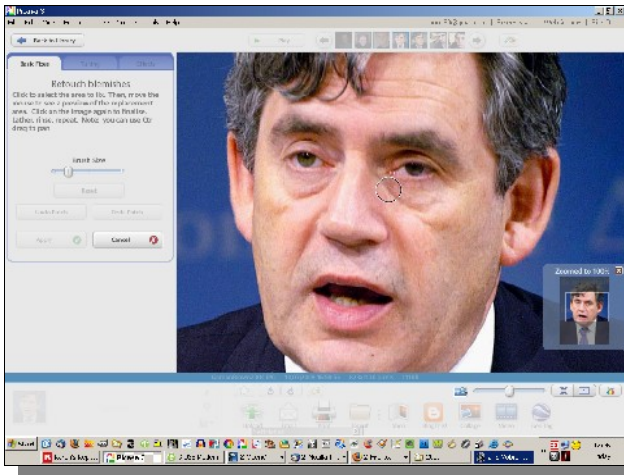


Basic improvements for your Photos: - removing blemishes

For this tutorial we are going to reduce the bags and blemishes on this image of UK Prime Minister, Gordon Brown. This activity sheet is designed to be printed as a guide to basic changes you can make to your image with



Picasa. We choose Picasa because it is free, widely used and a simple starting point for most people new to image enhancing with a computer. If you have other image editing software that you prefer, feel free to use it. It may look different, but most of the functions are similar in many image editing programs.

This tutorial covers:

- a simple method of removing pimples, eye bags or other image defects, such as spots, scratches or the odd tourist!

For this activity you will need:

- Computer with Picasa (or a similar image editing program installed).
- An portrait with skin blemishes or any other image with small defects.

Select the 'Retouch' icon on the basic fixes tab in Picasa. The cursor will change into a circle, as shown in our example. Change the size of the circle using the slider tool. Set the size to be big enough to overlap the borders of the defect you are fixing, but small enough to avoid affecting other features.



Click on an area you want to fix, in this case, it is the bags under Gordon's eye. The selected area will change and you can move your cursor over an area of the face that is relatively free from blemishes, you will see your original selection change as you move the selection, magically, the bags begin to dissolve.



When you are happy with the result, click to place the new 'patch' over the blemish. Repeat this process over other areas, it will probably take about 4-5 patches to clear up each bag, but only one to hide a pimple. You will notice that Picasa does a pretty good job of blending the patches so that your 'cosmetic surgery' looks natural, but any patch that does not work can be cancelled by clicking on the 'Undo Patch' button.

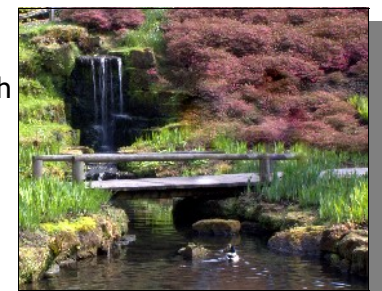
When you have finished retouching the image, click on 'Apply' to finish using the retouching tool.

The cleaned image

Remember that until you choose to save the image, none of the changes are saved onto the image. Also, remember that Picasa will create a backup of the original image (without your edits) when you do choose to save.



Remember that this technique is not just for blemishes, it can be useful for doing away with the odd pensioner as well!



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