

Bug-Bytes

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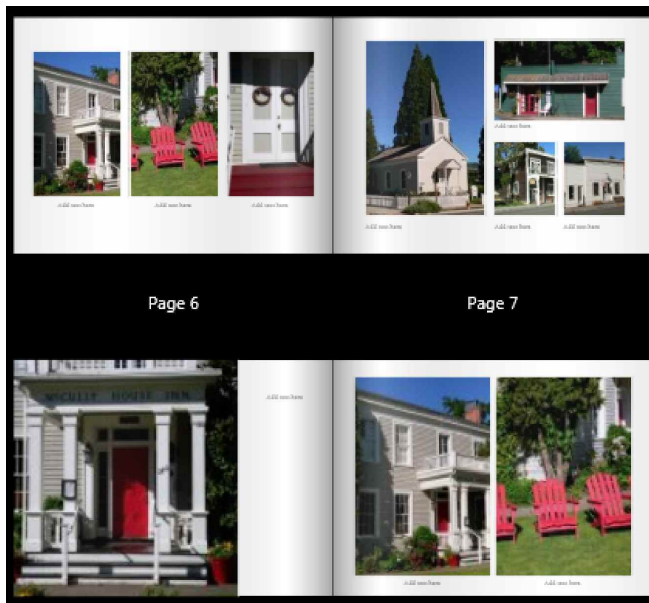
DECEMBER 2011

TURN YOUR PHOTOS INTO ALBUMS, MOVIES, AND SLIDE SHOWS



Turn a series of your memorable photos into albums, movies and slide shows. It is easy to do, and you will have fun with such projects. When you are done, you can share your artistic endeavors with your friends and family.

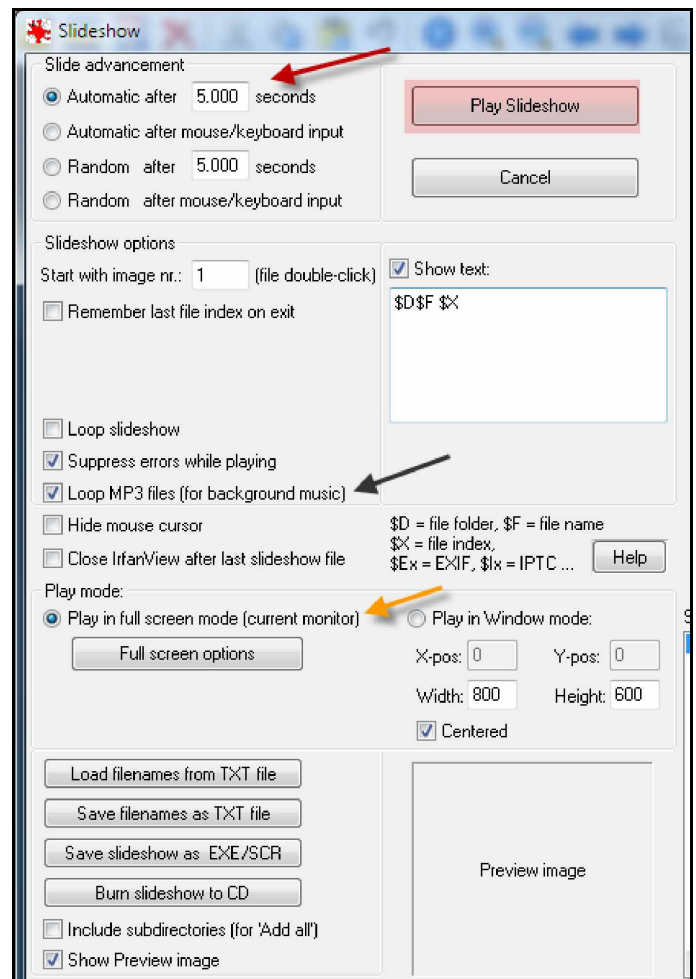
Albums are collections of photos, usually with a common theme, such as a travel album, wedding album, or a hobby album. Some software programs create albums that mimic the look of real photo albums including the look of turning their pages. The screen shot below is from Corel PaintShop Photo Pro X3. It shows one of many album looks.



Create a "movie" to show off a collection of your photos with fancy transitions and pans between shots. Add titles and credits. You can pan and do fades and dissolves and use special effects to elevate your show to a higher level.

Create instant slide shows to show your photos automatically one after the other with preset timing. Many photo editing programs or viewing programs include a built-in slide show function in their software. For instance, you might select all of the photos in a particular folder, select slide show, and view the show full screen on your monitor or LCD display. Viewing your photos in full screen size beats viewing them on 4"x6" prints anytime!

Our old standby, IrfanView™ is one free and very good file viewer, as is Picasa™. The screen shot below shows the dialog box for IrfanView's slide show mode. XnView is another good example.

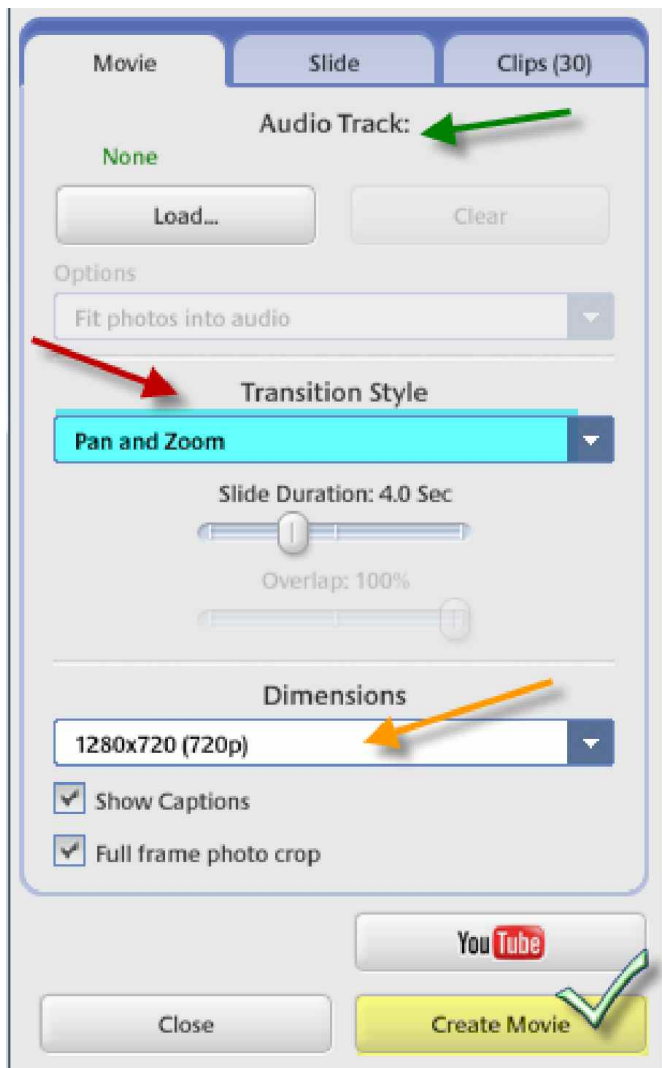




The word *movie* takes on a different meaning in the context of showing your individual pictures. Such “movies” are not designed to play a series of photos with actors moving about. However, they do provide some

movement by panning some of your shots (slowly moving from right to left, or left to right), or by zooming in and out to emulated movement in your pictures. Software, such as Picasa, Windows Live Movies, Photo Story 3, and Corel PaintShop Photo Pro (among others) create visually stunning shows.

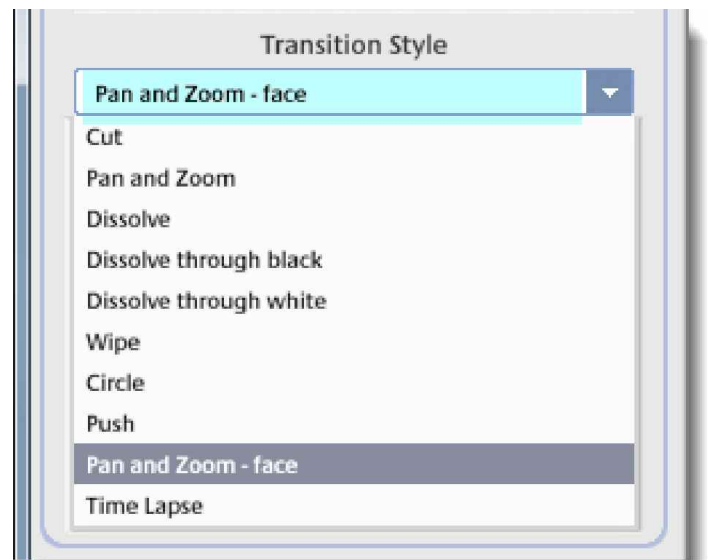
With the aforementioned software (and other programs as



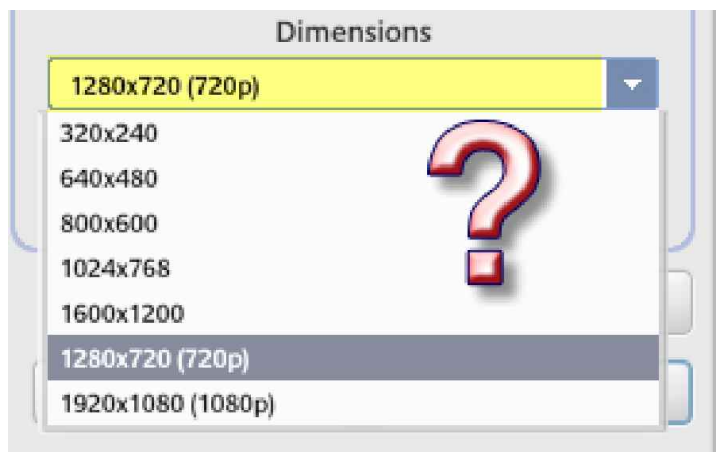
well) you control the transitions between pictures, including how long each picture is shown and how the pictures change from one picture to the next. You have many different effects from which to choose. The simplest way to create a

movie is to import the pictures you want to see into a movie making program and then let the automatic mode put the movie together for you. Later, once you become familiar with what the programs can do, you can customize their output. You can insert title pictures at the beginning and credits at the end. You can also insert titles or explanatory text between pictures wherever you feel it will help your presentation.

Start small. Get the hang of movie making before you attempt a very big movie. Pick maybe four pictures. Experiment with the options, with a title and screen credits, and then click the button to create your movie. See how everything works together. See the screen shot at the left to view the movie options in Picasa. You can add sound, control the transition style and determine how big the pictures are that display on your screen. Note that Picasa combines Movies



and Slides in one dialog box. There are small differences between the movie and slide options.



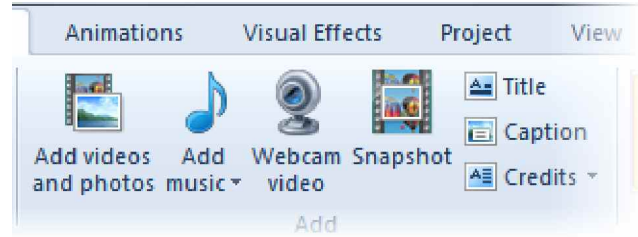
VIVA APPLICATION DIFFERENCES

Movie and slideshow making range from almost one-click automatic show creation, as in *Picasa*, to the full control of individual photo transitions and effects in *Windows Live Movie Maker* (and the earlier, *Photo Story 3*). Other products span the spaces between these choices. The lines between what is called a slideshow and what some vendors call a movie are somewhat blurred together. In general, you can create slide shows much quicker than you can movies. Slide shows tend to be simpler.

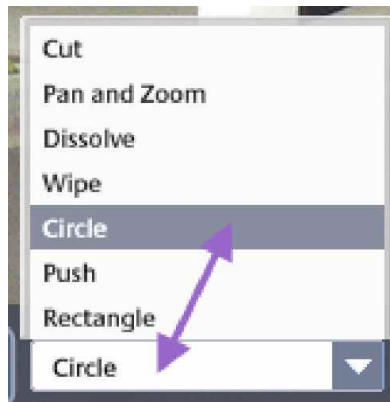
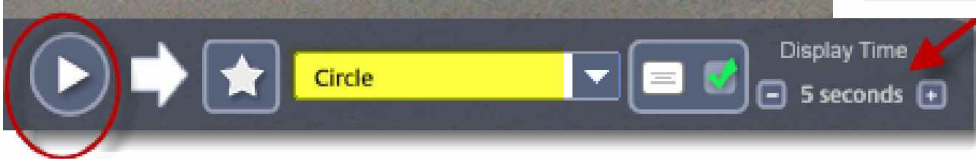
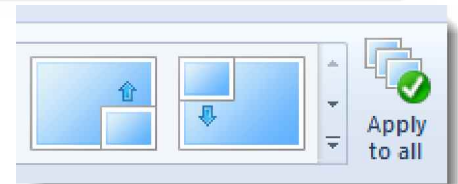
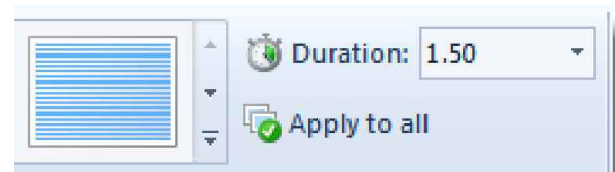


With Picasa open, to create a slide show, select the folder with the photos that you want to display. Click on View, Slideshow. Note the control bar at the bottom of your screen. Pick the transition effect that you want to apply to all of the photos in your show. Select the display time between slides. Click the diamond start button and your slide show will begin to play full screen. The screen shot show below shows how the right side of the control bar looks. The start button is shown at the left, transition options in yellow and the display time options at the right. The second screen shot shows Picasa's transition options.

Add titles and credits, and choose the animations (transitions and pan and zoom) you want to use for each frame. Then apply those visual effects as you see fit.



In the editing mode, when you pass your cursor over any of the animations, the current choice under your cursor is immediately displayed on the frame you selected. If you want to use just one animation effect, you can apply it to all frames with just a click. The screen shots below illustrate just a small part of the animation and pan and zoom choices.



Picasa's slide transition dialog box is shown at the left.

If you wish, after choosing the folder you want to display, just click on View, Slideshow. Then click the start button. Your slide show will start immediately using Picasa's default settings.

Above, you will note that you can set the duration between frames to the number of seconds that want.



You can apply one of many interesting visual effects to your title slides, or to some of your pictures. For instance, the screen shot at the left demonstrates how an edge detection effect works

Save your project so you can come back to it later in case you want to edit it. Save your movie, Then enjoy it as you watch it.



WINDOWS LIVE MOVIE MAKER

Combine movie videos, photos, and music into a custom movie. Then, share it with your friends.

FIND USEFUL WINDOWS DOWNLOADS

The link below takes you to Microsoft's web site where you can download the latest software that relates to your version of their operating system. You may be surprised to find optional software programs that you did not know existed.

The homepage is organized to make finding useful software easy for you. Almost all of the programs are free.



Windows 7

The latest and greatest for Windows 7, all in one spot.



Windows Vista

Service packs and more for Windows Vista.



Windows XP

Still have Windows XP? Get the programs you need.



Windows Live

Photos, chat, mail, and more: Add fun with Windows Live.

<http://windows.microsoft.com/en-US/windows/downloads>

You may want to bookmark the link so you can return to the site more quickly in the future.

In addition the site shows featured software and includes a Windows 7 Compatibility Center. At the bottom of the site's page is a comprehensive list of links to other useful and interesting information.

TURN INDEXING ON OR OFF

If you frequently use Windows Search to find files, then by all means, turn on Indexing. However, be sure that you use the latest version of Windows Search, Version 4.0 which is much improved over earlier versions. It works quietly in the background so you do not even know it is running.

Windows Search (with Indexing turned on) instantly finds documents, photos, music and e-mail on your computer. You can preview your content directly from the search engine.

Indexing identifies keywords in your files so that Windows can locate those files quickly in the future.

The first time Indexing runs it takes a long time to build an index of all the files you want indexed. However, after that, the program only has to add new and changed files, and that happens very quickly.

TO TURN INDEXING ON OR OFF

In general, change your Indexing settings from the Control Panel.

Click on Indexing Options. In Windows 7, click on Start, and type the word indexing.

Win 7 will immediately show the Indexing Options program.

The screen shot at the right shows the Indexing Options dialog.

Modify the list of included locations to suit your needs. Include only the locations that are important to you.

Happy hunting!

