhotoGuru is compatible with thousands of tablets, phones and AndroidTV/FireTV devices that run Android 5 ("Lollipop") or higher - i.e. pretty much any Android device that has been released during the last 8 years.

8.4 Supported Hosting Services and Protocols

The following table specifies which media files can be accessed by PhotoGuru from a certain file hosting service. If MP3 support is available, PhotoGuru will be able to play background music while a slideshow is running (MP3 files need to be in the same folder as the images/videos).

Amazon Drive	Photo Video MP3
Dropbox	Photo Video MP3
Flickr	Photo Access to private photos and public Flickr groups.
Google Drive	Photo Video MP3
Google Photos	Photo Video
Microsoft OneDrive	Photo Video MP3
Local files on device or on USB drive/stick	Photo Video MP3 Access of internal memory of the device as well as access to external USB sticks and drives.
Samba/CIFS (e.g. shared files on Windows machines)	Photo Video MP3 Any network file server on the local network: e.g. Microsoft Windows, QNAP, Drobox, Synology, WD My Cloud, MacOS devices. Support for SMB dialects 1.0, 2.0 and 2.2.
SmugMug	Photo Video
UPnP/DLNA	Photo Video Universal protocol that is implemented by most home routers, Wi-Fi access points and file servers. Very simple configuration.
WebDAV	Photo Video MP3 Example WebDAV servers: https://owncloud.org/ https://nextcloud.com/
Zenfolio	Photo Video

8.5 Supported File Formats:

The app displays photos with the following file formats: **JPEG, GIF, PNG, BMP** and supports the following video formats: **MP4, 3GP, MKV, MV4, MOV, 3GP, 3G2**.

HEIF and **HEIC** images are supported on modern Android devices.

8.6 Supported Languages

PhotoGuru currently supports the following languages:

- English

- German
- Italian
- Polish
- Czech
- Romanian
- French

8.7 Customer Support

It is very important for us to get feedback from you. Without knowing what you think about the app or knowing what works and what does not work, we can't improve the app and we can't fix bugs.

So, please, if you have questions or ideas how to improve PhotoGuru, email us in English or German at

gurusupport@cmpsoft.com