

## Whats Hot

- Ghostshell leaks 120,000 records from top 100 universities. The hacktivist group behind Project Hellfire claims to have leaked records from 100 of the top universities around the world. Known for their role in Project Hellfire – which lifted a million accounts from organisations across the world including the CIA and Wall Street – the Anonymous-related group has now targeted both domestic and international universities.
- Hacktivist group Anonymous says 'Expect us, Sweden' after police raid torrent host PRQ. PRQ, the former web host for Wikileaks and The Pirate Bay, has gone offline after a copyright-related police raid, drawing threats of retaliation from hacktivist group Anonymous. A clutch of torrent sites went offline Monday after Swedish police raided PRQ, the former web host of The Pirate Bay – prompting threats of retaliation from hacktivist group Anonymous.



## Adobe Photoshop Elements 11

### Elements has matured at last!

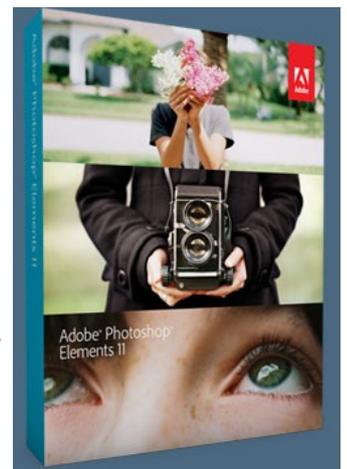
Adobe Photoshop CS6 may have gathered all the attention, but its baby brother Photoshop Elements has been quietly growing up. Now at version 11, it's a mature, sophisticated image editing program that provides 90 per cent of the functionality of the full Photoshop, at a fraction of the cost.

Pricing for new Photoshop Elements users is £79.10, or £119.14 for an Elements & Premier Elements bundle. If upgrading from a previous copy of Photoshop Elements, it will cost £64.81, or £98.16 for the bundle.

This time around, there are only a handful of new features - although

these are very much worth having - since Adobe has concentrated on the look and feel of the program.

Gone is the dark, grey-on-grey look of previous versions; in comes a bright, fresh livery with much more readable text, clear tool icons, and a far fresher and more appealing look overall.



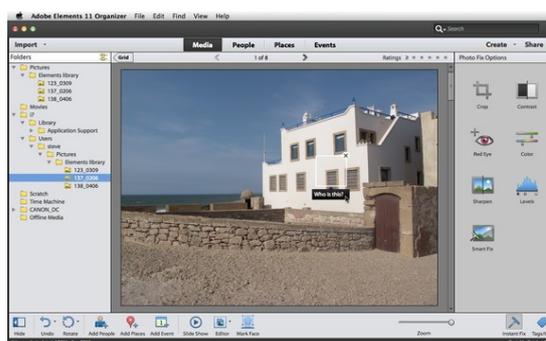
**Elements 11**

But the refurbishment is far more than just skin deep: in Photoshop Elements 11, Adobe has gone out of its way to make the tools more intuitive, with intelligent walkthroughs and easy quick adjustments.

### Organiser

Photoshop Elements 11's Organiser is the tool for cataloguing, retrieving, printing and filing your images. It offers a range of techniques to make the process easier, from facial recognition to geo-tagging to straight calendar searches. You can perform some routine image enhancement tasks with Photoshop Elements 11's

Organiser, but you have no control over the process:



it's an all-or-nothing approach with single buttons to enhance sharpness, con-

trast, colour and so on. It's almost always worth opening selected images in the Editor to get to grips with them properly.

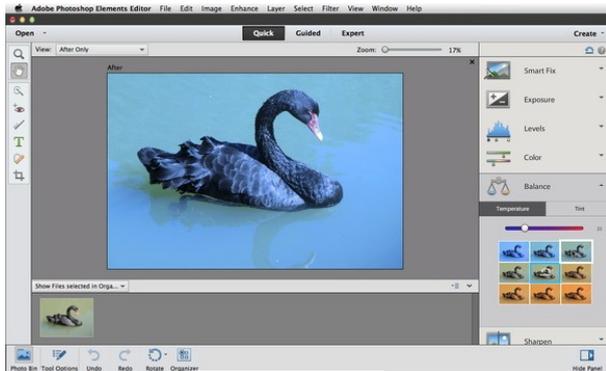
### Editor

This is where the main body of Photoshop Elements 11 resides. It's divided into three different working sections, each of which caters to a different level of user: Quick, Guided and Expert.

# Adobe Photoshop Elements 11

## Quick Mode

In this stripped-down view, there are only a handful of tools - selection, redeye, tooth brightening, text and healing. The Smart Fix, Exposure, Colour and other buttons that were one-click effects in the Organiser now pop open to reveal a 3 x 3 grid of variations, each showing the target image.



Quick Mode

## Guided Mode

In this mode, all the tools and panels are hidden, save for a single panel that presents you with a series of options - Touchups (skin tone correction, colour enhancement, scratch and blemish removal, and so on), Photo Effects (depth of field, Orton effect, and now featuring tilt-shift, high key and low key effects) and Photo Play (out of bounds, pop art, picture stack and reflection).



Guided Mode

Selecting any one of these guides you through the process, holding your virtual hand as you make ad-

justments, invoke filters, and apply enhancements - all without reaching for a tool or menu option.

## Expert Mode

The biggest surprise comes when you create an effect in Guided mode, and then switch to Expert. You'll find that the image you've been working on is now presented as a series of layers, masks, adjustments and filters, exactly as if you'd created all the effects directly in Expert mode in the first place. This serves two main functions: it enables you to edit the images you've created, fine-tuning the results, adjusting layer modes and repainting masks as required; and it also enables new users to learn a lot about how the effects have actually been created.

Apart from the cleaner, brighter look, Expert mode benefits from a few new filters. As well as a powerful Lens Blur effect, there are new

Comic, Graphic Novel and Pen and Ink filters, all of which create variously hand-drawn looks. But they do so with a tremendous sense of realism, and frankly are far better than anything Photoshop itself can produce. A real pleasure to work with, these are hugely enter-



Refine Tool

taining filters. You'll certainly benefit from Photoshop Elements 11's new Refine Edge dialogue, which has now been fully updated to provide sophisticated cutout tools - not just smoothing edges, but isolating tricky areas such as hair from difficult backgrounds.

## The Verdict

Adobe Photoshop Elements 11 is a mature, thoughtful program that has eschewed flashy new features in favour of a genuinely more approachable interface. That said, the Refine Edge tool in itself is enough to warrant the upgrade; the extra filters are the icing on the cake

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