

Microsoft's Photo Story 3 and Educator Portfolio Creation

Introduction

Photo Story 3 for Windows creates linear presentations from still photographs (and other items in graphic format) which, when complete, are rendered to a .wmv movie format to be played in Windows Media Player (v10). You can't add video clips to Photo Story but you can render the Photo Story to the movie format, import it into Microsoft's Windows Movie Maker and add video clips

Resource Web sites (all clickable at: <http://www.midgefrazel.net/video.html>)
Microsoft's Photo Story 3 (information and free download of application)
<http://www.microsoft.com/windowsxp/using/digitalphotography/photostory/default.aspx>

Brad Edward's "Getting Started" 3 page handout for teachers (Adobe format)
<http://www.teachers.ash.org.au/hippohelper/pdfs/photostory%20tutorial.pdf>

David Jake's (11 page) handout (Adobe format)
<http://www.jakesonline.org/photostory3.pdf>

Dr. Michael J. Firmian's Video on Photo Story 3 from Providence College
http://itdp.providence.edu/Training/Art_PhotoStory/player.html

Greece School District "Creating Slide Shows" 5 page handout (Adobe format)
http://www.greece.k12.ny.us/task/photostory/PhotoStory_HowTo.pdf

Mark Coffman's Web pages on Photo Story 3
<http://www.windowshotostory.com/Guides/Beginner/importing-and-arranging-pictures.aspx>

Creating Your Portfolio

File Management

1. On your hard drive, create a folder to hold all the items for your portfolio.
 - Give it a name you can find easily...like Portfolio Resources
2. In this folder, place the items you wish to use with your portfolio.
 - Items are photographs, title slides, screenshots and music clips
3. Microsoft's Photo Story 3 will save your "project", which Photo Story calls a "story" in the folder My Videos inside the My Documents folder by default.
 - Give your project a name you can identify easily...like yourlastnameportfolio (the extension will be .wp3)

4. When you are completely finished and ready to make your “movie” be sure to save the “Project” one last time as if your “movie” isn’t exactly right you can go back and make the “movie” over again from the “project” file.
5. During the process of creating your portfolio “project” with Microsoft’s Photo Story 3, click the Save Project button with each change!
6. When you are completely finished, your “movie” will be playable in Windows Media Player 10. People who wish to view your portfolio may need to upgrade their copy of Windows Media Player.

Making Screen Captures

In order to get snippets of your projects and papers, you must first get them into a graphic format (like .gif and .jpg). Web pages are difficult so I make PDFs out of them first and make the screen capture from the PDF.

Resources:

Free Screen Capture Application and review

http://www.download.com/Screen-Print-Capture-32/3000-2384_4-10188787.html

Primo PDF (makes PDF’s from documents and Web pages)

<http://www.primopdf.com/>

About PowerPoint

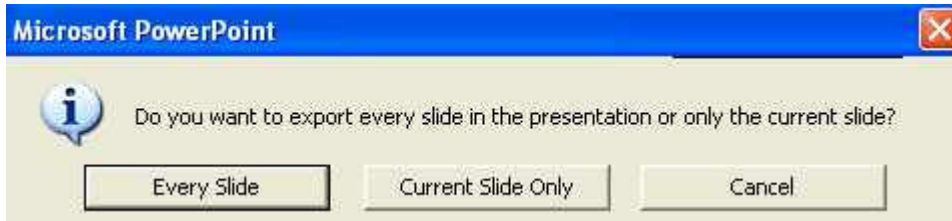
PowerPoint works nicely with Photo Story 3 and Movie Maker if you save your finished slides in .jpg format.

To save an individual slide or all slides in a PowerPoint presentation, do this:

- With your presentation saved and PowerPoint opened. From the File menu, choose Save as...
- From the Save files as type drop-down menu, choose JPEG
In the File name box, type a name for your slide(s):



- You can export just one slide or all of the slides. If you export all the slides, PowerPoint will place them in a folder for you.
- Choose Every Slide or Current Slide only from the dialog box that appears.



Using these slides with Photo Story 3:

Open Microsoft Photo Story.

Choose to Begin a New Story and at the new screen use the Import Pictures to bring each slide into Photo Story. (Tip: Shift-click the first slide and the last slide to bring them all in at once.)

Using these slides with Windows Movie Maker:

Open Windows Movie Maker

From the Tools menu, choose New Collections folder then choose a name for this collection. With that collection selected (click on it once to select it) then import your slides by:

From the File menu, choose Import into Collections and work with Movie Maker to add music, video, transitions, etc.

Making Titles for Photo Story

One of the serious deficiencies in Photo Story is the lack of a way to add titles to your story. You can make your own, save them as .jpg files using your graphics program and put them into Photo Story.

Read Mark Coffman's "Adding a Title Slide":

Mark gives you a series of color tiles you can save and use with your graphics application.

<http://www.windowsphotostory.com/Guides/TitleSlides/adding-a-tile-only-slide.aspx>

You can also make your title slides in PowerPoint (and export them to .jpg as shown above).

Open PowerPoint:

- With a new blank PowerPoint presentation open, click on each placeholder to select them and hit the Delete key on the keyboard.
- Have the Drawing Toolbar showing (at the lower left of the screen) If it is not there, pull down the View menu, choose Toolbars and choose Drawing to place a checkmark next to it.

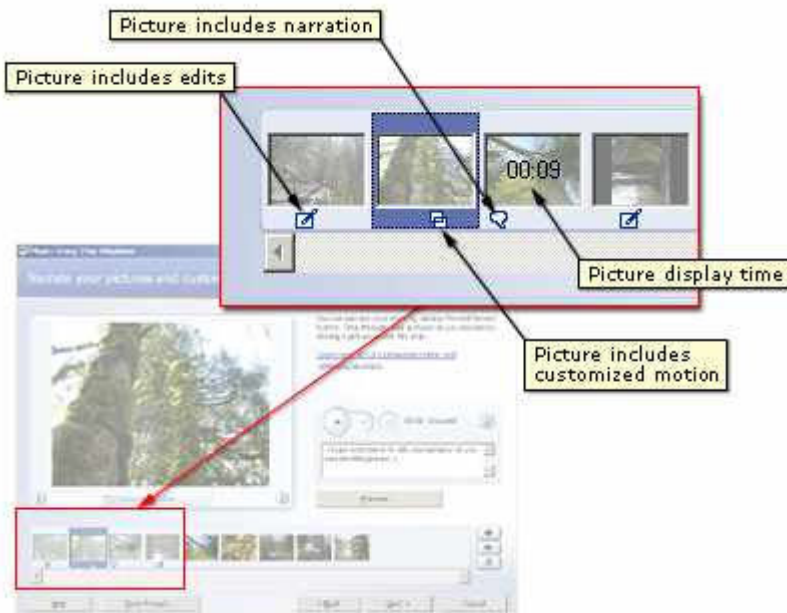
- On the Drawing Toolbar, choose the Rectangle tool. Draw a rectangle that covers the blank PowerPoint slide.
- Place your cursor on the center of the slide, and right-click. Choose Format AutoShape. The left most tab “Colors and Lines” should be selected. In the Fill section, use the drop down box to choose a light color fill. In the Line section, choose a color and weight (more than 6) for the line. (This is your “border” around this Title slide.)
- Use the procedure given to save your slide as a.jpg. (Hint: You can make a bunch of slides quickly by Duplicating this slide (Edit → Duplicate) and change just the color of each slide. Then, save all of these slides as .jpgs.
- You can create a “light” version of a color by changing the transparency in the Fill section on the “Colors and Lines” Format AutoShape” dialog box.

Using the Photo Story Help files

Often overlooked, the Help files of application contain valuable (printable) directions for use. The Help file is accessed by clicking on the Help button at the lower left of any Photo Story

- Create customized music for your story.
- Customizing motion and duration

Of particular importance are the tiny icons that appear as you are working with this application which is explained by this screen capture from the Help file.



Important Tips

- Photo Story places all imported pictures at the end of your story. It is very annoying when you have a lot of pictures to add. Create as many as you can before placing them in PhotoStory.
- On the “Narrate your pictures and customize motion” screen, you can right click on an individual picture and choose Customize Motion (motion, transition, duration) to change these options. Note that Motion and Duration are on the same tab and Transitions are on the other
- If you are using a video hosting site like Google Video or YouTube, you have certain restrictions for copyright purposes.
- There is a limit of 10 minutes of video and 100MB size as of this writing at YouTube.

Saving Your Photo Story

Saving your portfolio is a two step process:

1. Saving the “story”

- Save your work every few minutes to avoid disaster. After the initial first save where you name your portfolio, saving your progress is so easy that you have NO excuse not to do it as Photo Story placed a Save Project button on each screen.
- Before you start the process of saving your story as a video, you must save your project one last time. You most likely will have to go back and fix something and render the video again, so saving your project is a life-saving procedure.

THERE is NO SPELL-CHECKER in Photo Story!

2. Rendering the video

- Making the video is easy but not a quick process. Save your video in the 320x240 size. You need to click on the Settings button to access this format.
- Photo Story will tell you if you have enough hard disk space to create the resulting video and will give you a suggested name which you can change as it is based on your project name.
- The process will take some time so be patient!

Credits

You may wish to save a few slides at the end for credits. You can add them in Movie Maker for a special effect but it will make your file size larger and the time longer.