# How to Preview Images in Windows Explorer with MysticThumbs

Have you ever wished you could see thumbnails of your images in Windows Explorer, even if they are not in a common format? If you work with Photoshop, RAW photography, DirectX game textures, or other types of images that Windows does not natively support, you might have encountered this problem. Fortunately, there is a solution: MysticThumbs. MysticThumbs is a software that generates thumbnails of many image formats not natively supported by Windows. It plugs into Windows Explorer so you don't have to run a separate application to preview your images, see them all in the native shell and Open/Save dialog boxes in all 32 and 64 bit applications[^1^][^2^]. In this article, we will show you how to use MysticThumbs to enhance your image viewing experience in Windows Explorer. You will learn how to:

- Install and configure MysticThumbs
- Customize thumbnails and icon overlays
- QuickView files by pressing the Space Bar
- Add your own formats with plugin support

## Install and Configure MysticThumbs

To install MysticThumbs, you can download it from the official website: [https://mysticcoder.net/mysticthumbs](https://mysticcoder.net/mysticthumbs). You can try it for free for 14 days, and then purchase a license for $US44.95 for a single seat for personal use. Business and site licenses are also available. Once you have installed MysticThumbs, you can access its control panel from the Start menu or the system tray icon. The control panel allows you to customize various settings for each file type or extension, such as transparency, thumbnail borders, scaling, blending, embedded thumbnail selection and more. You can switch between Novice and Expert modes to adjust the level of complexity.

## Customize Thumbnails and Icon Overlays

MysticThumbs lets you customize how your thumbnails and icon overlays look in Windows Explorer. You can choose between opaque, transparent, or checkerboard options to help clarify transparent thumbnails against window backgrounds. You can also add a shadow or a flat border to your thumbnails, or change their size and quality. Additionally, you can customize the icon overlays that appear on top of your thumbnails. Icon overlays are small icons that indicate the file type or other information about the file. For example, you can add a Photoshop icon overlay to your PSD files, or a camera icon overlay to your RAW files. You can also change the position and size of the icon overlays. To customize your thumbnails and icon overlays, you can use the control panel or the context menu in Explorer. The context menu allows you to adjust individual images or file types on the fly. You can also extract embedded thumbnails or full images from your files using the context menu.

## QuickView Files by Pressing the Space Bar

One of the coolest features of MysticThumbs is QuickView. QuickView allows you to preview any supported file type by pressing the Space Bar in Explorer. A pop-up window will show you a larger version of the image, along with some metadata and options to adjust settings, copy to clipboard, or convert to common file types. QuickView is especially useful for Postscript based files such as PDF, EPS, AI, PS and SVG. MysticThumbs can render these files as vector graphics, which means they will look sharp and crisp at any zoom level. You can also adjust the gamma correction and background color of these files using QuickView.

## Add Your Own Formats with Plugin Support

MysticThumbs supports a wide range of file formats out of the box, but if you need to add more formats, you can do so with plugin support. Plugins are DLL files that extend the functionality of MysticThumbs by adding new formats or features. You can find some plugins on the official website or create your own using the SDK. To install a plugin, you just need to copy it to the Plugins folder under MysticThumbs installation directory. Then restart MysticThumbs and you should see the new format in the control panel and Explorer.