

# 7 best ways to open PSD files without Photoshop

PSD is not an open format. While PNG, JPG and BMP can be opened in almost all image editors, PSD can only be opened by some applications that accept this file format.

Photoshop is definitely the best fit for the PSD file format. It saves the complete state of an image that is still being edited, allowing users to close and continue the work later. When working with such images, you should keep a copy of the PSD somewhere, just in case you need to edit the image later.

The problem is that PSD is not an open format. While PNG, JPG and BMP can be opened in almost all image editors, PSD can only be opened by some applications that accept this file format. What is the best option for you? Pay for the Adobe Photoshop CC subscription, or use one of the many free options below. Are these options good in Adobe Photoshop? The answer is no. In fact, most replacement applications cannot edit PSD files. They can only see PSD in a 'flat' image. That is the strength of proprietary software. But if viewing a 'flat' image is all you need, these options are also useful!

## 7 best ways to open PSD file

1. GIMP
2. Paint.NET
3. Photopea Online Editor
4. XnView
5. IrfanView
6. Google Drive
7. Go2Convert

### 1. GIMP



To be honest, GIMP should be your first choice if you want to open and edit the PSD file for free. This is not only the best free alternative to Photoshop but also available on platforms like Windows, Mac and Linux, so you can try to learn it once and use it on all systems. mine.

PSD support features are integrated right into the application. No need to worry about third-party plugins or anything else. Just do the following:

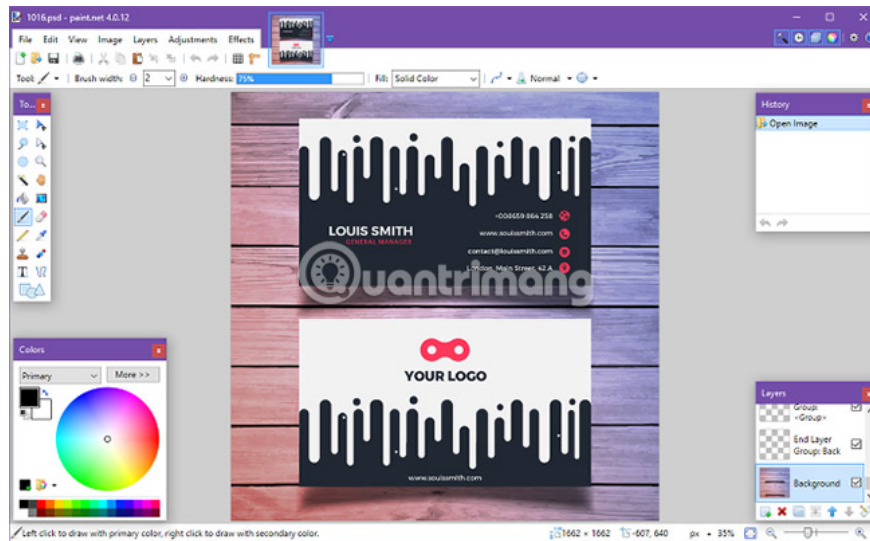
1. Go to **File > Open**.
2. Find and select the PSD file you need to open.
3. Click **Open**.

The great thing about GIMP is that it can actually handle individual layers of a PSD file. The downside is that some layers cannot be read with GIMP, or need to be converted into pixels so that GIMP can work with them. Saving the PSD format in GIMP can damage the file if you plan to open it again in Photoshop later.

GIMP is open source software, comes with a number of benefits (such as whether you can see the source whenever you want).

Download GIMP [here](#).

## 2. Paint.NET



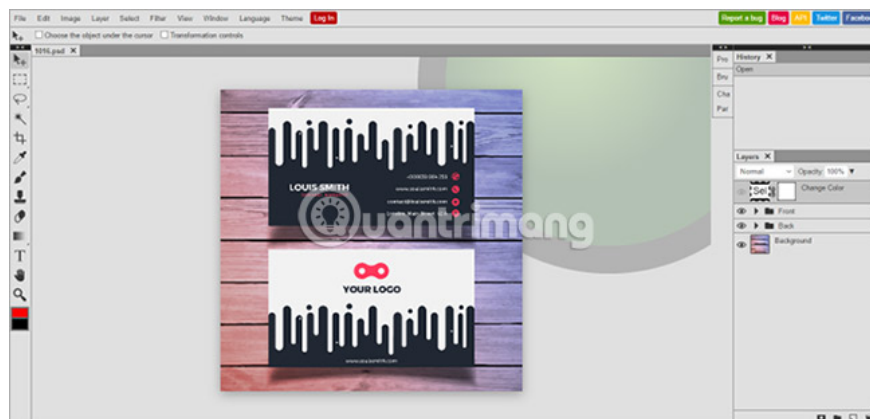
Paint.NET always knows the goal you want to target: An image editor is better than Microsoft Paint, but not as cumbersome or scary as learning about GIMP and Adobe Photoshop. It is average.

But if you want to make it more powerful, you can install additional third-party plugins. And if you're going to do that, there's a plugin you should absolutely use: PSD plugin.

1. Download the PSD plugin [here](#).
2. Extract content of ZIP file.
3. Copy the PhotoShop.dll file.
4. Navigate to the **Paint.NET** installation directory (in this example, that directory is located at **C: / Program Files / paint.net**).
5. Paste the **PhotoShop.dll** file into the **FileTypes** subdirectory.
6. Launch Paint.NET.

With the plugin installed, you will be able to open PSD files without any trouble. Note that although Paint.NET can often handle PSD layers very well, sometimes you'll have some problems because Paint.NET does not support all the features of Photoshop.

### 3. Photopea Online Editor



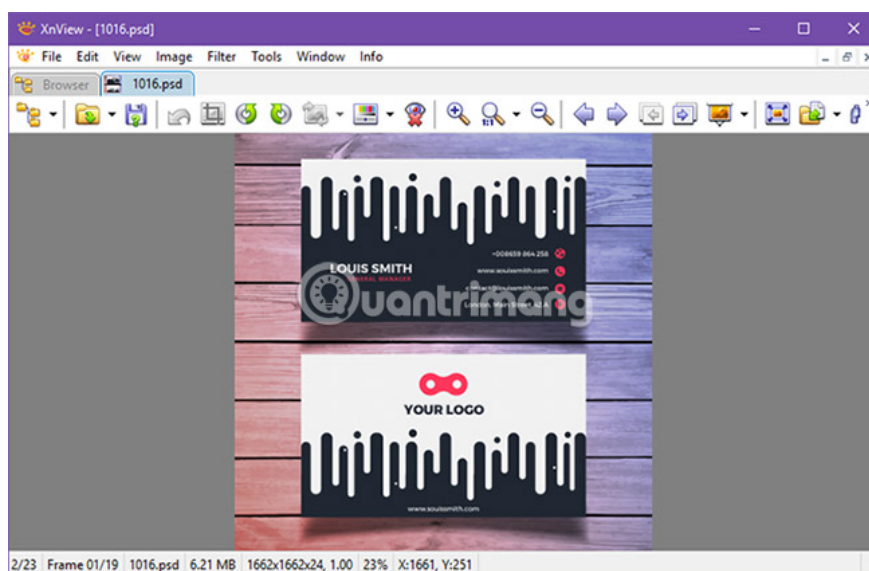
If you have never heard of Photopea.com before, now is the time to learn about it. This little-known web application is essentially the same as an online version of Adobe Photoshop or GIMP. In fact, it is clear that web applications are rarely comparable to desktop applications, but are still a useful tool anyway.

The steps in Photopea are similar to those in Photoshop or GIMP, so you will immediately be familiar with its interface. Want to open PSD file? Kinda easy! Do the following:

1. Go to **File > Open**.
2. Find and select the PSD file you want to open.
3. Click **Open**.

And what's interesting is that Photopea can read each layer individually. This is probably the feature that many users never thought would appear in a free web application. It's great, allowing you to edit your PSD without losing any cost, no matter where you are. Just use it with any computer. For more information on how to edit photos with Photopea, please refer to the article: [How to use Photopea to edit images online](#).

## 4. XnView



XnView is a free photo editor that lets you browse and organize your photo collections in a variety of ways, as well as process them with basic image editing tools such as color palettes, filters, and effects. rotate, etc. .

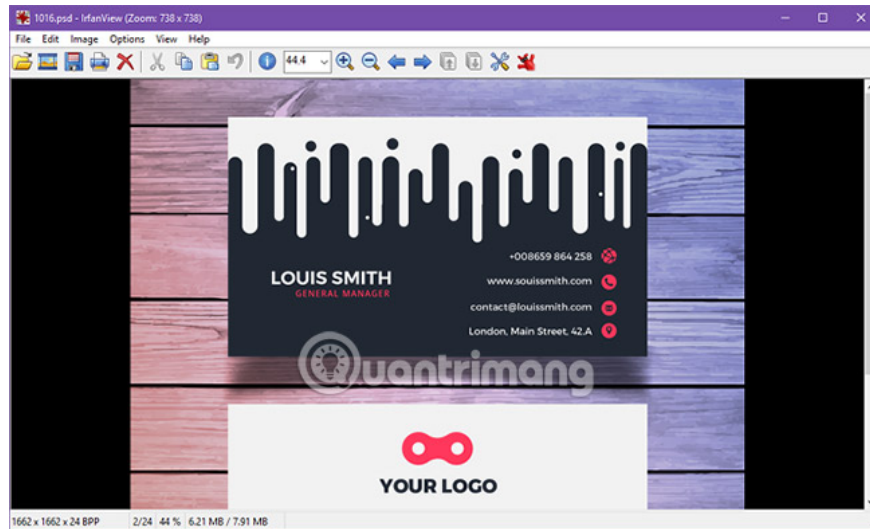
The great thing about this little-known application is that it can read over 500 formats and export to more than 70 formats, so it's not only useful when viewing images, but also when converting them.

1. Go to **File > Open**.
2. Find and select the PSD file you want to open.
3. Click **Open**.

When downloading, you can choose between three types of settings: **Minimal**, **Standard**, and **Extended** ( **Minimal**, **Standard** and **Extended** ). Minimal requires the least amount of disk space and that's all you need to open the PSD file. No need to add add-ons, plugins or anything like that.

Download XnView [here](#).

## 5. IrfanView



IrfanView is similar to XnView, in which its main purpose is to view images and convert images. It may not support many formats like XnView, but it supports all important formats and that's all we need to care about, right?

While IrfanView can easily display flat PSD, it cannot edit or save them unless you export to another format.

1. Go to **File > Open**.
2. Find and select the PSD file you want to open.
3. Click **Open**.

We recommend that you keep this application on your system. Use it as your main image viewer and you'll never be disappointed with it. The best part of this application is that it is extremely light and fast. In addition, you can further enhance IrfanView with some convenient plugins.

Download IrfanView [here](#).

## 6. Google Drive

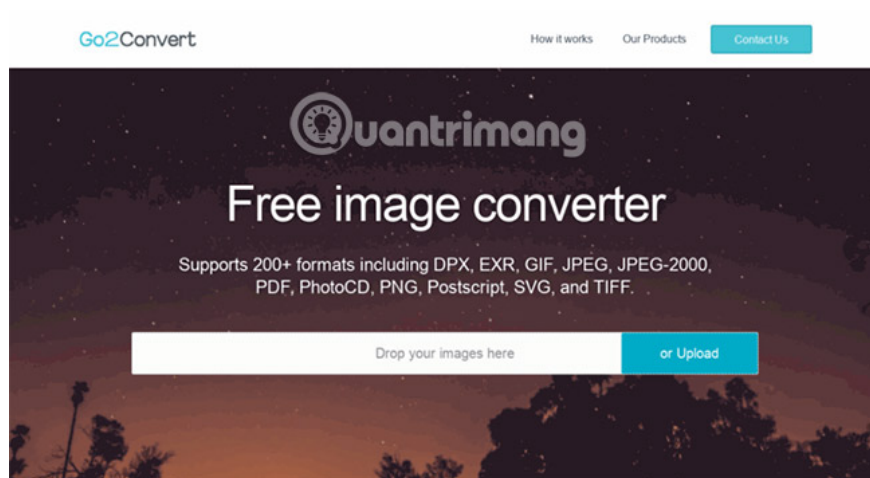


It seems strange to use Google Drive as a file viewer but you can absolutely do it and the good news is that it works quite well. Check out the Google Drive articles on **TipsMake** to learn more about this tool, but it's important to know that PSD can be viewed through Google Drive on the web. Do the following:

1. Visit Google Drive page.
2. Click **My Drive** and select **Upload files** .
3. Find and select the PSD file you want to open.
4. Click **Open**.
5. Double-click the file to view its contents.

There are several other methods you can use to upload images to Google Drive, but this is the easiest way if you only want to see a single file. When should you use Google Drive to open the PSD file? Maybe when you're not on your PC and can't install any other software.

## 7. Go2Convert



This last option is not a way to view, open or edit PSD files. It is simply a way to convert PSD files into other formats like PNG and JPG.

1. Click **Select File**.
2. Navigate and select your PSD file.
3. Click **Open**.

4. Click **Upload Now**.

5. After uploading, you can select dozens of formats to convert your images. In addition, you can even resize images and choose the compression format to use (for certain formats).

Simple and easy to understand, right? Nothing complicated!

Go2Convert website [here](#).

These solutions certainly work, so if you are happy with them, keep using them. But if you plan to make serious PSD edits in the future, you should really consider buying an Adobe Photoshop CC subscription.

You can choose GIMP at the same price, but again, the tool has certain limitations compared to Photoshop. GIMP is quite good for normal users, but objectively speaking, Photoshop is still better. See **TipsMake** 's comparative article on GIMP and Photoshop for more details.

Good luck!

You finished reading the article "**7 best ways to open PSD files without Photoshop**" edited by the [TipsMake](#) team. We hope this article has provided you with many useful tech tips and tricks. You can search for similar articles on tips and guides. Thank you for reading and for following us regularly.