

## Slide Show Basics – Brian D - 08 November 2011

Using Windows Live Movie Maker for Windows 7 – download from: <http://download.live.com>

We are using Windows Live Movie Maker because it is possibly the best free slide show creator. There are other free ones, but from quick checking they often seem to reduce image quality to an unacceptable degree.


Those that can be recommended are:

- *Movie Maker (Windows Live – the XP version is not as easy to use)*
- *Adobe Photoshop Elements* – built in to the Organizer and free if you own Elements.
  - Negative – cannot burn slide shows to DVD, only to Video CD (lower quality)
- *FastStone Image Viewer* – free shareware from <http://www.faststone.org>. Many excellent photo editing tools, including a good quality slide show builder.
  - Negative – shows can be saved only as executable (\*.exe) files which can only be played back on a computer
- *Pro-Show Gold* – not free but simplicity combined with every feature you could want for about \$70  
<http://www.photodex.com/proshow/gold>

### Building a Slide Show

1. Choose the photos to include - find them in your photo catalogue or in Windows Explorer and export or copy them to a new folder dedicated to this slide show.  
A dedicated folder is not essential but it allows the program always to find them later.
2. Open the slide show program and import your photos.
3. Set the duration of each slide.
4. Choose transition(s) and set the duration.
5. Add a title.
6. Choose and import music track – approximately the same length as the show. Synchronize show to music duration.
7. Preview
8. Save the show and optionally burn to DVD.

### Building a Slide Show in Windows Live Movie Maker

1. Start Windows Live Movie Maker
2. Import your photos by either:
  - a. click in the storyboard in Windows Live Movie Maker (“Click here to browse for videos and photos”) and select your photos and/or videos in the Add Videos and Photos window that appears or
  - b. Click the Add videos and photos button  on the Home tab Ribbon; choose your photos and/or videos from the import window.

- c. Select your photos then click the [Open] button – to import them into Movie Maker.
3. Set the duration of each slide. Three to five seconds is good – let's use 4.
  - a. Select All slides using [Ctrl]-[A]
  - b. In the menu, click [Edit] then set the duration to 4 seconds. You can either choose from the drop-down list or type in the number you want.
  - c. If you wish you can vary the duration of any individual slide or slides by selecting it/them and then setting the duration.
4. Set the transition between slides
  - a. Select All slides using [Ctrl]-[A]
  - b. In the menu click [Animations]
  - c. In the group on the left (Transitions), click the down arrow to expand the view. Hover the mouse over each transition to preview it. Let's use the Dissolve transition.
  - d. Still with all slides selected set the transition duration – to 1 second.
  - e. If you wish you can vary the transition and its duration of any individual slide or slides by selecting it/them and then choosing the transition and duration.
5. Do we want to use Pan & Zoom? This adds a sense of movement to the show, but depending on the subject, it may not be appropriate.
  - a. Select All slides using [Ctrl]-[A]
  - b. In the menu click [Animations]
  - c. In the group on the right (Animations), click the down arrow to expand the view. Hover the mouse over each option to preview it. Let's use the Automatic option which applies random pan & zoom to each slide so they will not all be the same.
6. Create a Title
  - a. In the menu click [Home].
  - b. Click on the first slide and select [Title] on the button bar. This inserts a blank slide at the beginning of the show into which you type your title or...
  - c. Click on the first slide and select [Caption] on the button bar. This allows you to superimpose a caption on the selected slide.
  - d. Enter text and choose colour and font.
  - e. Choose the effect – how the caption is presented (e.g. Swing Down).

## 7. Add Music

- a. Note the duration of the show under the preview window and select music (one or more tracks) of approximately the same length.
- b. In the menu, click [Home] then the [Add Music] button.
  - i. Browse to and select the track(s) you want and click [Open]
  - ii. The music is added.
- c. Synchronize the show to the music
  - i. In the menu, click [Project] then the [Fit to Music] button.

## 8. Save Project

- a. Click the menu button to the left of [Home].
- b. Choose Save Project and give the project a name and choose the location.
- c. [Save]

## 9. Preview the movie

- a. Press the play button under the preview window – or click the Full Screen button

## 10. Save the Movie

- a. Choose the aspect ratio
  - i. In the menu click [Project] then either the [Wide screen] or [Standard] button.
- b. Click the menu button to the left of [Home].
  - i. Choose Save Movie and select how to save e.g. For Computer – saves as a Windows Movie (wmv) file, or Burn to DVD – first saves a wmv file then opens Windows DVD Maker to burn the movie to DVD.