Photography Club of Quail Creek Presentation on Creating Slide Shows Using Movie Maker
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Movie Maker, originally built into Microsoft Windows until Windows 10, is a free program to easily produce slide shows using your photos and videos. You can add music or narration as you build your show and then export it in many different formats. The software can be downloaded from: https://www.windows-movie-maker.org/

Step 1- Sort and select the photos you are going to include in your slide show using whatever method you like. Create a new folder on your computer and copy the selected photos into that folder. Open Movie Maker and on the Home tab, click the Add Videos and Photos button. Navigate to the folder with your selected photos and click Open. This will bring all the photos into the program. Or, you can use Movie Maker as a slide sorter if you want by clicking on the Add Videos and Photos button, navigate to the folder on your computer where all your photos are and follow the same import process. You can then sort and remove any photos you aren't going to use. This is also a good time to set the aspect ratio of your show by clicking on the Project tab. Using Wide Screen may cut off some of your images so I suggest using the Standard 4:3 option.

Step 2- All the selected photos will be shown in the right hand box as thumbnails. At this time you can move photos around and put them in the order you want to show them. Simply put your arrow on a photo, hold the left mouse button and move the image to wherever you want it.

Step 3- Once all the photos are where you want them, you can add a Title Slide and an end slide if you want. With the cursor on the right panel at the first image, click on the Title Slide button. Movie Maker will add a blank slide that you can put in whatever text you wish. You can control the font, color, background color. Follow the same step to add an end slide.

Step 4- Now the creative process begins. First decide how long you want your show to run. With a little math you can determine how long each slide is shown. On the Home tool bar, click Select All and then click on the Edit tab and set the duration of your slides using the dropdown arrow on the Duration box. Now you are ready to select the slide transition or transitions if you want different ones for each slide.(not recommended as the show becomes too busy looking) To set your transitions, leaving all slides selected, click on the Animation tab. There you will find all sorts of different transitions and a box to set how long you want the transition to last. Keep in mind the transition time adds to the overall length of your show. Once selected, if you want all the slides to have the same transition, click on the Apply to All button on the right side of the tool bar. You can then go back and change the transition of individual slides if you want. During this stage, you can also apply visual effects to any or all of your slides using the Visual Effects tab. Play around with all the options and see what you like.

Step 5- Adding music or narration can be done now. If you are using music from your music library, click on the Add Music button and navigate to the song or songs you want to add. Make sure that the cursor on the slide sorter is on the first slide. Select the music file(s) you want to add and click Open. This will add those files to the show. Once added you can adjust the timing and duration using the Music Tools Options tab. There, you can fine tune the sound to the show including fade in and out. If you are going to do a narration, click on the Record Narration button on the Home tab and follow the prompts. You can use the fade out command on the last sound file to fade out the music at the end

of the show. This is nice if your sound is longer than the show. There is another option you can use. If you want the slide show to run just the length of your sound track, you can select the Fit to Music button in the Projects tab. Be careful though, that will automatically set the slide duration based on the length of the music you have added.

Note: At any time you can see how your show is progressing. To do this, simply put the cursor on the slide sorter panel on whatever slide you want to start on, and click the play button on the left panel under the current slide image. It's a good way to see changes you make as you go along.

Step 6- Now you have built your show, fine-tuned it and are ready to show it. There are two actions to take. First is to go to File-Save As and name your show to save the working file should you want to go back and make changes down the road. Keep in mind this is not saving the show in a published form. Next is the step that is often missed. You must click on the Save Movie button on the right of the Home tab and choose what format you want to save the movie as. You can save it as an .mp4 video file or you can save it as a .wmv Windows media file. The standard is .mp4 as it will run on most everything, by using the Save Movie command you will actually be creating a video file that includes all the photos and sound. The file you originally saved as a .wlmp is just the working file and does not contain the actual photo and sound files.

There are a lot of tools built into this free software that will allow you to make some great slide shows. The best way to learn this software is to experiment. It's very user friendly and intuitive. There are of course many other programs that do the same thing, some much more advanced than others, and more expensive. Have fun with this!