


MovieMaker 2 Guidelines for Creating and Saving Projects

Before We Get Started:

1. Producing Videos at Pardeeville School District:

- a. **Review all the information on the following pages before starting a video project.**
- b. Create a folder in the C:\Video folder on your local computer. The folder name should start with your network username and then one word to describe your project. **Ex.** |  McElti_Winter_Project
- c. You should then save every movie element into this folder before you import them into Movie Maker. This folder should include your captured video, background music, pictures, voice narration, and the project file itself. With all your files together like this, there is no chance of a file being inadvertently deleted or moved. Plus, this method allows you to easily transfer your entire project to another computer (or backup onto a flash drive) [**Refer to Section C: of this document for more details**]
- d. At the end of each class period or work session you will always save the files you have open to this project folder in the C:\Video\Your project name folder. **IF users try to work on MovieMaker projects over the network they will have problems freezing up both the computer and the network and losing their project work that they have done.**
- e. Drag this project folder to **one** of 2 locations:
 - i. Your personal flash drive
- f. Students - Large File Storage X:<School Name>\<Teacher Last Name>
- g. The X: drive is the school media server for student use for class work. Video, music and picture files should not be saved to H: directories.
- h. **Keep this folder name the same (Ex. McElti_Winter_Project) and all the picture names, music names, etc.... the same until you have done the final rendering of the moviemaker file or you will have problems.**

2. Capturing Video from a Camcorder:

- a. If you wish to capture video, which you have shot with your camcorder you will need to do the following:
- b. **Make sure the camera is in the OFF position before connecting to the computer. (if the camera is on you may short out the camera)**
Connect your camcorder to your PC using the Firewire cable (also called IEEE1394 cable)
- c. Open Windows Movie Maker

- d. In the Movie Tasks pane click 'Capture from video device' or go to File and click 'Capture Video'
- e. In the next window give your clip a name and choose where to store it
Make a folder as follows: C:\Video Projects Local
- f. In the next window select the quality at which you wish to capture.
Make sure you save it as a .wmv file.

You can then capture further clips to your computer.

3. The Correct Way To Save Movie Maker 2 Project Files

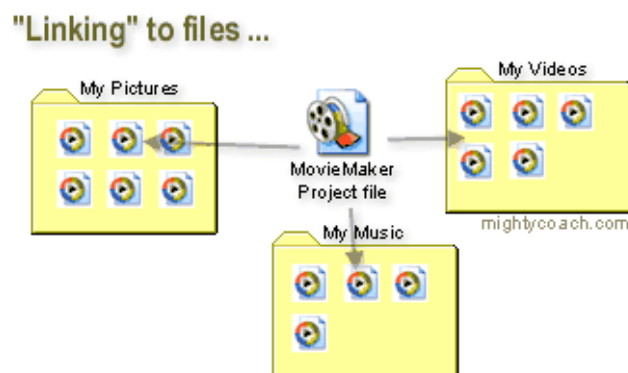
There is a correct way to save your Movie Maker projects, and you should know how before you start editing for the first time ... especially if you ever want to back up your video project, transfer it to another computer, or re-edit your project in the future.

When you first save a project in Movie Maker 2, the program generates a "movie maker project file" on your computer's hard-drive. You should name this file and save it into your project folder In the C:\Video folder.

(Ex. C:\Video\McElti_Winter_Project\McEltiWinterMovie.MSWMM)

But what exactly IS this project file??

The project file is a "linking file" that keeps track of every item in your home movie. This includes every video clip, music song, picture, and voice track ... the project file knows where each of these items are located on your computer, how they are laid out on the movie timeline, and what effects and transitions should be applied to each.



However, these video objects are not actually "embedded" within the project file. If you examine the project file itself, you'll see that it is only 1 meg in size ... while your movie may contain several gigabytes worth of video files. That's because the project file only "links" to the actual multimedia files. Because of this, you really need to organize all your files if you ever want to re-edit your project.

Why is this?



Suppose that sometime in the future you decide to give your computer a “spring cleaning” and reorganize some of your media files. You can damage a project if you inadvertently move or delete a file that is used in one of your videos. The next time you open up your video project, Movie Maker won’t find the media file “where it expected to find it” and your project will be forever ruined.

To avoid this problem and keep your project intact, create a new folder for your video project. (C:\Video\McElti_Winter_Project) You should then save every movie element into this folder before you import them into Movie Maker. This folder should include your captured video, background music, pictures, voice narration, and the project file itself. With all your files together like this, there is no chance of a file being inadvertently deleted or moved. Plus, this method allows you to easily transfer your entire project to another computer (or backup onto a flash drive)

Don’t underestimate the importance of organization when it comes to editing video. Unless you stay on top of things, your hard drive can quickly become cluttered with random video clips and pictures, and you won’t know what’s safe to delete. Organizing each of your movies into its own folder will save you a lot of trouble and heartache down the line.

4. The video editing process is easy:

Let’s examine the movie making process. Like all editors, video creation occurs in three steps, though Movie Maker has simplified and streamlined each of these:

1. **Import your video:** Importing video into MovieMaker 2 is quite easy, mostly because the XP operating system already supports digital camcorder capture. Simply connect your camcorder via a firewire cable, turn it on, and Windows XP will automatically detect it and bring up the capture window. Then, it’s just a matter of choosing your capture format. For high-quality video editing, this means either uncompressed DV-AVI or the new WMP9 compression. This WMP9 compression is excellent, and yields video that is almost as good as DV-AVI, but at a tiny fraction of hard drive space.

You can capture manually, or have MovieMaker rewind and capture your entire tape. If you like, the program will automatically split your video into individual scene clips.

2. **Edit your video:** This is usually the step that scares people away from computer video. However, editing within MovieMaker 2 couldn’t be

simpler. Simply drag your captured video clips down onto the storyboard, add some transitions, and your movie is done!

If you want more control, you can switch to the timeline view, and change your clip's in and out points, insert music, and even add a narration over the video. WMM2 comes with useful video effects that allow you to improve your video's quality, such as changing brightness levels. You can also add groovy special effects like "aged film" or "slow motion."

The editing environment in WMM2 is the easiest I've ever used, and adding effects is much easier to do than in competing products. Plus, MovieMaker allows you preview your effects in real time. This just isn't possible with most other programs, which force you to render your movie first.

3. **Export the video:** WMM2 adds many new exporting options. You can export into conventional uncompressed DV-AVI (either to your camcorder or hard drive). You can also export into several WMV formats, including the new WMP9 format. This latest compression wmv codec is killer, and produces DVD-quality video at tiny file-sizes. However, you may not be able to view it on other computers, because not everyone has yet installed the Media Player 9 codec. On the other hand, it's a great storage format for your computer's hard drive because of the tiny file sizes, and allows you to create video collections on your computer ... just like your audio mp3 collections.

A bigger (and more relevant) problem is the limited export options ... you can only export your final video into DV-AVI or Windows Media Video. Other software packages let you export into Apple QuickTime and MPEG1/MPEG2 (for creating DVDs). Fortunately, there are workarounds for all of these format limitations ... most DVD creation software will accept raw DV-AVI video, and there are free encoders available online for converting DV-AVI to other video formats.

Want to publish this article on your website or newsletter?



Go right ahead! You can even copy and use the pictures. We only ask that you include the following sentence (and link) at the bottom of the article:

You can find more useful home-video "tips and tricks" like this one at www.mightycoach.com - they even have an online-video course that teaches you to edit video on your home computer!