

A project that promises to improve the distribution of digital images.

Written by Mariana Gruener

The screenshot shows the homepage of the Digital Railroad website. At the top is a dark header with the site name 'DIGITAL RAILROAD' in white. To the right of the name are links for 'Home | Sitemap | Contact'. Below the header is a navigation bar with three tabs: 'SERVICES', 'FEATURES', and 'COMPANY'. The main content area features a grid of ten diverse photographs, including a person at a desk, a red abstract image, a purple abstract image, a black and white photo of a person, a cow in a field, a person in a blue shirt, a white airplane, a modern interior, a 'WELCOME TO SARAJEVO' sign, and a sunflower. Below the grid, there are three columns of text. The left column is titled 'Photographers are saying...' and contains a quote from Jack Reznick. The middle column is titled 'Manage. Market. Sell. TAKE CONTROL OF YOUR CREATIVE BUSINESS' and includes a description of the service, a 'Learn More >' link, and a 'Sign Up For A 30-Day Free Trial >' button. The right column is titled 'Editors are saying...' and contains a quote from Damon Kiesow. At the bottom left is a 'Newsletter' sign-up form, and at the bottom right is a 'Members' link.

DIGITAL RAILROAD Home | Sitemap | Contact

SERVICES FEATURES COMPANY

Photographers are saying...

"Showing images is vital in getting assignments. With Digital Railroad I have access to my back catalog of images quickly: that spells jobs!"
- Jack Reznick, Commercial Photographer

Manage. Market. Sell.
TAKE CONTROL OF YOUR CREATIVE BUSINESS

Digital Railroad gives you the tools to easily manage, market and sell your digital images online. With Digital Railroad, you'll have a personalized online archive system as powerful as that of a large agency for a low monthly fee. Focus on making great pictures rather than worrying about managing your technology.

[Learn More >](#)

Sign Up For A 30-Day Free Trial >

Editors are saying...

"We just can't go to thirty different photographers' websites and hope they have a searchable online archive with high resolution images. If we had a system with a consistent interface to get content from a variety of different photographers, we're going to use it because we're about speed, variety and great photos."
- Damon Kiesow, Senior Photo Editor, AOL

Newsletter
Sign up to get the latest news and updates.

Members

"Digital Railroad" makes it easier for photographers, agencies, newspapers or anyone interested in distributing photographs anywhere in the world through the Internet.

If you are a photographer and you want to sell your work as if you had your very own agency, this might work for you.

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If your photo stock is small there are other solutions, some programs with analogous functions could help you get similar results, such as iView Media and Portfolios, which will be discussed in a forth coming edition of ZoneZero magazine.

""Digital Railroad"" offers 10Gb of on-line space to store images, which can be in either low or high resolution. You can also make small presentations called "light boxes" which are sent via e-mail as hypertext links to potential customers.

If anyone is interested in buying a picture, access is given to download the file in high resolution for a better view, thus avoiding the need to burn a CD or make a print that have to be sent via the regular mail, this represents an advantage for the photographer since it shortens the time that the buyer has to decide to buy the photograph. In addition, you deal directly with the customers and there are no commissions to be paid if the work is sold.

This website is of special interest to photographers that have a large stock of images and distribute them to publications or companies.

When subscribing to "Digital Railroad", you get your very own site, which can be easily personalized through user-friendly design tools.

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Images are uploaded through your navigator or FTP program; the pictures are automatically copied in low resolution by the network to be edited. Access can be given to other people to edit, select, download and publish the photographs without waiting time.

The screenshot displays the Mariana Gruener website interface. At the top, the name "Mariana Gruener" is prominently displayed in orange. Below it, a navigation bar includes links for HOME, SEARCH, ABOUT, and CONTACT. A search bar is located in the top right corner.

The main content area is titled "Lightbox: MGruener new book". It shows "Results 1 - 35 of 35" and "Images per page: 12 | 24 | 48 | 76 | 100". A grid of three image thumbnails is visible. On the left side, there is a sidebar with "Lightbox Details" (Name: MGruener new b..., Modified: 8/4/2004, Created: 8/3/2004, By: mariana gruener, Number of Photos: 35), "Lightbox Options" (Contact Owner), and "Help Topics" (Edit Selects, Download Comps, Contact the Photogrpher).

The bottom section shows a detailed view of "Image 6 of 35". The image is a close-up of a bird's head on a textured metal surface. To the right of the image, a metadata table provides the following information:

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Image ID: | 6485 |
| NY street | |
| Photographer: | mariana gruener |
| Date: | |
| City: | NY |
| State: | NY |
| Country: | United States |
| Credit: | mariana gruener |
| Copyright: | (c) mariana gruener |
| From Archive: | marianagruener |
| URL: | |
| Model Release: | No |
| Property Release: | Yes |
| Available sizes: | Original (1000x1000) Small (640x426) |
| Keywords: | NY bird |

At the bottom left of the image view, there is a "Pricing" link and a small icon for downloading the image.

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This means that a reporter could be in Iraq and his editor in New York. The editor could check out the photographer's work every day and ask for the information he needs to edit and discuss it with his or her colleagues, and each one can download and publish automatically through the "Digital Railroad" network.

All the big photo agencies have a server that transmits information via FTP. The problem with these servers is that you have to upload and download all the images, which is time consuming and sometimes the servers are flooded which makes for even longer delays.

With "Digital Railroad", photographers administer their own websites, which speeds up the process.

There are plenty of photographers and editors that have tried "Digital Railroad" and have liked it. In my experience, after trying it out myself, I would like to invite you to visit this website and get acquainted with this solution.

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I am including a list of photographers that have used this network and make comments about their experience.

Article:

http://talks.blogs.com/phototalk/2004/08/digital_railroa.html

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<http://www.zonezero.com/magazine/articles/digitalrailroad/digitalrr.html>