RushtonH: Juan you are very welcome here.

RushtonH: I'm in the Bay Area of northern California, by the way. Juan, how about you?

RushtonH: Welcome, Elijah!

ElijahL: Hi!

JuanF: south Texas

DavidW joined the room.

DavidW waves

RushtonH waves to Dave

RushtonH: Juan, you've been to one of my sessions before, no?

JuanF: yes

JuanF: love them that's why I am back

RushtonH bows in thanks to Juan

RushtonH: Elijah, where are you, by the way? I'm in Santa Clara, California (next to San Jose).

JuanF: where are you from Elijah

BJB2: I'm in Pennsylvania

ElijahL: Dickson, Tennessee. It's about 30 minutes from Nashville.

RushtonH: BJ, shall we get this one going?

JuanF: sure lets start

BJB2 nods

RushtonH: Good deal. Anything you want to say on the front end?

BJB2: just looking forward to your words of wisdom!

RushtonH: That I can fake pretty well. We're in good shape.

RushtonH: Let's start by having each person give their platform and occupation. Include life ambition if you want.

RushtonH: Rushton - PC or Mac - rid the world of ignorance.

RushtonH: In the next week.

BJB2 smiles. BJ, PC (home) Mac (school) - survive till I retire in June

RushtonH: Wow - imminent retirement!

JuanF: Juan 21 yrs born in Feb. 18 1986 love kids want to become an instructor in the elementary level

RushtonH: Thank goodness there's at least one male working to inspire little kids - bless you!

JuanF: ambition well big house and about 5 cars

RushtonH laughs

RushtonH: Elijah, how about you?

BJB2 hopes the cars are fuel efficient or the price of gas goes down!

RushtonH chuckles

RushtonH: We'll go through this today with the goal of getting a good idea of how this works, no matter which program/platform you use.

BJB2: Elijah is one of the student reps in Tapped In, Rushton

JuanF: they can run with cooking oil if they are diesel

BJB2 . o O (he can take your ideas right to the teachers)

RushtonH: Cool!

RushtonH: Before I get into specifics, is there something in particular you hope to get out of this session? (You can give an answer or just type 'nope'.)

ElijahL: Sorry, stepped away.

JuanF: wisdom

RushtonH: welcome back - are you on a Mac or PC, by the way?

ElijahL: PC

RushtonH: I'm going to talk about Windows Movie Maker a lot, which I'll abbreviate as WMM. It's the easiest video editing program I know of, and free as well (though it only works on XP and Vista). Even if you have a Mac or an older PC, though, you'll get the idea.

RushtonH: How many of you already make videos?

JeffC: none since my old iMovie days.

JuanF: I've seen a few though

RushtonH: that'll work!

RushtonH: So you know, you'll get the transcript of this session in an e-mail after we finish if you're a member of Tapped In. If you're not a member, just let me know, and I'll send you a copy. Good idea to become one, of course!

RushtonH: I'll talk about the basics of slideshow videos, so while the technical parts may be simple for some, the ideas hopefully will be interesting to all.

ElijahL: I have played with WMM before (a good few years ago) but I don't have a camera, otherwise I would have made tons

RushtonH: What I'll show you today doesn't require a camera (listen to the oohs and the ahs for that one!).

RushtonH: A slideshow video is a video made from still shots - this is different from using footage from a camcorder, obviously. An advantage to this approach is that you know that visually you have what you want when you choose your pictures. This eliminates the complexities around lighting and background noise you often get with a camcorder.

RushtonH: First, for any video, including slideshows, the most important part is planning. Even before any editing, know what the story is you want to tell, and once you have a good outline worked out for that, you can start putting together the pictures.

RushtonH: You choose your photos, choose the order you want them to appear. In WMM, like all editors, there is an option for bringing pictures into your workspace - for WMM specifically, choose the 'import pictures' option and browse to where your photos are. You can also drag them from a folder to the area which houses the media you choose from for your video project.

RushtonH: I'll break that down. Here's a shot of WMM (as a review, "Windows Movie Maker"): http://nextvista.org/TI/WMM01.jpg

RushtonH: Here is a shot of an open folder next to WMM: http://nextvista.org/TI/WMM02.jpg

RushtonH: The next thing I'd do is drag the ones I want into the white space marked 'Collections'. In iMovie, you'd go to media, photos, and select items from your iPhoto library.

RushtonH: Once they're in the program, you can start deciding what they'll look like as a video.

RushtonH: For the piece today, I'm going to use a series of pictures I took at a program called Project Amigo in Mexico. You can learn more about them at: http://www.projectamigo.org

RushtonH: Great crowd, the Project Amigo folks, and they're doing great things.

RushtonH: Anyway, here's the next screen shot: http://nextvista.org/TI/WMM03.jpg

RushtonH: The idea now is to get them in the order I want. As in iMovie and most other programs, you can select a clip in the timeline and then drag it where you want it.

RushtonH: I'm about to show you a series of videos made from this project in different stages. If you have a PC, it should launch Windows Media Player and all will be happy. If you have a Mac, I'm hoping you have the free Windows Media Player download from Microsoft. If not, you can download it later and watch all of these.

RushtonH: Also, I need to know when each of you returns to the discussion, so after watching a video, please type 'I'm back' or similar.

RushtonH: What you have is a set of media you've arranged the way you want. You could export it ("save to my computer" under "finish movie" on the left) now, and you'd end up with this: http://www.nextvista.org/rhvideos/PASlideshow1.wmv

RushtonH: Let's start making this more interesting by adding titles (via the 'make titles or credits' option in WMM; in iMovie, I believe titles is its own tab, but if not, it's under 'editing').

RushtonH: Here I've added an opening title and ending blurb: http://www.nextvista.org/rhvideos/PASlideshow2.wmv

MaryannA joined the room.

RushtonH: Hi Maryann!

ElijahL: Yeah, it did that to me the first time.

BJB2: welcome, Maryann

JuanF: I am back

MaryannA: Hi

RushtonH: Juan, were you able to see the video okay?

JuanF: yes but kind of took me out

RushtonH: Hmm. We'll allow a little more time, then.

RushtonH: A good next step is to add transitions (in WMM, using 'view video transitions'; in iMovie this is under 'editing').

RushtonH: Here is how it looks with a variety of transitions: http://www.nextvista.org/rhvideos/PASlideshow3.wmv

JeffC: nice pix

JeffC: no sound, right?

RushtonH: Exactly - we'll add that next.

RushtonH: Generally speaking, having a lot of transitions looks a bit amateurish, but if it's fun, I say go with it. 8^) The more serious the piece, the more you'd stick to just dissolves or maybe wipes (this is something to play with). Also remember you don't need a transition between every photo; sometimes the cut (i.e., no transition) works just fine.

RushtonH: In WMM (as in iMovie), you can record directly into the program, or you can add a song or pre-recorded piece. I'll add an intro made by the director and founder of Project Amigo, Ted Rose.

RushtonH: Now give this one a look: http://www.nextvista.org/rhvideos/PASlideshow4.wmv

RushtonH: Give a shout to the group when you return.

RushtonH: Thoughts so far?

MaryannA: How would this differ from iMovie or Windows MovieMaker or Photo Story 3

JeffC: for some weird reason I can't view it in windows media player... but it plays in real player.

MaryannA: I watched it in Windows media player

JeffC: great... it's just me then!

RushtonH: There isn't a major difference, at least as regards the power of digital storytelling. Are you curious about the relative strengths of each of those programs?

MaryannA: I use all 3 so I am familiar with their plusses and minuses, I just wondered how this program fit into the mix>

RushtonH: Windows Media Player is just a player, and there isn't anything about it that would compare from the perspective of editing. Am I understanding your question correctly?

RushtonH: I also want to give you a glimpse of the next things - adding motion and music. This one is a QuickTime piece, so Mac folks should find no problem at all with this. It's also a different video, but uses the same principles.

RushtonH: Please give it a look at: http://www.nextvista.org/rhvideos/PAVolunteer.mov

RushtonH: What did you think?

MaryannA: no windows movie maker and photostory 3 are free products that you can use to make digital stories

JuanF: I have to take a final for one of my classes sorry cut you guys short had fun learned a lot

RushtonH: Hey Juan, shoot me an e-mail at rh@nextvista.org and I'll send you the rest.

JuanF: cool will do mine is fregoso_98@yahoo.com

JuanF left the room (signed off).

RushtonH: As to doing both voice recording and music, you are good to go in

iMovie. There are two audio tracks separate from the one attached to any recorded video (such as what the microphone on the camcorder picks up).

RushtonH: In WMM, however, there is only one track - boo! Fortunately, there is a great audio editing program called Audacity you can download and use to create an audio file of both music and voice recording, and then export the piece as a .wav file. Free software, it is! There's also a Mac version, though if you have Garage Band, you're already in great shape. Plop what you create in Audacity into WMM and you're good to go.

RushtonH: Find Audacity at: http://audacity.sourceforge.net

RushtonH: For motion, you have quite a few options in the Vista version of WMM, but you have to be tricky with the XP version. You can download a very cool and very, very easy-to-use program called Photo Story free from Microsoft, and by creating a piece with photos in it, you can export it and then add the resulting .wmv file to a WMM project.

RushtonH: On the Mac, iMovie has had this ("Ken Burns Effect") forever. The newer versions, though, are less intuitive, so it takes some practice.

RushtonH: What kind of projects can you imagine your students doing? If you're not sure, tell what they're learning and I or others will come up with ideas for you.

BJB2: you had some nice new videos on the elements of art, Rushton

RushtonH: Indeed - I'll introduce NextVista.org.

RushtonH: A quick introduction to my nonprofit, Next Vista for Learning. It's a free, online library of videos by and for teachers and students everywhere.

RushtonH: Next Vista for Learning has three collections, and I am hoping some of you might create slideshow pieces to add to them. The site is: http://www.nextvista.org

RushtonH: You can string together some pictures to explain a particular topic, such as photosynthesis, or converting fractions to decimals, or telling the history of a local spot (this collection is called Light Bulbs).

RushtonH: You can use photos to tell about someone who does good things for the community (this collection is called Seeing Service).

RushtonH: You can tell about your community - show your neighborhood, tell what you learn in school, tell what you do on the weekends, and describe your hopes for the future (this collection is called Global Views).

RushtonH: Are any of you are already getting the Next Vista newsletter?

BJB2: I am

RushtonH: If not, you can sign up at: http://www.nextvista.org/newsletter/

RushtonH: It's only a message or two a month, and is info, not discussion, so it'll never explode in your inbox. We certainly never share contact info.

RushtonH: I would like to invite anyone with questions on how to make this happen to e-mail me (rh@nextvista.org). I'm happy to trade ideas or find a time to talk with you about different projects.

BJB2: Thanks, Rushton!

MaryannA: Thanks, I will share it with my teachers

RushtonH: Thanks to everyone for coming! (very humble bow)

JeffC: thanks Rushton

RushtonH: Thanks, Jeff!

BJB2: The next Next Vista discussion will be the first Thursday in February

JeffC: one question... have you used the Camtasia suite? (Camtasia, Dubit, Snagit)?

RushtonH: Not yet, though I'm quite excited about a new, free product called QlipBoard.

RushtonH: www.qlipmedia.com

JeffC: online audio editing?

MaryannA: I just downloaded jing. It is a free cross platform tool to capture still and video on the desktop

RushtonH: It's a screen capture, audio and marking program. Seems very simple.

JeffC: http://www.jingproject.com/

MaryannA: That is the one.

RushtonH: Is Jing freeware?

MaryannA: It is free

MaryannA: Thanks, bye

BJB2 waves bye to Maryann

RushtonH: Thanks again, folks!

RushtonH waves and bows

DavidW: Thanks, Rushton

BJB2 hugs Rushton. Thanks again

RushtonH: Take care, everyone!