

A CHEAT-SHEET FOR REVIEWING RASTER GRAPHICS

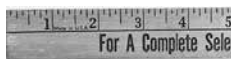
For raster (pixel-based) graphics like photographs and scans, 300 dpi resolution is required. That means the dimensions of the file (in pixels) should be 300 times the desired inches of width or depth. The image below is 1500 pixels wide to achieve the desired 5 inch width at 300 dpi.



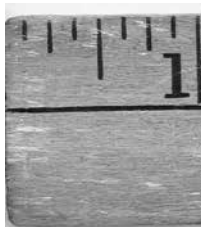
When supplied at 72 dpi (360 pixels), the image is visibly degraded at the desired 5 inch width.



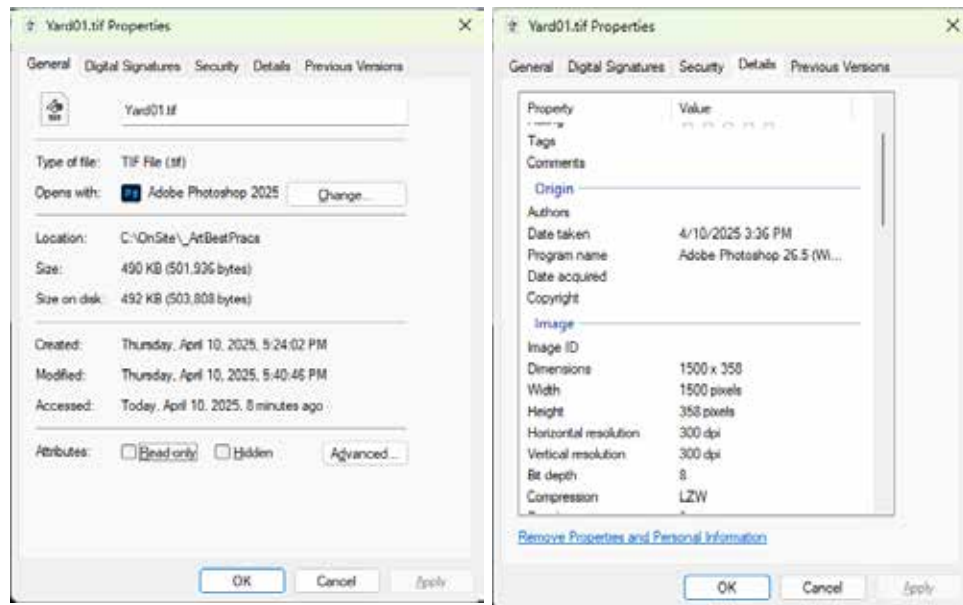
With only 360 pixels, the image should not be wider than 1.2 inches. Although the resolution issue is resolved at that size, the image is now too small.



Of course, an image that is intended to be narrow may not require more pixels. The 300 pixels in the image below are sufficient given the desired 1 inch width.



It is possible to retrieve the pixel dimensions of most raster graphic files in Windows Explorer. To do so, right click on the relevant file and select Properties (or hit Alt + Enter with the file selected). Navigate to the Details tab in the resulting menu.

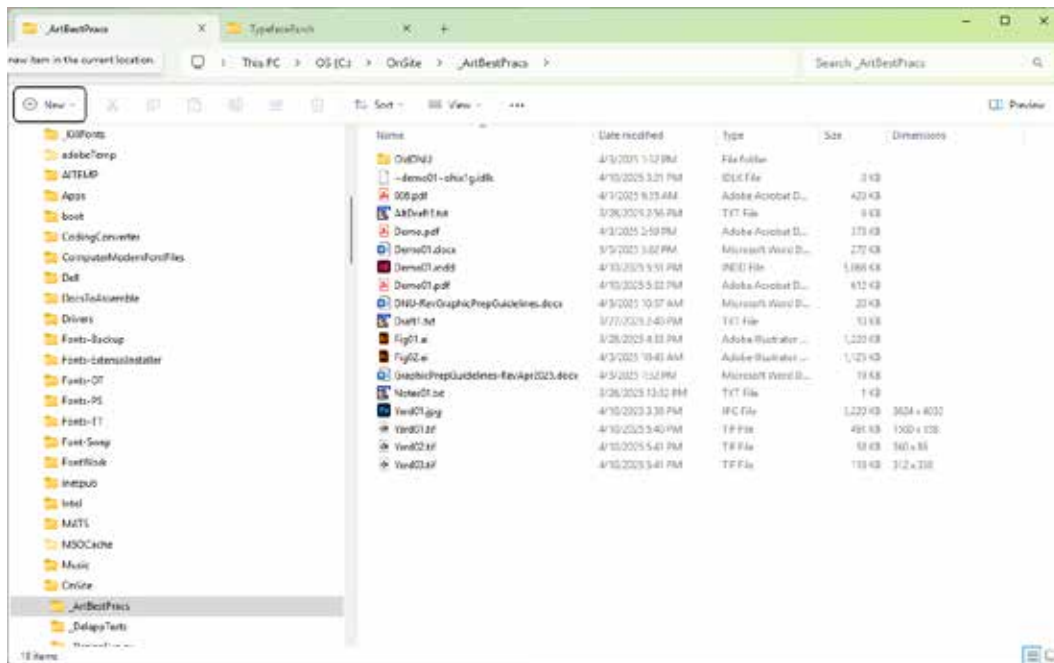


The dimensions (width and height) in pixels are listed in the Image area of the Details tab.

If you wish to review the dimensions for a group of raster graphic files together, you can add Dimensions to the Details view of a Windows Explorer display. With the View set to Details, right click on the column header row and select “More” to call up the Choose Details menu. Navigate down to Dimensions and click the appropriate checkbox and then click “OK.”



The list of files will now include dimensions for files in raster graphic formats. The last four entries in the list below are in such formats (.jpg, .tif) and now include dimension details (in pixels).



When reviewing dimensions in this way, it is important to note that negative space or a blank background appearing in the image will be included in the dimensions. The image below has a width of 1500 pixels but that value includes the background; the yardstick portion of the image is only a little over 300 pixels wide.

