

Chapter 9

Sharing Your Movies

You can share your movie in a wide range of formats, making it available to every viewer you can imagine



Yes you can...

- Save your movie and play it back on your PC
- Record your film onto video tape
- Share your movie by email and on the web

Project time...



More Info

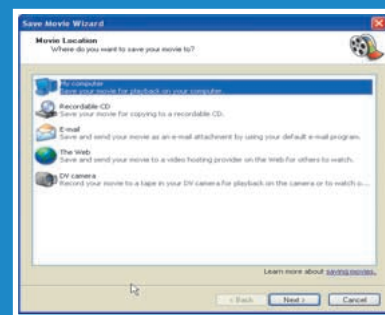


www.microsoft.com/windowsxp/moviemaker/videos/share.asp

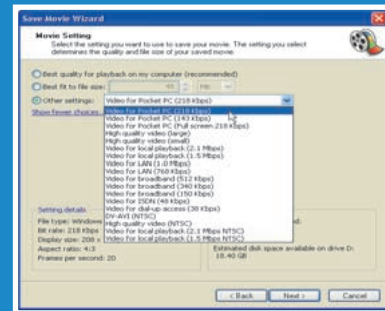
When it comes to sharing your movie, digital video comes into its own. Windows Movie Maker 2 can convert your film into any format you care to imagine. It's a far cry from the days of analogue home video, when you were forced to distribute third generation copies of your efforts. You had to edit your camcorder footage by dubbing it down to VHS tape. This became the master copy. Any further tapes were copies of this one. You lost picture and sound quality at every stage. This doesn't happen with digital video, although you may opt to reduce quality to make the file size smaller.

Quality Playback

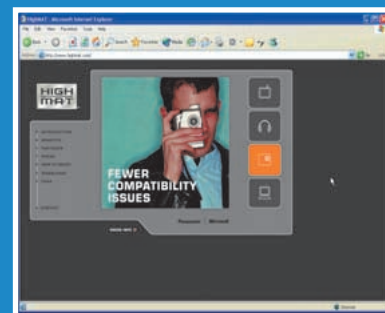
To get the best quality playback, save the video to your hard drive and watch it back via Windows Media Player 9 Series. If you have a home network, you can copy this to other PCs with no drop in quality at all. To make your video more portable, you may need to reduce the resolution in the name of smaller file size. Taking your film on the road with a Pocket PC must be the ultimate show-



Page 92 Save your movie to your PC for playback in high quality



Page 93 Transfer your video to a Pocket PC for playback on the move



Page 96 Burn your video to a recordable CD in HighMAT format



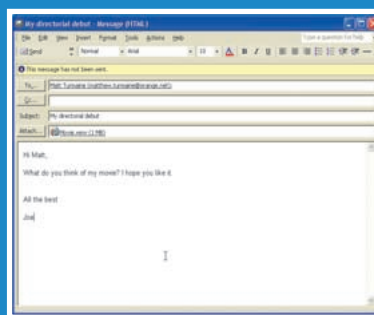
off for digital video. The Save Movie Wizard makes this stunt very easy to pull off.

CDs are now cheaper than video tape. It's dead easy to record a video CD using your CD-RW drive and practically every PC will be able to play it back. In fact, a growing number of home DVD players will play your movies, as the HighMAT format gains ever wider acceptance.

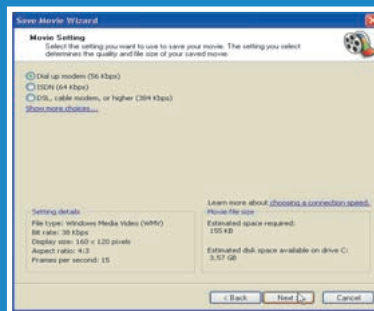
On the Internet

The internet provides you with lots of video sharing opportunities. You need to reduce the file size to cater for most internet connections, but your audience is potentially global in reach. Send short films attached to emails or upload longer ones to websites or video hosting providers. Don't worry if these sound like complex operations; Windows Movie Maker 2 will take you through them in easy steps.

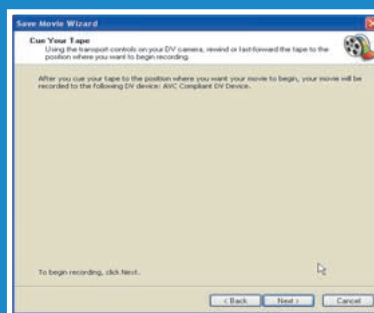
All these fancy ways to get your video aired are exciting, but nothing beats sitting down and watching your masterpiece on a TV. You can record your video back to your camcorder and then dub it down to VHS videotape. This analogue tape will be of much better quality than anything you could manage in the days when everything was analogue.



Page 97 Send an email with your film as an attachment



Page 98 Upload your movie to a video hosting provider on the web



Page 99 Record your video onto a VHS tape via your camcorder

Sharing Your Movies

Saving a Movie

Turn your newly finished project into an easy-to-play movie file

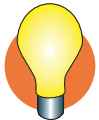


There are choices other than Best Quality for playback on My Computer on the Movie Settings page of the Save Movie Wizard, but they are hidden by default. Click 'Show more choices' to reveal them.

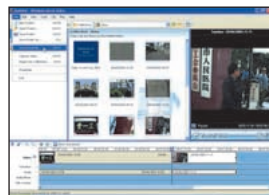
After all your hard work creating clips, splitting and trimming them, putting them in order, adding narration and music, plus video transitions, effects and titles, you will no doubt be keen to let people watch your masterpiece. At the moment, you can preview it on the monitor, but the picture isn't very big and it's not always convenient to gather people around a computer monitor. You want to create a movie file, which your viewers can watch in Windows Media Player 9 Series on your PC,

or their own one, or you may want to distribute the movie yourself.

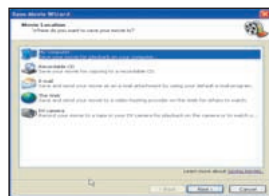
The first step is to get a file that will play back on your PC. If the compiled Windows Media Video (WMV) file looks OK on your PC, you can turn your mind towards distribution methods. To compile a video file of your movie, you'll need to launch the Save Movie Wizard, which you can do by choosing File > Save Movie File, or by pressing the keyboard shortcut [Ctrl] + [P]. Then just follow the prompts to save the WMV file.



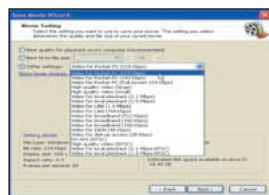
To watch your movie immediately after you've compiled and saved the video file, check the box marked 'Play movie when I click finish', which you'll find on the last screen of the Save Movie Wizard.



1 Once you've added the finishing touches to your project and you've saved it as a project file, you need to convert it into a video file that can be played back using Windows Media Player 9 Series. To do this choose File > Save Movie File.



2 You now have five choices, depending on how you want to save the movie, and how you want to distribute it. For now, Choose My Computer, as this option enables you to create the highest quality video file. Click Next and enter a file name and location.



3 Click Next and stick with the default choice of 'Best quality for playback on my computer'. Note the estimated size of the video file. Click Next to complete the save, which may take several minutes. Click Next and Finish.

Save to a Pocket PC

Pocket PCs can play your movie while you're on the road

The dream of playing your movie while sitting on a bus is possible to realise right now, if you have a Pocket PC. Windows Movie Maker 2 supports output to Pocket PCs, providing you make the right choices in the Save Movie Wizard. You need to select the right location to save the file and also find a suitable resolution for the video.

Choose Save Movie File from the File menu. Opt to save the movie to your computer. Enter the filename and choose the place that you want to save your movie file to. This

needs to be in one of the folders that you synchronise with your Pocket PC, using ActiveSync or another synchronising program. Click Browse to find this folder, which may be C:\Documents and Settings\{your username}\My Documents\{your Pocket PC name} My Documents, where C is your PC's hard drive and your username and your Pocket PC name are replaced by the appropriate strings. If you are unsure where to save the file, keep it in My Videos; you can always drag it to the sync folder later on.

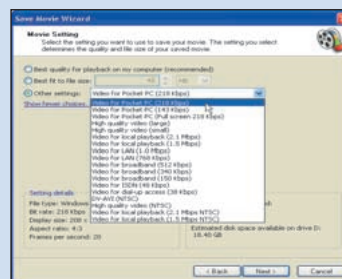


Not all handheld computers are Pocket PCs. Consult your documentation and/or the manufacturer's website to find out how to sync your device and what video format, if any, it supports. You may need to convert the video using a third party application for it to play on your device.

Pocket Your Movie

Select the right quality for the video to play on Pocket PCs

Having carefully placed your movie file into the right folder for syncing it onto your Pocket PC, you'll need to ensure that the video is of a resolution that a Pocket PC can display. When you get to the Movie Settings page of the Save Movie Wizard, click 'Show more choices' to display other resolution settings. Select Other Settings and choose one of the three Video for Pocket PC choices. Remember that the lower the resolution is, the smaller and more manageable the video file will be. Finally, click Next and you can complete the rest of the Wizard as before.



Choose one of the Video for Pocket PC choices on the Movie Settings.

Playback

It's time to watch your finished video. Do you have the popcorn handy?



Fed up with seeing your video inside a tiny window? Press the View Full Screen button, which you'll find to the bottom-right of Windows Media Player 9 Series playback screen, to see it fill your monitor screen.

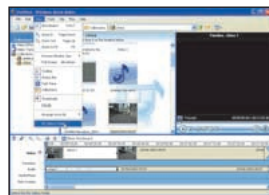
You've spent a lot of time slaving over this film. Isn't it about time you got to watch it as it should be seen? The playback you've watched so far on the preview monitor within Windows Movie Maker 2 hasn't shown your work at top quality. This is because, so far, it hasn't been compiled as a movie file. Instead, Windows Movie Maker 2 has had to skip to the relevant parts of each source file to show you the video. But now that you've saved it to your PC as a WMV file, you can watch it using

Windows Media Player 9 Series in its full glory.

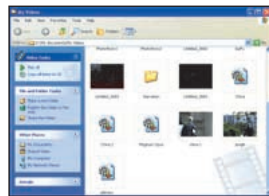
Windows Media Player 9 Series should be the default player for WMV files. This means that when you double-click any WMV file, Windows XP will launch Windows Media Player 9 Series and play the movie. You'll probably notice how much smoother the video appears in Windows Media Player 9 Series. This is due to a combination of factors: the strength of the WMV format, that of the player itself and the improved performance of a compiled file.



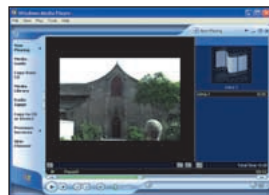
You can control playback using the controls below the Windows Media Player 9 Series playback screen. Play/Pause, Stop, Mute and Volume are all available, while the Seek bar enables you to scroll forwards or backwards to different parts of your movie.



1 Once you've saved a movie, you can watch it at any time by launching the video file. It will play back in Windows Media Player 9 Series. To find a movie from within Windows Movie Maker 2, choose the My Videos Folder from the View menu.



2 A new window opens, displaying the contents of your my Videos folder. This may include other video files and project files of your work in progress. Select the video file containing your movie. Double-click this file to launch it.



3 Windows Media Player 9 Series opens. Your film starts to play automatically, but you can press Pause to hold it until the audience is ready. Notice how much smoother the video plays compared to its preview in Windows Movie Maker 2.

Video on CD

Save your movie to a recordable CD using the HighMAT format

Recordable CDs are the perfect choice for storing your movie because they can hold lots of data and are also cheap and robust. You can easily afford to give a friend a CD of your film to watch on their own computer or on a HighMAT compatible CD/DVD player. You can, of course, save one or more movies to a CD, depending on the length of the films and the video quality you've chosen.

The CD isn't closed when you complete the Save Movie Wizard, so you can go back and add another

movie to it, if you have the space, at a later date.

How long it takes to burn your film to CD will depend on a number of factors. The first is the length of your movie. A ten-minute film will obviously be quicker to burn than a half-hour one. Secondly, the quality of the video you've chosen will also affect the file size and hence the burn time. Thirdly, the system specification of your PC and the performance of your CD-RW drive will also affect how long writing a CD takes.

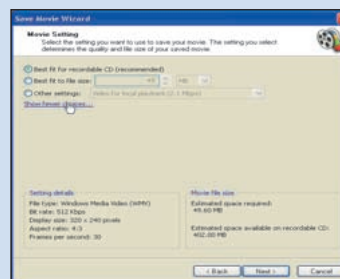


You can change the quality of the video that you burn to CD on the Movie Settings page of the Save Movie Wizard. Choosing lower resolution means your CD will complete faster.

Burn a CD

The easy steps to burning your video to CD

Place a blank CD into your CD-RW drive. From the File menu, choose Save Movie File. In the Save Movie Wizard, choose Recordable CD. Supply a name for your movie in the box marked 'Enter a filename for your saved movie'. Below this enter a name for the CD itself. On the Movie Settings page, stick with the default, unless you really need to save using a different format, in which case click 'Show more choices' and select the one you need. Click Next to start the process of burning the CD. You have the option to record the movie to another CD if you wish, otherwise quit the wizard.



You would normally choose Best Fit for recordable CD.

The HighMAT Format

This popular format enables you to play your CDs on supported consumer devices

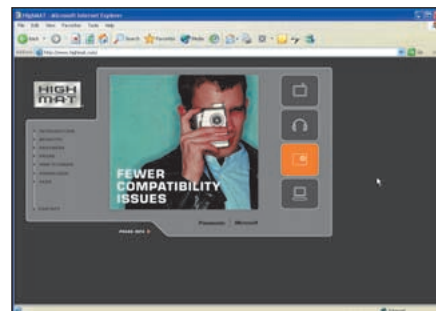


www.highmat.com

To get the latest news about HighMAT, its partners and the companies who are developing devices that support it, go to this link. You will also find FAQs and software downloads.

The growth of digital media means we can now do things that were previously the preserve of professionals. Windows Movie Maker 2 can create your movies and save them so they will play on different devices. However, if you choose unwisely, the movie might not play properly.

HighMAT changes this. It is a standard format for digital media so that video saved to CDs, DVDs, or other media will play without a hitch. Device manufacturers are now producing equipment that supports



HighMAT makes it easier to burn media CDs that can be played by supporting CD players.

HighMAT. It makes sense to create HighMAT CDs in Windows Movie Maker 2 because you may be able to play them back on your TV soon.



www.microsoft.com/windows/windowsmedia/consumerelectronics/highmat.aspx

The displayed link takes you to Microsoft's HighMAT pages. These describe how the format works and the clear benefits to users of Windows Media products, including Windows Movie Maker 2.

-  **HighMAT stands** for High-Performance Media Access Technology – a joint venture between the Microsoft Corporation and Matsushita Electric Industrial Co Ltd. (aka Panasonic).
-  **The standard** has been developed to enable us to produce CDs that play back flawlessly on CD or DVD players.
-  **HighMAT enables** you to create and manage collections of digital music, photographs and video. This isn't new, but the way this is done determines how successfully you can share your media.
-  **Burning a** HighMAT CD or DVD that includes your movie means you are guaranteed that it will playback on a HighMAT-supporting CD or DVD player. At present, you cannot be confident that a VCD will play on a DVD player, even one that supports VCD.
-  **A string** of top-name hardware manufacturers have announced HighMAT supporting devices in the pipeline.

Email a Movie

Yes, you can send movies by email, but they need to be short and sweet

You can send anything by email, as long as it can be generated on a PC. It's easy and relatively quick, which is why so many nasty computer viruses propagate via email. This means that it is reasonably easy to send a movie by email, but before you do so, you need to consider a few things.

Movie files are generally large. It takes a long time for big files to send or receive in email because of the limitations of your internet connection. If you have a good connection, it is easy to forget that

others may not be so fortunate. You will seriously annoy someone by sending a huge attachment because it ties up the recipient's internet connection and can stop other important messages getting through.

For these reasons, it's a good idea to only send very short movies by email. As a courtesy, call the recipient before sending it to check if they don't mind receiving a large attachment. Don't send it unannounced, because your efforts won't be well received if they delay an important message.

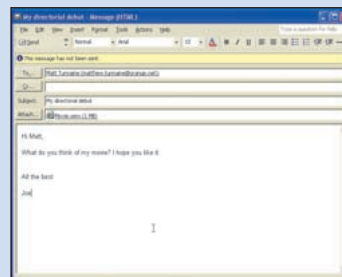


Different ISPs and email providers apply different maximum limits to the size of emails. Windows Movie Maker 2 warns you if your attached movie exceeds 1MB. You can alter this limit, but before you do so, ask your ISP what its maximum email file size is.

Movie Mail

Clip your movie to an email and send it to someone you know

To send your film by email, start the Save Movie Wizard by choosing File > Save Movie File and then selecting Email from the Movie Location list. If your movie is short enough to create a file that is 1MB or less in size, the file is created as soon as you click Next. Once the file is saved, you have the choice to play the movie, save a copy to your PC, or send it now. Windows Movie Maker 2 attaches the movie to a blank email message. Address it and add an explanatory note before clicking Send. How quickly it sends depends on your internet connection.



Send your movie as an attachment in an email to your friends.

Web Movies

Reach a worldwide audience. Put your movie on the web



You can sign up to a video hosting provider by following the relevant link in the Save Movie Wizard. This opens a web page showing local providers. Choose the one you want and sign up on its website.

Saving your movie to the web is an attractive prospect because you only need to circulate the web address for your video and your viewers can retrieve it at their leisure. Video files are large and can take a long time to download. You probably won't have room on your web space for it. This is why Windows Movie Maker 2 enables you to upload your movie to a video hosting provider that will store your video file for others to download or watch as a streaming file. Windows Movie Maker 2 will



Save your movie at lowest resolution so that dial-up modem users can watch it.

optimise your movie file for modems, ISDN or DSL internet connections. Choose the connection that most of your viewers use.



You don't need to use a video hosting service. If you have enough web space to house your video file, you can just upload it to your own website. Check with your ISP to find out how much web space you have.

- **Choose to** save your video to the web on the first page of the Save Movie Wizard. This determines its size and quality.
- **Select a** setting that will enable your viewers with the lowest bandwidth to still watch the movie. This will normally be a 56k modem, but if you know that everyone will be able to see it over higher bandwidth, select ISDN or DSL.
- **Consider saving** the movie twice at different settings if you have space with your web host. This way you can let your viewers decide which file to go for, based on their connection speed.
- **Once your** movie is compiled at the chosen resolution, Windows Movie Maker 2 displays the most current common video hosting providers. You need an active internet connection for this.
- **Either select** a video hosting provider and sign in, or save the file to your PC to upload to the web later on.

Back to Tape

Record your movie to digital video tape on a DV camera

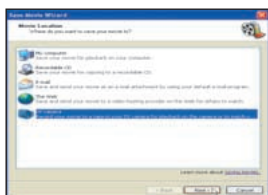
The world may be embracing DVDs, but we still love video cassettes. With VHS recorders at record low prices, very few people are without a video. Therefore, for your movie to reach the masses, you'll probably want to consider a VHS release.

To do this, you will need to output your movie to a digital camcorder and then dub this down to tape. The only other option is to use a graphics card that supports TV-out and then play your movie full screen while recording it on a video recorder

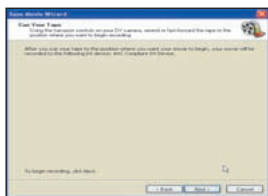
linked to the TV-out socket. Recording to a digital camcorder is the preferred option. It is really easy, just as long as you have connected the camcorder to your PC via FireWire or USB. Your computer can prepare the movie and then control your camcorder to manage the recording. It's worth noting that the contents of the tape in the camcorder will be overwritten, so either cue the tape up to a blank section or use a blank cassette. Some camcorders don't support DV-in, so check your manual.



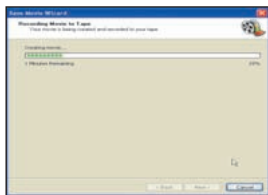
To transfer video to a VHS tape, you need to connect your camcorder to a standard VCR. You should have the right leads to do this bundled in with the camera – this is usually an output lead to three phono connectors: yellow for video, white for left audio, and red for right audio.



- 1 Start the Save Movie Wizard by choosing File > Save Movie File. With your digital camcorder connected to your PC by means of its FireWire or USB connection, choose the DV Camera option on the Movie Location page. Press the Next button.



- 2 Ensure your camcorder is turned on and in video recorder mode. This usually means turning the main control knob to Play. You will be warned if the camera is not in the correct mode. Wind the tape to the point at which you want to start recording.



- 3 Click Next. You will be warned that the tape in your camera will be overwritten. Click Yes to continue. Your movie is first prepared and then recorded to your camera. You may be able to see it play through the viewfinder as it records.



Some video recorders only have scart sockets. Most electrical shops will sell you an adapter for converting the video and audio phono plugs to a scart plug for a few quid.