

Thumbnail Creation: Preserving Image Quality

Traditionally, we've created thumbnails by using a graphics program's resize command. Unfortunately, just resizing reduces the image so much that pictures with extensive detail wash out and become too crowded to be meaningful.

Cropping preserves those details that are within the new viewport, but at the cost of losing the context of the image as a whole.

It is recommended that we implement a combination of cropping and scaling; resulting in a thumbnail that preserves both relevance and detail.

To achieve a properly formatted thumbnail:

Original image

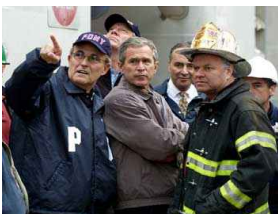


Reminders:

- When formatting images for the web, remember to keep the resolution at **72 dpi**.
- Our target files size for a 140 pixel wide thumbnail is **less than 8K**.



Resizing only:
loss of detail



Cropping only:
loss of context



Step 1: Crop
Step 2: Resize

Combination:
preservation of
context & detail



* For step-by-step coverage of this process, see the *Thumbnail Creation: Process* document.