

Your Digital Life

How to make sure your family history survives in the digital age.

Tony Knight



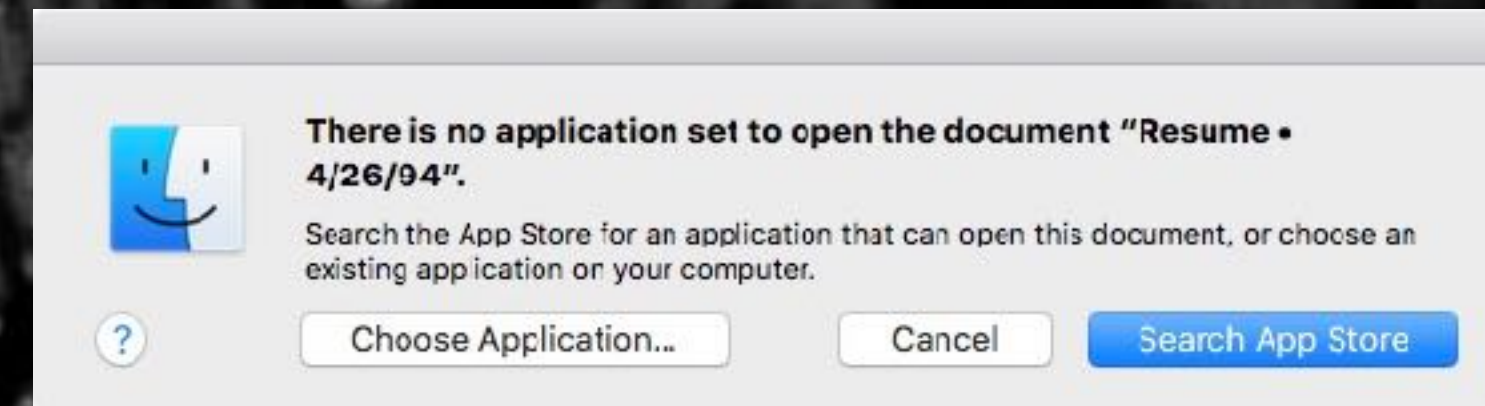


Physical to Digital Transformation
For the Family Historian

Data Dangers:



**Media
Obsolescence**



**Format
Obsolescence**

Family Trees

- Prime Candidates for format obsolescence
 - Proprietary file format
 - Often new versions of the software won't open files created by older versions.
- Make a GEDCOM Backup
 - Text based backup of family history data.
 - Can be read and imported by many family history software.
 - Always backup output to PDF after making major additions or changes.

Fighting Format Obsolescence

- Chose Date formats with longevity in mind
 - Standards vs. Proprietary
 - Exportability
- Avoid Assumptions
 - Don't assume others care more for your data than you do.
 - Your data, your problem



File Formats for the Future

Audio



Image



Documents



Video



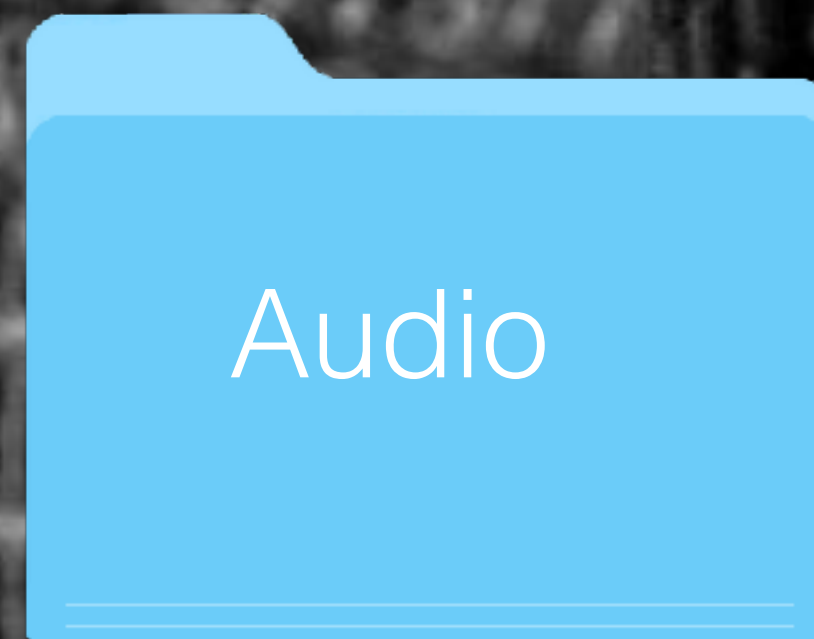
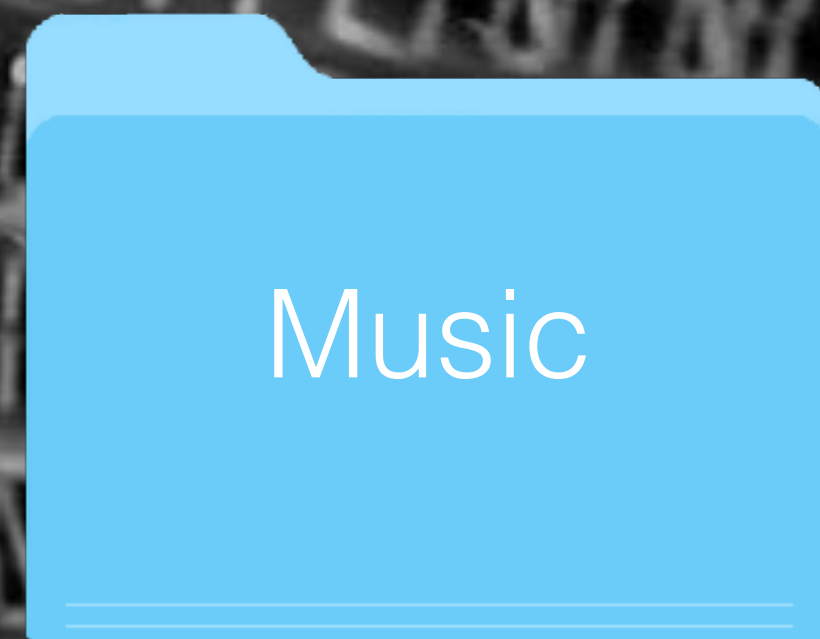
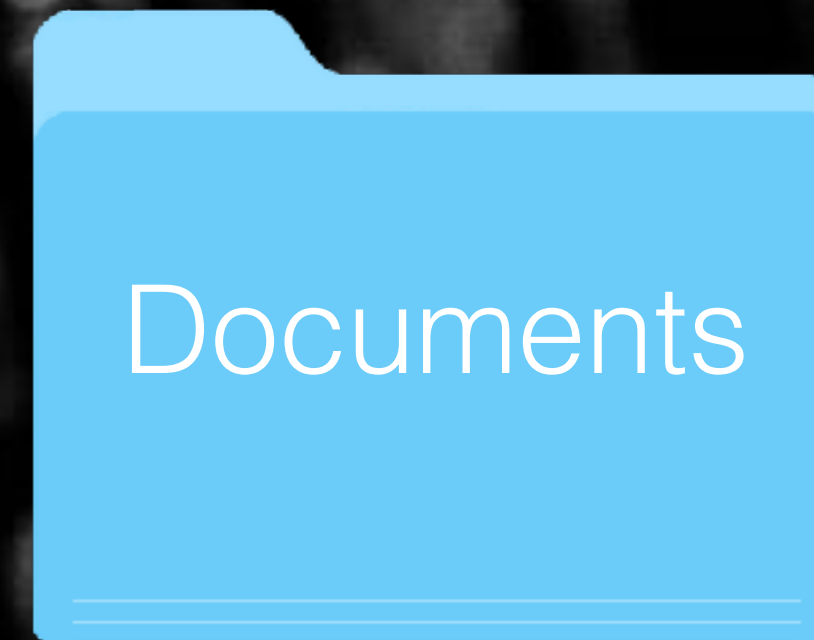
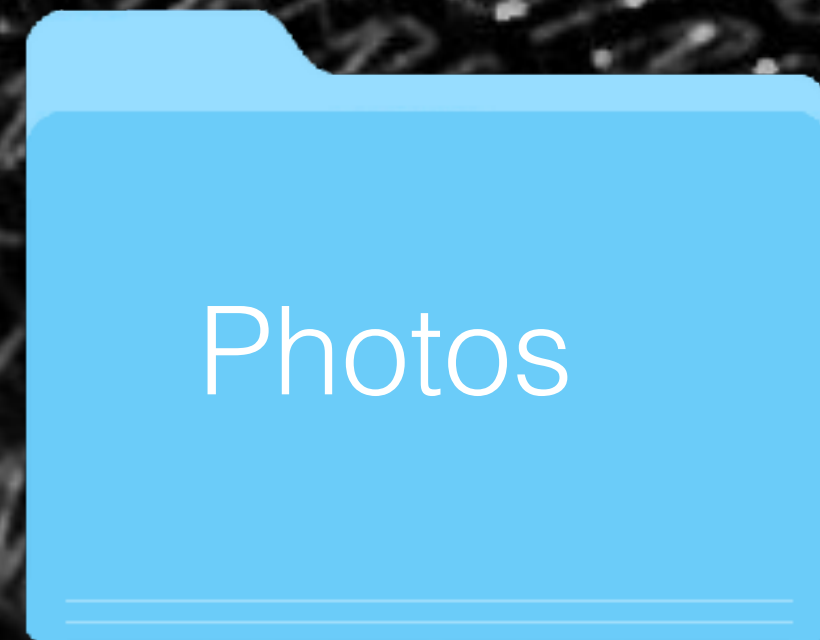
Tips for Making Your Data Live Long (and Prosper)



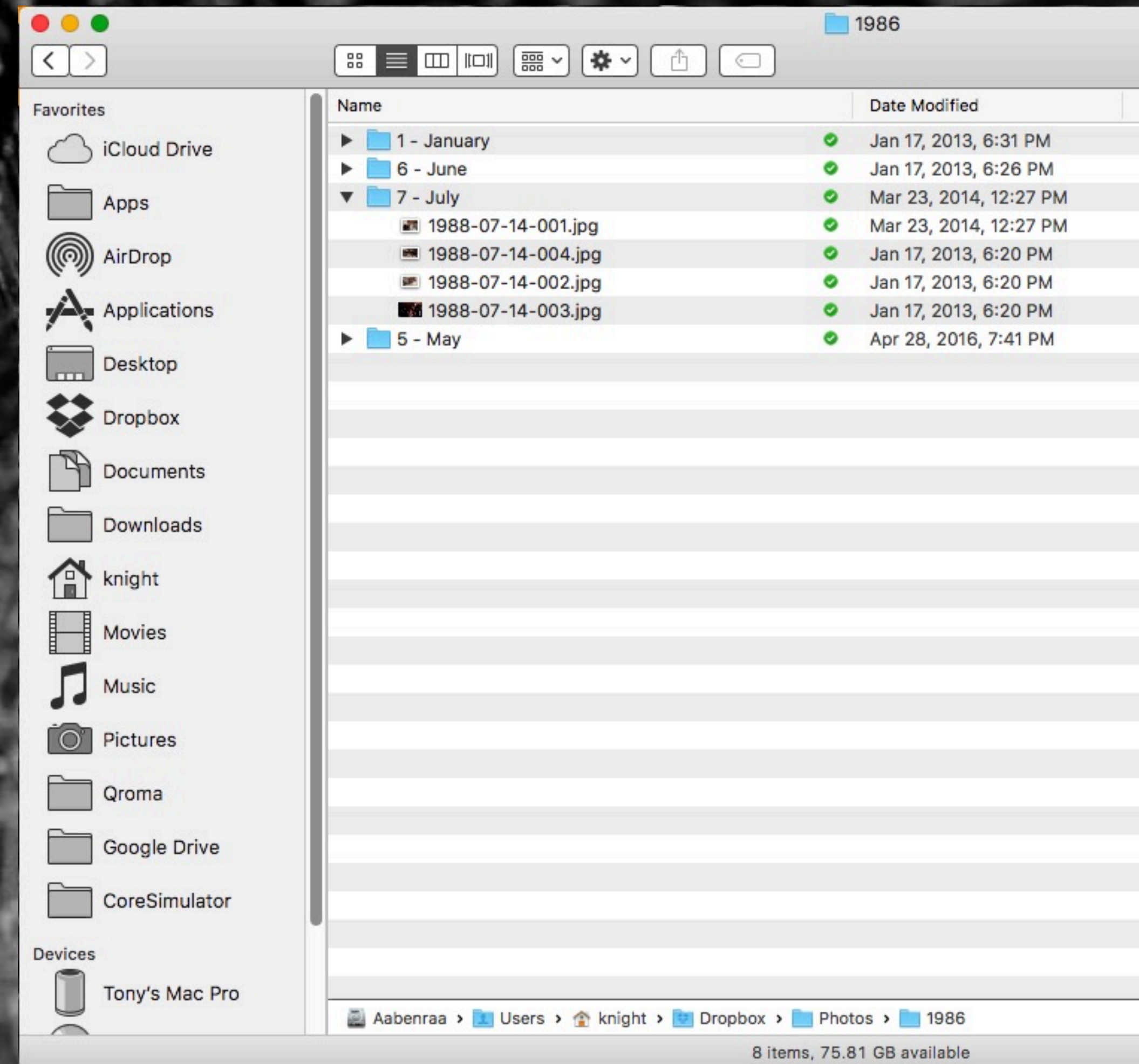
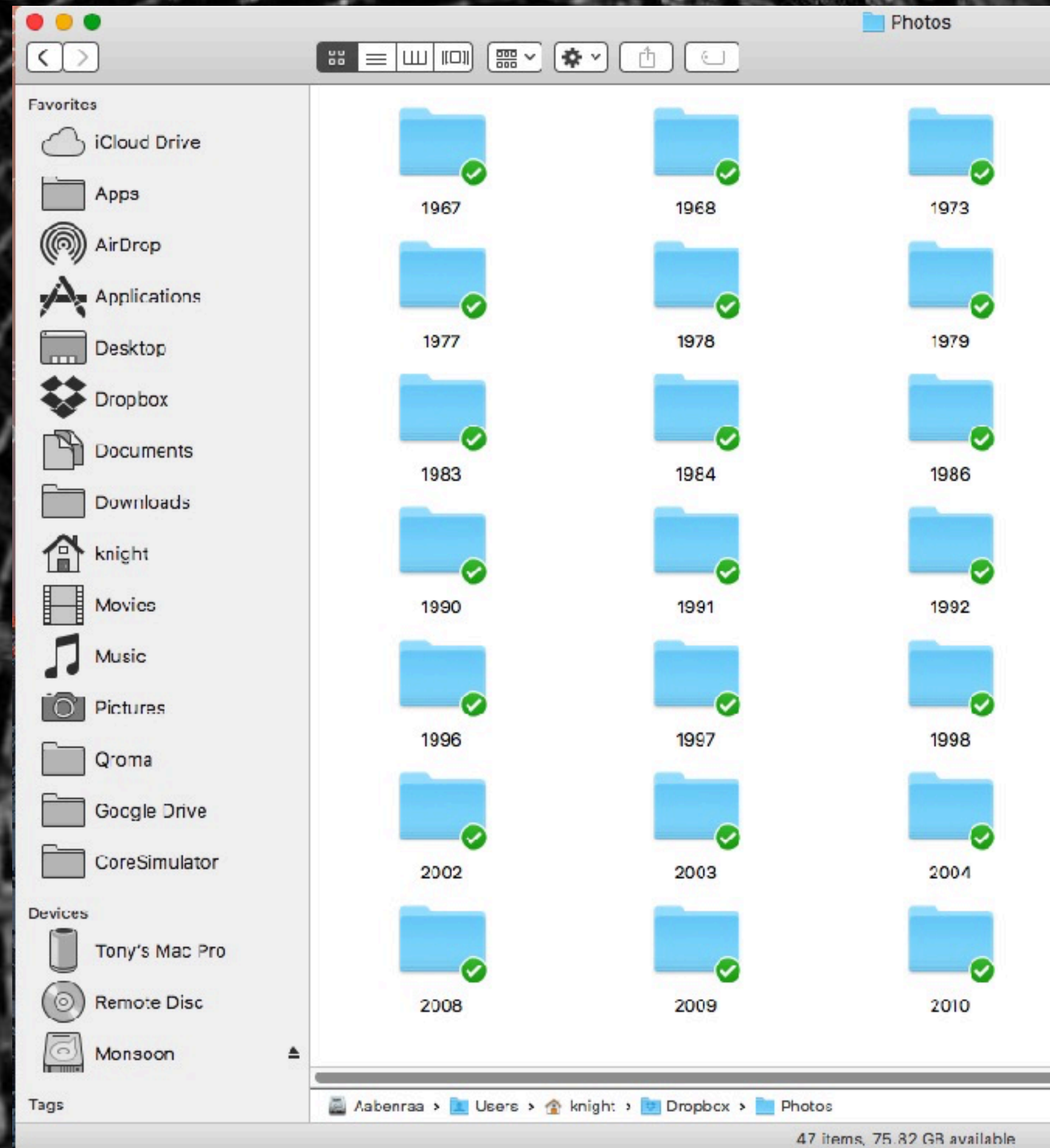
- Centralize your Data
- Do a Data Audit
 - Can I still open a file from 5 or 10 years ago?
 - What format are my movies, photos and other important data in?
 - Am I relying too much on a web service or a single vendor? What happens to my data if that product is 'end of life'?
 - Are you using web services that 'downgrade' your content?



Centralizing Data



Centralizing Data



Nomenclature & Searchability

- Develop a system for naming your files that will make it easy for your descendants to find the most important information.
- Prefer native metadata over filename dependancy.
- Standardize on this system across all your data.

(2019-08-10) Your Digital Life Prezo

Cloud Sync Providers



- Allow you to keep your important files backed
- Keeps information synced between machines
- Allows you to access your data on portable devices
- Can make it easier to pass on your account information to your heirs and allow them to download your data if your machines are unavailable

Get Takeout Regularly



- If a significant portion of your 'digital life' is online, make sure to regularly download your data and back it up.
- Avoid services that do not let you download your own data



Converting Your Data

- Consider how your data will be used in the future
 - That will help you determine what format to convert it to
- Pick a format for the future
 - Text
 - Markdown
 - PDF



For documents, three standard formats are dominant:





Why not use just HTML?

- It's viewable on billions of devices
- It's an open standard
- It looks great
- **It's very hard to format**

Why not use just TXT?

- It's viewable on billions of devices
- It's an open standard
- It has a track record of being future proof.
- It **doesn't** look great



txt

Why not use just PDF?



- It's viewable on billions of devices, but does not have the same reach as TXT or HTML
- It has **some** track record of being future proof.
- It's hard to edit the content.



A new standard emerges:

- It's text based markup language, like HTML
- Much easier to learn
- Markdown rendering is proliferating
- It can always be read as text
- It can be very easily exported to HTML and PDF.



Demo