

microsoft.public.windowsxp.moviemaker: Re: What hardware & software do the Professionals use?

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Source:

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From: PapaJohn \ (MVP\) (*PapaJohn_at_CharterMI.net*)

Date: 10/17/04

Date: Sun, 17 Oct 2004 13:26:09 -0400

Thanks Basil,

In that case, here are some notes about the primary items I use. I'll give you costs in USD:

First off, I make maximum use of what I own, and very seldom purchase something new.... when I do get something new like my laptop 1-1/2 years ago and my first digital camcorder the first of this year, I think about it for a long time and then get the best I can afford.

Hardware:

2 camcorders: Sony TRV615 Hi8 camcorder – about 7 years old and about \$750 at the time – does great in low-light situations, has S-Video connection. I'm writing an article right now about editing a video using footage of the same scene from 2 camcorders... this Hi8 one, and my Sony TRV80 digital one. The digital one did the brighter clips and the Hi8 the darker.

Sony x0.6 wide angle lens on the TRV80.... it was a free extra when I purchased the camcorder. For \$1,100 USD, this \$200 extra helped swing the purchase. If it wasn't included, I'd probably not purchase it....but now that I have it, I use it much of the time.

extra battery for each camcorder

Tripod... old generic low-end one and little tiny lower end one for table-top use

Digital camcorder tapes – Maxell DV60 – \$20 at Sam's Club for a 6 pack

Primary capturing/editing/DVD computer – Toshiba laptop – Satellite 5205-S705 purchased in May 2003.... about \$3,200 – 60 GB hard drive.... Windows XP Media Center Edition.

Other computers in my home network have internal and external drives with

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lots of space. Maybe 1000 GB spread around 8 computers, all connected by Linksys BEFW11S4 router/switch (relatively slow now – wireless transfers at USB1 speeds).... some of the computers are hard-wired and some are wireless.

Dazzle 80 for analog capture – \$30 after rebate (and it included Pinnacle Studio 8)

A note about hard drive space..... we all know that lots of space is needed. Here's an economical way to get a significant boost in space, something I just finished testing only 10 minutes ago: keep your eyes open for good deals on internal hard drives – I had a 160 GB Western Digital (I currently prefer that brand) drive in a closet for 3 months, one I got because it was too good a deal at \$30 after rebates (Circuit City) to pass by. It's been waiting for a desktop computer that needed more space. But I decided to make it more portable and flexible in use, so yesterday I put it into an external drive case from www.micer.com – a Coolmax CD-309-U2 for \$26. The case included a USB2 connection and came with a USB cable.... 5 minutes to put the drive in the case, plug it into the laptop and start using it.

I just finished testing it attached to my Toshiba laptop (USB2 connections on it).... capturing via firewire to DV-AVI files on the external drive is smooth, as is playback of the DV-AVI file in WMP. It'll be an easy way to move a fast 160 GB drive around for use on any of my computers,

Software:

Movie Maker is the core of my capturing and editing work.

Sonic's My DVD4.5 is the core of my DVD work, only because I make very few DVDs and the software was included on my new laptop.

Other often-used software: a personal home-made database to store all the info about tapes, scenes, etc (something I'm going to start selling soon).... Total Commander for file management and ftp connections.... IrfanView for image management... PhotoStory of course.... Pinnacle Studio 8 was free with the Dazzle 80 and it's great for copyright free background music generation.... Motion DV Studio came with the laptop and has some neat special effects.... TMPGEnc for going to and from MPEG files.... Virtual Dub for specialized work on clips.... Windows Media Encoder for screen capturing.... RadVideo Tools for conversion of MOV to AVI.... and lots of seldom used utilities, mostly free.

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PapaJohn

Movie Maker 2 - www.papajohn.org

Photo Story 2 - www.photostory.papajohn.org

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"Basil406" <Basil406@discussions.microsoft.com> wrote in message news:F7DB8016-D352-4B7A-A977-3999A7BA3FAF@microsoft.com...

> Hi PapaJohn,

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> In my books, you are a pro :)

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- > Regards ,
- > Basil
- > Canada