

Photo Story Basics

<http://www.microsoft.com/windowsxp/using/digitalphotography/photostory/default.mspx>

Photo Story allows you to create slideshows with your digital pictures. You can edit the pictures. You can add soundtracks, narration, titles and captions to the slideshow. You can watch the slideshows on your TV or computer. You will need a computer running Windows XP, with an INTEL P3 or P4 processor and 512 MB or RAM.

Importing & Arranging Photos

- It is best to use JPEG, BMP or PNG image formats, as these formats support more than 16 million colors.
- Able to import up to 300 pictures

Editing Photos

- The most common photo edits can be found on the Import and arrange your pictures window. Use the icons below the large preview of the picture to correct color levels, red eye, and to rotate the image. More advanced edits can be found by clicking the Edit button.
- At any time you can edit your pictures in Photo Story when the film strip is visible. Just right click on the picture, click **Edit**, then click the option you want.

Removing Black Borders

- Photo Story checks all pictures for a 4:3 (width to height) aspect ratio when they are imported. If the pictures do not have a 4:3 aspect ratio, Photo Story will display the Remove black borders button on the Import and arrange window. Before removing black borders be sure to rotate the picture first.

Adding Titles

- In the Adding Titles and Effects window you can describe the pictures by overlaying words on them. You can change the font and font color to insure that the font will be visible on the picture.
- Pictures with titles are static by default. You can manually add the motion to pictures with titles.
- Titles can have a maximum of 1,024 characters.

Adding Effects

- You can add effects to pictures such as Black and White, Chalk & Charcoal, Colored Pencil, Sepia, Water Color and more. This is done to each slide individually in the Adding Titles and Effects window.

Cropping Pictures

- Use the Edit button to access the cropping tool.
- Make sure the **Crop** checkbox is checked.
- Use the anchors on the movable and resizable cropping box to crop your picture.
- Click Save.

Narrating Pictures

- You can use the note box if you need notes for your narration.
- You can record up to 5 minutes per pictures.

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- Deleting the narration will not delete any other customized effects to your photo.

Customizing Motion

- On the Narrate your pictures and customize motion window right click the picture you want to manually add motion to.
- Click Customize Motion.
- Click Specify start and end position of motion check box.
- Use the rectangle in the Start position and End position boxes to adjust the motion setting for the picture.

Using Transitions

- The default transition is the cross fade transition.
- You can customize the transition by right clicking on a picture in the film strip, clicking Customize Motion, then clicking Transition.
- Be careful not to let the transitions distract you from the story.

Adding Music

- Music helps add emotions to your story.
- You can add more than one song to a slideshow.
- For a slide show that will be viewed outside the classroom, you may only use 30 seconds of a song that is copyright protected.

Previewing Your Story

- You can preview your story to see what it will look like in the final version.

Saving

- To edit a project later you must save a project for your story. The file must be saved using a .wp3 file name extension in order to be opened.
- Save Options
 - Save for playback on computer
 - Save for sending as an e-mail message

Saving to playback on a DVD

- Create your slideshow
- Save your slideshow as a NTSC or PAL format DVD
- Find your file (if you did not specify where it should be saved you will find it in the "My Videos" folder in "My Documents". The file you want will be a .wma file.
- View the slide show to make sure you are happy with it.
- Open your DVD burning software and burn a DVD of your .wma file.

Note: This website has tips on saving and burning to a DVD

<http://www.windowphotostory.com/Guides/Photo-Story-3-DVD/how-to-create-a-Photo-Story-3-DVD.aspx>