

Re: DVD-making "capture" questions...

Source:

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.moviemaker/2006-05/msg00262.html>

- *From:* NOTEKY <NOTEKY@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Sun, 14 May 2006 02:16:01 -0700
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Well, if this isn't a classic example of a "paper" that's way beyond the scope of this WMM discussion group.....

Having said that, here are some points to consider.....

Since your ultimate goal is to get "everything" onto DVD's that will play in "set top" DVD players hooked up to a TV, you don't want to use WMM for any of this. To make DVD's that will play in "set top" players, you need DVD authoring/editing software. (no idea whether MyDVD or Roxio8 are capable of making more than just "data" DVD's?). The authoring/editing software converts the source files (eg: .MPEG, .WMV, .AVI etc.) into files that have instructions that set top DVD players understand (eg: VOB IFO). You won't find any .MPEG, .WMV, .AVI etc. files on any DVD that will play in a set top player, the software converts them to .VOB .IFO etc. then burns those files to the DVD. For Uncle Elmers DVD's, to extract/convert the .VOB IFO's into MPEG etc for editing, you'll need further software that can do this (rip). If you just want to copy the DVD, you may already have that software. If you just want to store your "clips" on a DVD but don't want to play them in a "set top" player (just on your PC), then you only have to make a "data" DVD. This simply copies the .MPEG, .WMV, .AVI etc. files to a DVD. Nothing is rendered or converted. When making DVD's for set top players, check the manual of the player to see what type of media it will play. Not all players will play all types. If the player will only play +R and +RW, then you will waste time and money making -R or -RW DVD's.

To "capture" from camera's, utilize firewire, the file will automatically be saved in uncompressed .AVI format.

To "capture" (record) VHS tapes, use the ATI card and the RCA connections, (Y-Video R&W-audio). If space isn't an issue, capture using NTSC DV (.AVI). If you want to capture at NTSC DVD spec, choose MPEG2, 29.97fps, 720 X 480, 8,000 kbps, variable bit rate (VBR), audio at 48 Khz. When you render (make your movie), for NTSC progressive scan choose "field order" "lower field first".

Getting external video into a PC then onto a DVD that will play in a set top player is extremely time consuming. If you have a ton of video, you will need a ton of time and patience.

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Having said all that, consider this.....

In 2006, both Panasonic and Sony will/have released DVD players/recorders with HDD's that will upconvert any DVD to 720P or 1080I. Players only that will upconvert have been out for a while. They have also released VCR/DVD combo's that supposedly will "enhance" the VHS picture when it records to DVD.

I doubt any "affordable" video authoring/editing software (now or down the road) will be capable of "upconverting" your original files to a quality that matches what these players will (now or in the future). Since non of your files are Hi-Def (HD), I would suggest making the best quality DVD you can from what you've got, then investigate buying a quality DVD player that will enhance the video (upconvert) much better than any consumer priced software will be able to.

NOTEKY

"Wojo" wrote:

Hi George,
Answers "inline" below ->

"George" <air1@xxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message
news:O5NqLTsdGHA.3900@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

I'm just ramping up (pls excuse newbie questions) and want to basically get all my video (source code so to speak) onto a PC (and save it to media like a hard drive to keep in safe deposit box while I'm at it).

Then, I'd like to put all this video onto a series of DVD discs, organizing it by subjects or times (like "1996 Olympics", "1999 Family Movies", "2000 in Florida", etc.) so I can play them in a HOME DVD player (and also duplicate/send/share with family).

Still need to keep raw digital data (right?), because things change, "everything" might someday be ultra HDTV and wide screen in the future... so with raw data I could go back and re-cut the DVDs with newer tools and playback formats, right?

Absolutely. My camera records to DV tapes. I capture them to my harddrive and save the important captured videos "As Is" on DVDRW disks as well as saving the DV Tapes. I designate "important" to those videos that can't be recreated such as events or family stuff.

Ok, so wondered if someone might offer suggestions on the "capture"

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process to get going. Here's the hardware/software setup, then after that, the capture question(s), thanks

HARDWARE/SOFTWARE SETUP. Most of the components are in place...

Nothing

"pro" grade or even brand new, but like most people, I accumulated stuff over the years.... Sony digital8 camcorder (3 yrs old), Sony DVD home player (~5 yrs old), Win XP PC with speakers and basic CD/DVD (+/-RW?) burner, FireWire card, spiffy ATI Radeon video card (even has RCA component video/audio [red/white/yellow inputs] and S-video, simple Sonic MyDvd freebie from Dell, MS Movie Maker (really like), and Roxio Easy Media Creator 8 to arrive this week hopefully. Anything else I need?

CAPTURE QUESTIONS. Is there a "uniform" file format I need to (or should

do to) get everything into the PC as the raw "source" files. I'd like to capture 100% of the digital data (not compress, or do anything that throws out data or drops resolutions, etc.). What I'm seeing in various capture software are a multitude of choices, like...

- 1) Medium. ATI VCR (assume file= .vcr) 480.x480 NTSC, 4mb/sec
- 2) VGA Res. file= .avi 640x480 29.9 fps
- 3) Qtr VGA file= .avi 320x240 29.9 fps
- 4) AVI Recording, file =.avi, 80x30 ~29.9fps
- 5) VGA res. mpeg2 640x480 NTSC. 6mb/sec
- 6) Many others...

Is there "one" file format I can (should) choose for capturing "everything", or do I choose different formats to "capture" for each of these sources?...

- a) VCR tapes. Got a few dozen, basic home movies... Capture format?

Since this is a Movie Maker NG I will give you the WMM answer. You have no choice here but to save as a WMV for these files because you can only hook the VCR to the computer via USB.

- b) 8MM DIGITAL VIDEOTAPE. The Sony camcorder records and plays these digital tapes, got maybe 8. Plus it 'plays' the old 8mm analog ones made with a prior camcorder. It should output both to Firewire, right? Capture format?_____

Yes if you have a firewire port then you certainly want to use it and capture with WMM as a DV-AVI file.

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c) MPEGs. These aren't the driving factor, but got maybe 50 fun clips, about 15-seconds each (that's all my camcorder does), from the Sony digital camcorder. Why not zip them all onto a DVD for playback, right? Capture format?_____

Not capturing these, they are already clips on the computer apparently. If they are MPG files you "may" get lucky and get them to work with WMM. If they are MPEG2 then they will have to be converted. Personally I make it a point to always convert MPG files to AVI regardless of the type so I don't have to worry about having issues down the road.

d) TV. This PC has a TV-card. Suppose I knew a relative was going to be on the news a few seconds one night. Is there a "format" to record that clip for max resolution? Capture format?_____

You would want to use the capture software that came with the card for this one. If you want to be able to edit it with WMM then capture as an AVI or, if by chance the option is available, a WMV. Usually you don't have a choice here with TV capture cards, they usually save as MPG automatically so you would need to convert.

e) DIGITAL STILL CAMERA. Got a deal on one of these. It records 640x480 10fps movies, not exactly Hollywood grade, but these ____avi files might be useful if we forgot the camcorder that day. Do we keep "as is", or upload them in some other format? Capture format?_____

DV-AVI is still the best way to go but if they are simply going to be stored for future use and as they aren't really high quality to begin with then High Quality NTSC will do the trick and save you a lot of harddrive space.

f) DVDs. Suppose Uncle Elmer gives me a DVD movie and I want to upload it onto video collection on my PC. Capture format?_____

They need to be "ripped" from the DVD which will again give you an MPG file which you should convert to AVI.

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g) ANYTHING ELSE? Are there any other prevailing formats out there that we need to convert for any reason?

As a general rule you want to use these formats with Movie Maker:

Video: WMV or AVI

Audio: WMA or WAV

Images: BMP or GIF (I use JPG quite often but some have reported issues with JPG)

h) ONE MORE...SOFTWARE. For capture, does it really matter if I use WinMovieMaker, Roxio, SonicMyDvd, etc. and change to something else later?

I'm assuming that what WOULD matter would be if I EDIT a movie in one of these...them I'm stuck with that brand forever, right? That is, to change brands would mean I'd have to start over and re-edit with the new software, right?

Well if you edit and save the project with one piece of software you would NOT be able to open it and do more editing with another if that's what you mean.

Anyway, thanks for patience, just getting going here, will try to ask smarter questions in future...

George

Hope that gets you started, we look forward to the "smart" questions. :-)

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-Wojo

Wojo's Web:

<http://www.Wojos-web.co.nr>