r/applehelp · 4y ago
azz3879
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Is it possible to reset the faces database in Apple Photos?

iOS

I am running macOS Monterey version 12.6.1 on a MacBook Pro, 16-inch, 2019

I have 192,554 photos and 15,900 videos in Apple Photos / iCloud.

I recently inadvertently "confirmed" in Apple Photos that a photo of my girlfriend was actually a photo of me. As a result Apple Photos merged the People album of girlfriend with the People album of myself. The result is an album of 23,495 photos and 4,533 videos of both of us. Apple Photos now thinking we are the same person. It would require a incalculable amount of time to select each image/video of her and then select "*My Name* is not in this photo."

Is there a way to reset the faces database so Apple Photos' "who" each of us are and restarts the facial recognition process from scratch?

I have tried selecting the album which contains both of us and selecting "Remove this Person" but that only seemed to remove that album from the larger People album as opposed to clearing the facial recognition tags from each image.

According to this Apple Community support topic here and this person's blog post here it was possible in iOS 10.2 to completely reset the faces database and start from scratch.

Any suggestions and or ideas are greatly appreciated.

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0 · 10

Environmental_Door15 · 3y ago

If you haven't found this answer- to reset apple faces/people -

Make sure to back up your library on external drive!!!

Open photo library. Click on "People". Select all. Command-Del. You should see a pop-up confirming you are about to reset the people/faces.

I'd also rebuild the library after that. Quit photos, then holding option-command, double click on photo app or the photo library itself to rebuild the library. Of course this will take a while with that number of photos, but definitely worth it before you start assigning new faces.

And of course, Apple Photos is notorious for taking a very very long time, days, perhaps weeks to look for faces after the reset. All of this is worth it to ensure that library gets back in shape.

Hope this helps.

azz3879 OP · 3y ago
Thank you SO much!! I really appreciate you taking the time to offer this insight!!!

7 more replies

EducatedRat · 2y ago
You just saved me so many hours. It worked and saved me. Thank you.

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