

# Digital Storytelling with Windows

## Movie Maker



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## What is Digital Storytelling?

“Digital Storytelling takes the ancient art of oral storytelling and engages a palette of technical tools to weave personal tales using images, graphics, music and sound mixed together with the author's own story voice.” Bernajean Porter, **Digitales: The art of Digital Storytelling** at <http://www.digitales.us/about/index.php>

“Many individuals and communities have used the term "digital storytelling" to describe a wide variety of new media production practices. What best describes our approach is its emphasis on personal voice and facilitative teaching methods. Many of the stories made in our workshops are directly connected to the images collected in life's journey. But our primary concern is encouraging thoughtful and emotionally direct writing.” **Center for Digital Storytelling** at <http://www.storycenter.org/>

Both Digitales and the Center for Digital Storytelling have rich resources for creating and evaluating digital stories as well as excellent examples of stories.

## Other Resources for Digital Storytelling

### Educational Uses of Digital Storytelling

<http://www.coe.uh.edu/digital-storytelling/>

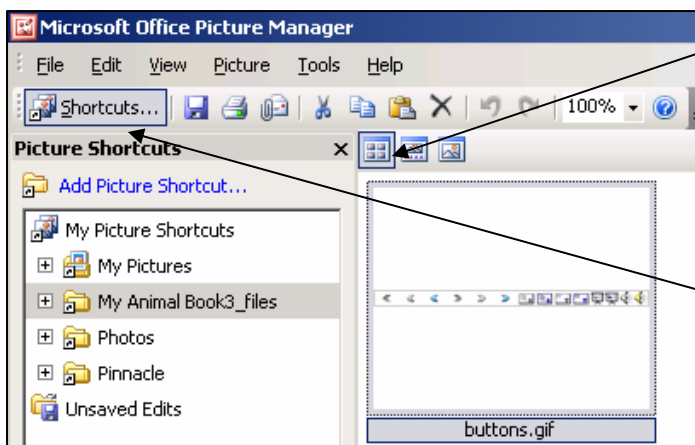
### Digital Storytelling

<http://electronicportfolios.com/digistory/index.html>

## Collecting and Editing Pictures

You can use video, photos, clipart or a combination in your digital story. It is important to do any editing of pictures before you import them into Movie Maker. Microsoft Picture Office Picture Manager is one program that you many PC users already have that can be used to do some quick and easy editing.

Start **Microsoft Office Picture Manager**.



The Picture Manager toolbar gives you three options for viewing your pictures:

- Thumbnail view
- Filmstrip view
- Single picture view

The Shortcuts button on the toolbar shows a window with shortcuts to your designated picture folders. Clicking on this button closes the window. You can use the Add Picture Shortcut link to add more shortcuts.

You can double click on a shortcut folder to open it and find your pictures or you can use the getting started task pane on the right side to locate pictures or add a new picture shortcut. Once you have found the picture you want to use, you have several options which are available on the main toolbar.

Along the toolbar to the right are buttons for:

- Rotating or Flipping
- Editing pictures
- Auto Correct.

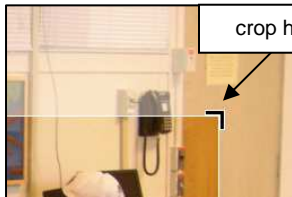
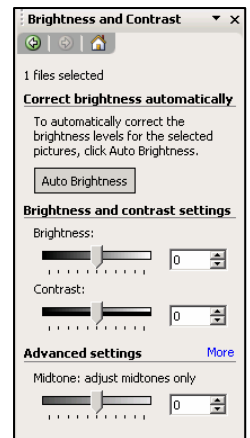
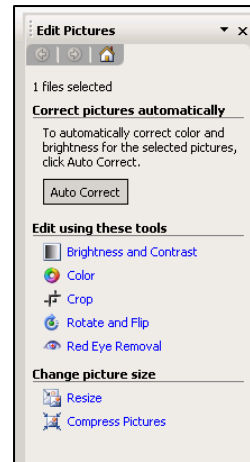
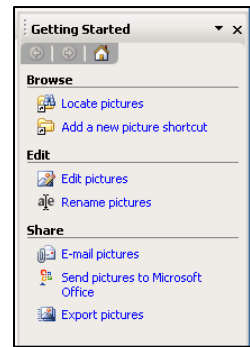


When you click the **Auto Correct** button, adjustments are made automatically. If you don't like the change, you can click the **Undo** button.

When you click the **Edit Pictures** button, you get several choices for editing as shown in the picture to the right.

The **Edit Pictures** pane also lets you crop and resize your picture. When you click **Crop**, a new task pane appears and you can specify the dimensions or click and drag one of the crop handles that appears along the edge of your picture. The section that will be cropped off appears more opaque. When you are done selecting what you want cropped, click the **OK** button in the crop task pane.

If you click Brightness and Contrast, a new pane opens that gives you sliders for fine tuning. When you have made all the changes to your picture, you can go to **File→Save** or, if you don't want to change your original, you can go to **File→Save As**.



crop handle

**Note:** If you are using a picture with high resolution, you might want to resize or compress it so the file size is smaller.

**☞** Ideally, pictures that are going to be used in video editing program should have a 4:3 aspect ratio. This prevents black spaces around the picture that will appear if the picture isn't sized to fit the video clip window.

## Making a Video With Movie Maker

Making a movie with Movie Maker is a three-step process.

1. First, you need to capture or import video, pictures, and any audio you might want to use to create your movie.
2. Second, you need to edit your video clips, add effects and transitions, and add titles or credits.
3. The third step is finishing or rendering the movie, and you have several options available for saving your movie.

When you are working on a movie project, it is important to keep all the files together and on the hard drive of the computer. Setting up a folder for storing all of your files and projects is a good idea.

You might also want to set the location of the temporary files created to the folder you have set up for your video project. To do this, go to **Tools**→**Options** and make sure you are on the **General** tab. Click the **Browse** button and navigate to your folder.

### Capturing or Importing Video, Pictures and Audio

If you have recorded video on a DV camcorder, you can plug your camera into the firewire or USB port on your computer to capture the video. If you have already saved the video or are using an editable clip that you downloaded from United streaming, then you will need to import your video.

You can also import pictures and audio into your project. All of these choices are available under Movie Tasks and step 1.

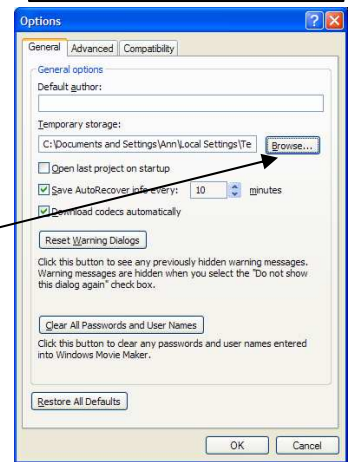
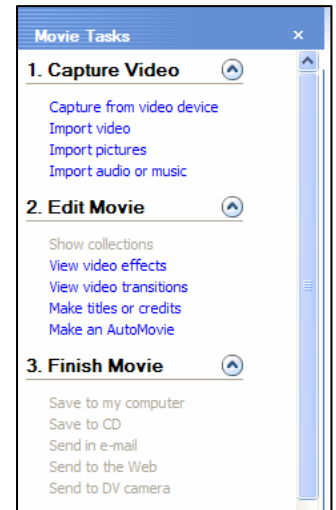
Click the appropriate choice in step 1 and then navigate to the location of your files. When you import your files, they will show up in the center window of Movie Maker in **Collections**.

### Editing Your Movie

At the bottom of the Movie Maker window is the Movie Storyboard (if you are in the timeline view instead of the Storyboard view, **click on the Show Storyboard** button above the timeline). Drag the pictures to the squares on the storyboard.

If you are using video that you have imported, you can drag the video down to your storyboard. To edit a clip, use the player controls to view it.

1. Get the slider to the point where you want to cut the clip.
2. Then, click the **Cut clip** button. This divides your video into two clips.



- Highlight just the part of the clip that you want to delete. Right click the clip and choose **Delete**.

## Creating Titles

Under Step 2, select **Make titles or credits**

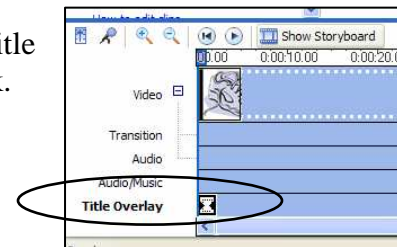
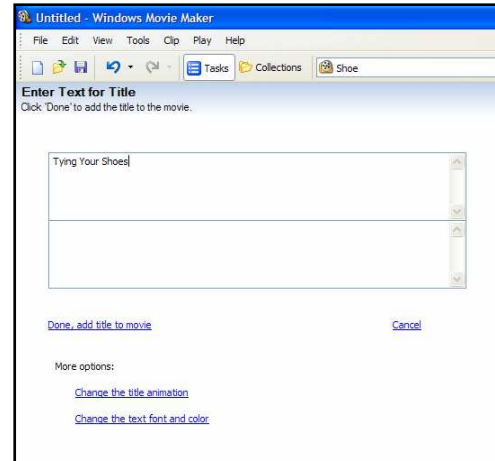
You will have several choices for the placement of your title, such as at the beginning or end, or a selected clip in the timeline. Make your selection by clicking on it.

You will be prompted to enter your text.

After you type in a title for your movie, click the link below the text box to change the animation (you will see several animation options and when you click on one, you will see a preview.)

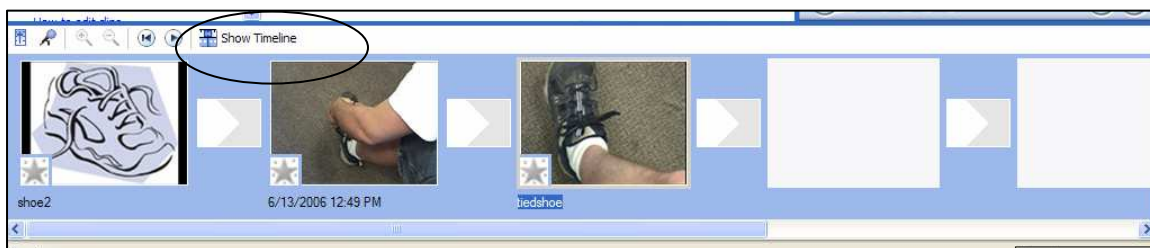
After you find an animation you like, click on the link to change the text font and color, background color, etc. Once you have your font the way you want it, click the link that says, "Done, add title to movie".

If you click **Done** too soon or decide you want to edit your title some more, double click your title on the Title Overlay track.



## Transitions and Effects

Click on the Show Storyboard button above the timeline to switch to the Storyboard view. This view shows the place markers that you can use to put transitions between your pictures and video. This button is a toggle that lets you go back and forth between Timeline and Storyboard view.

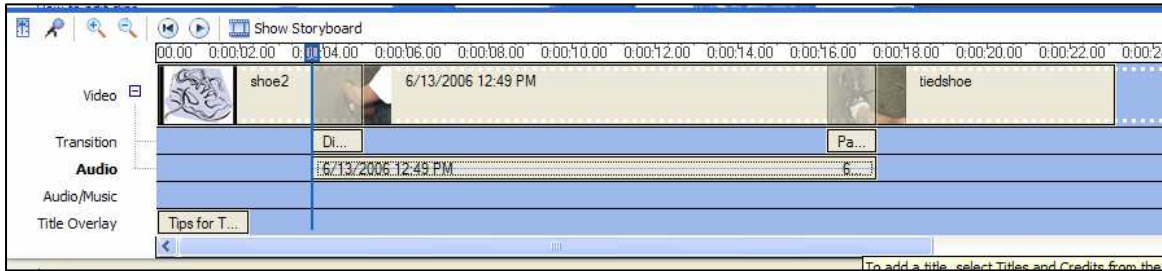
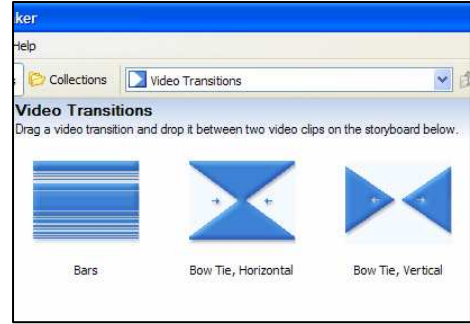


Under **Edit Movie**, click on **View Video Transitions**

Click on a transition and then use the play button in the player window to preview it.

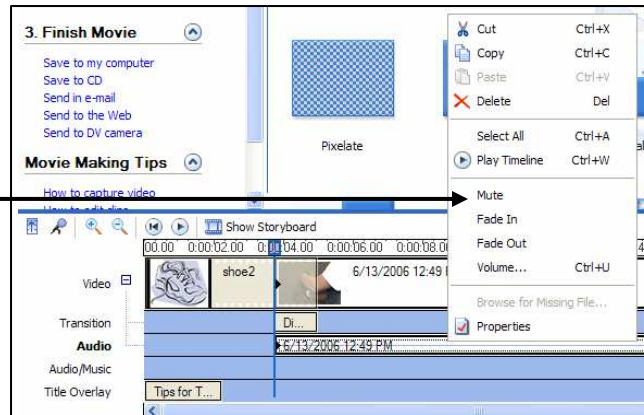
Switch to timeline view to see how the transitions overlap the video clips.

If there is a + next to the Video track, click it so you can see the Audio track that goes with the video.

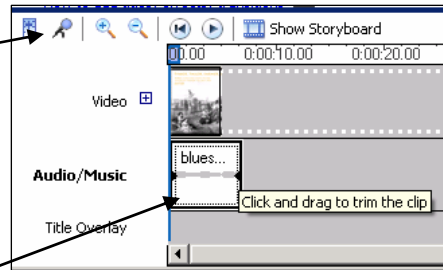


### Sound Tracks and Narration

If you don't need the audio that was recorded with your video, right click on a section of the audio track and select **Mute** from the pop up menu.



To record a narration, we would need a microphone and then we could click the **Microphone** button. (When you record narration, you will be prompted to name and save the narration file. Save this file in the same location as all of the other files you are using in your movie.)



You can drag a sound file from the collections window and it will be placed on the **Audio/Music** Track.

## Ending credits

Under Step 2, select **Make title or credits** then click **Add credits to the end**.

Type “The End” in the top row. Then, you can type titles such as Director or Producer in the left columns and names in the right column.

Click on **Change the title animation** to animate the credits.

Click on **Change the text font and color** to change the text.

Click **Done, add title to movie when finished**

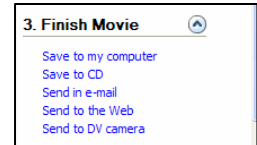


## Making Your Movie

What we have been working on so far is a movie project. For more complex project, the project usually needs to be saved and opened several times. To save a project, you would go to **File→Save Project**. It is recommended that you save the project in the same location that you have saved all of your files associated with your project.

To make your project into a movie, go to Step 3 and select **Save to my computer** (there are several other choices for saving). A wizard will start up.

1. First, you will need to give your movie a title and a location. Type in a title, and click **Browse** to save your movie to the folder you created at the beginning.
2. The next screen prompts you to select the recording quality. Leave the default selection and click **Next**.
3. The next screen has a “thermometer” bar that shows you when you movie is done. This step can take several minutes depending on the length of your movie.
4. The last screen has a check mark to play the movie when finished. Leave the checkmark in the box and click **Finish**. Your movie will start playing.



## **Appendix: Additional Resources**

Free Loops

<http://www.freeloops.com/freeloops/index.phtml>

Free play Music

<http://freeplaymusic.com/>

Copyright Free Photos

<http://pics4learning.com>

Picasa (free photo editing program)

<http://picasa.google.com/>

Atomic Learning Free Movie Maker Tutorial

<http://movies.atomiclearning.com/k12/moviemaker2>

Atomic Learning Video Storytelling Guide

[http://movies.atomiclearning.com/k12/digital\\_story](http://movies.atomiclearning.com/k12/digital_story)

Microsoft Movie Maker Tutorials

<http://www.microsoft.com/windowsxp/using/moviemaker/getstarted/default.mspx>

Mighty Coach.com

<http://www.mightycoach.com/articles/mm2/index.html>