

Using Photo Story for Windows

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A digital Photo Story is a visual medium comprising a series of static images viewed using a package such as Windows Media Player, to which music and/or commentary can be added. The Technology is often described as a means to 'show and tell', which perhaps hints at the ease with which children can make use of the package. However, despite the simplicity of creation and use of digital Photo Stories there are clear applications within the Higher Education sector, particularly where traditional modes of delivery may not be available or accessible, distance learning being one example. In this article Yvonne Mitchell provides an overview of the technique, based on her work with Mental Health Nursing students at the University of Hertfordshire.

Education purpose

The educational purpose of making a short digital story can be summarised as:

- To construct, deconstruct, pace and précis a narrative as a reflective narrator
- To zero in on the primary elements of the curriculum
- To support the diverse learning needs of students
- To support student-centred activities and the student voice
- To acquire value; added outcomes over and above the original required learning outcomes
- To support the use cost effective web 2.0 technologies as innovative learning tools.

and rather more specific to the teaching of Mental Health Student Nurses:

- To align visual imagery alongside emotive text to raise awareness and challenge current practice
- To share with student peers as a vehicle of reflection of the realities of practice.

Planning your digital Photo Story

- Briefly and succinctly write your story in a focussed way about 500 words.

- Re-write, edit and repeat.
- Search for your images, they may be downloaded from your digital camera, (Do remember to seek permission to use people in the images). (Alternatively free download sites that support creative commons).

Online digital photo resources

www.flickr.com

www.freephoto.com

www.freeimages.co.uk

Useful tips

- Start with a modest story to gain confidence
- Honour copyright and support creative commons from the outset regarding image downloads
- Keep any text brief and hook onto a reference point to anchor and provide credibility supporting the learning outcomes.
- Enjoy and practice!

Downloads & system requirements

Photo Story 3 for Windows can be downloaded from the Microsoft website:

<http://www.microsoft.com/windowsxp/using/digitalphotography/PHotoStory/default.aspx>

and from the same site there is a useful step-by-step guide to creating a Photo Story:

<http://www.microsoft.com/windowsxp/using/digitalphotography/photostory/tips/firststory.aspx>

Minimum system requirements are as follows:

- 256 MB RAM
- 400 MB of available hard-disk space
- Microsoft Windows XP Home Edition, Windows XP Professional, Windows XP Media Centre Edition, or Windows XP Tablet PC Edition.

You will also need a fast internet connection (i.e. not dial-up), access to a suitable microphone to add narratives to your Photo Story, and either speakers or headphones to

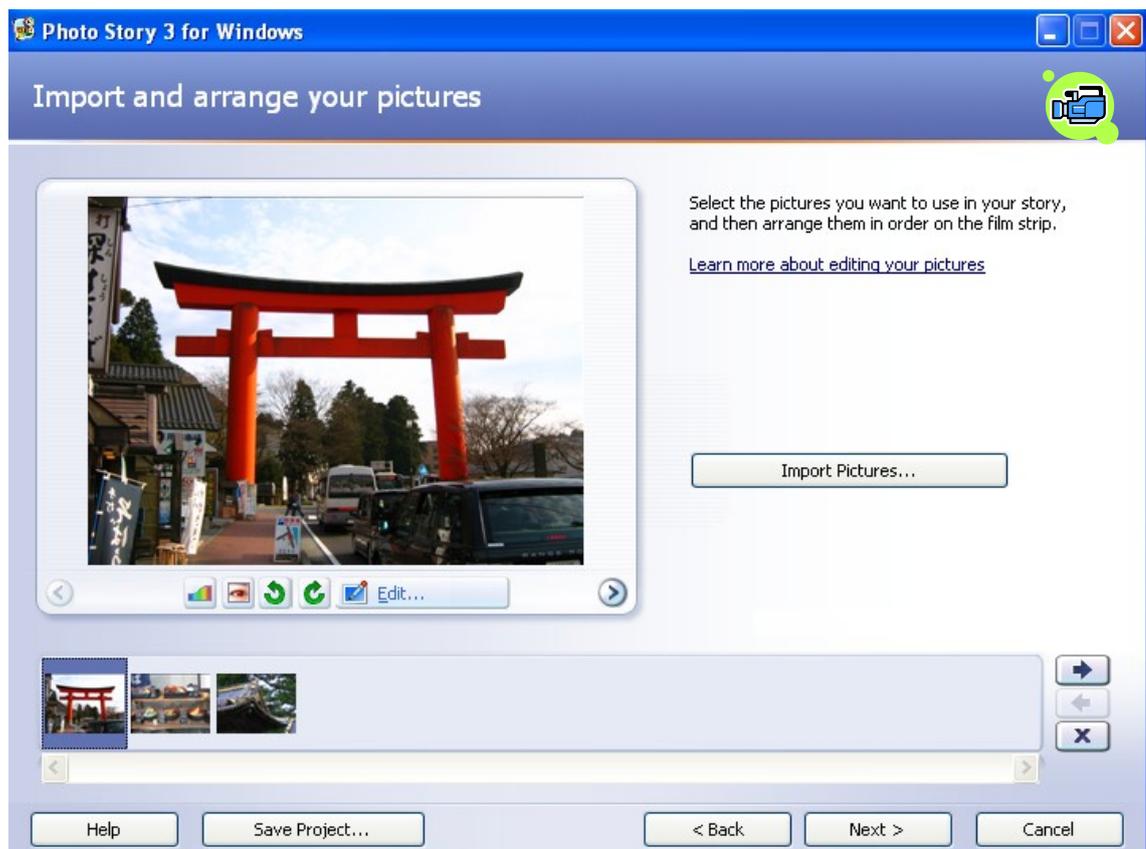
playback the final recording if audio (music and/or narratives) is used.

Step-by-step guide

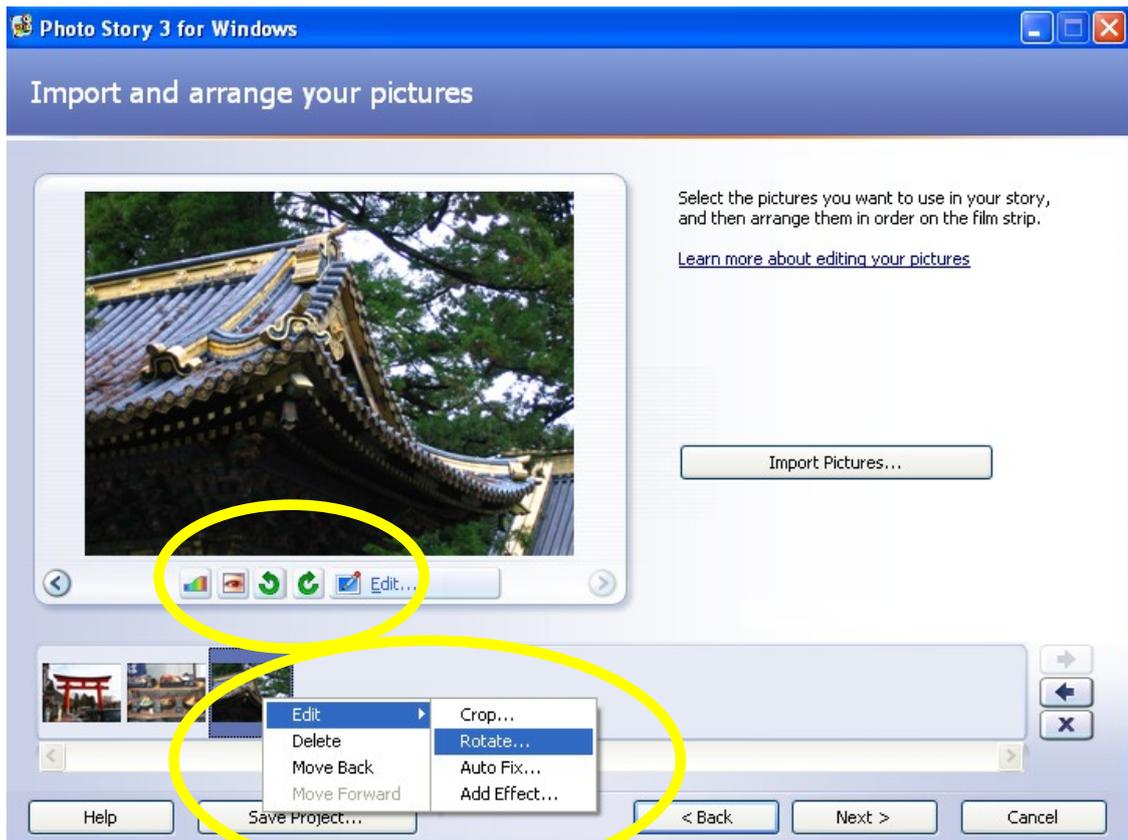
Several of the screenshots below can be viewed as instructional videos by clicking on the multimedia icon

Importing images

Importing images is extremely quick and simple. Click on the 'Import Pictures...' button and you will then be presented with a file manager style window for you to select images from the folders on your PC. There is no need to select images individually: multiple images can be highlighted and imported up to a maximum of 200. The position of images in the 'story' can be shifted by dragging along the storyboard/filmstrip at the lower edge of the window.

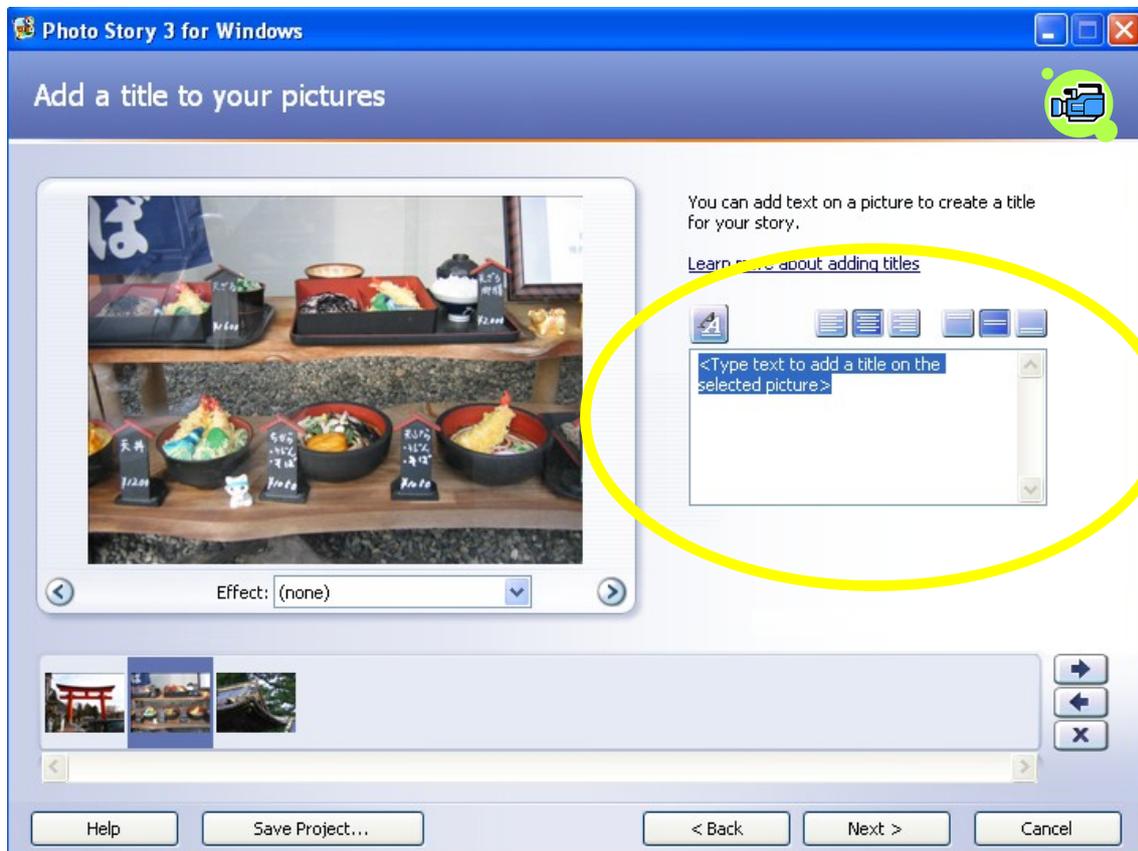


Images can also be edited (albeit to a limited extent) by right clicking on the image in the storyboard/filmstrip or by selecting the buttons just below the image as show in the image below:



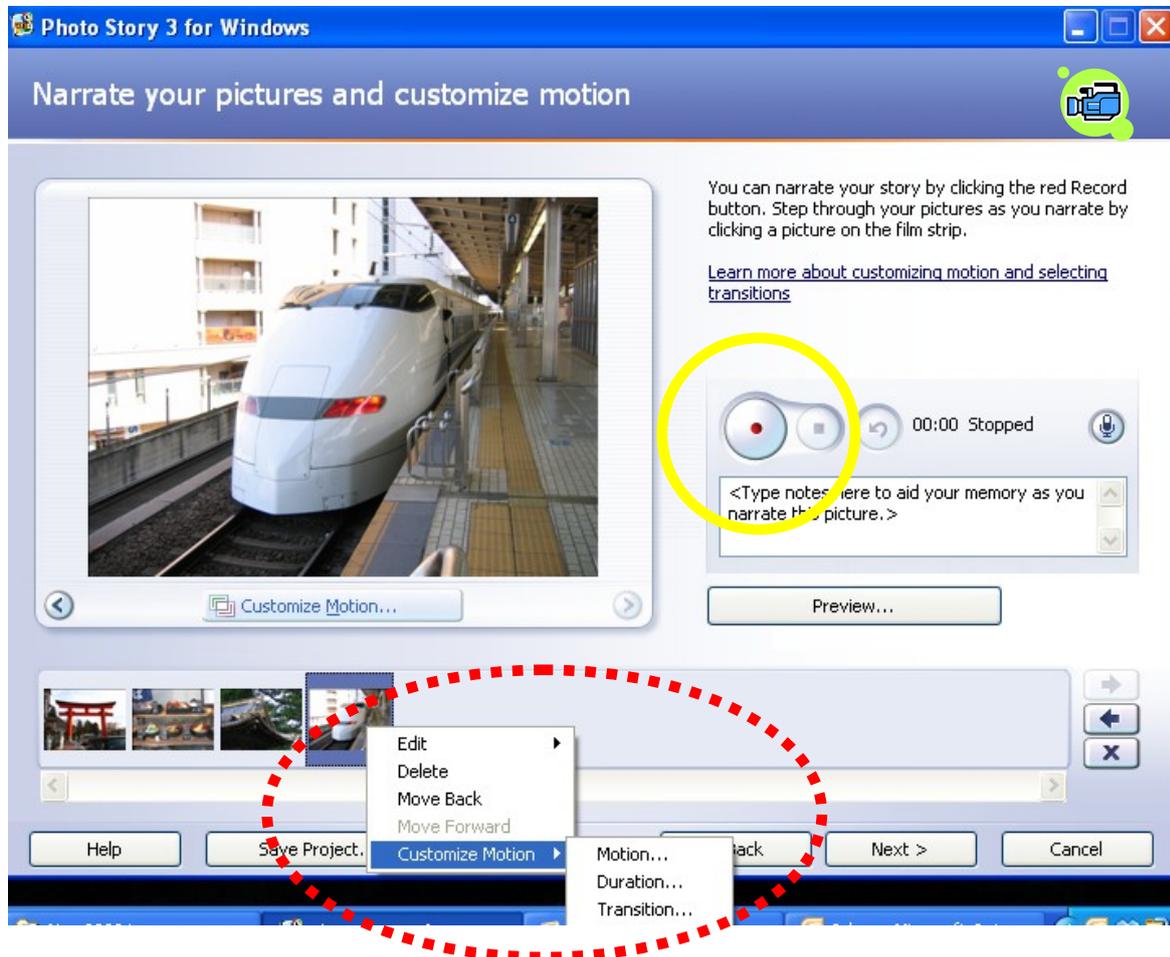
Adding text

Text can be added to appear as an overlay on selected images and the intended use of this function is to add a title to images where needed. Alignment (left, right or centre), position on page (top, bottom, centre) and font attributes (size, colour, font style etc.) can all be readily adjusted using the buttons circled below, while text is typed directly into the highlighted dialogue box:



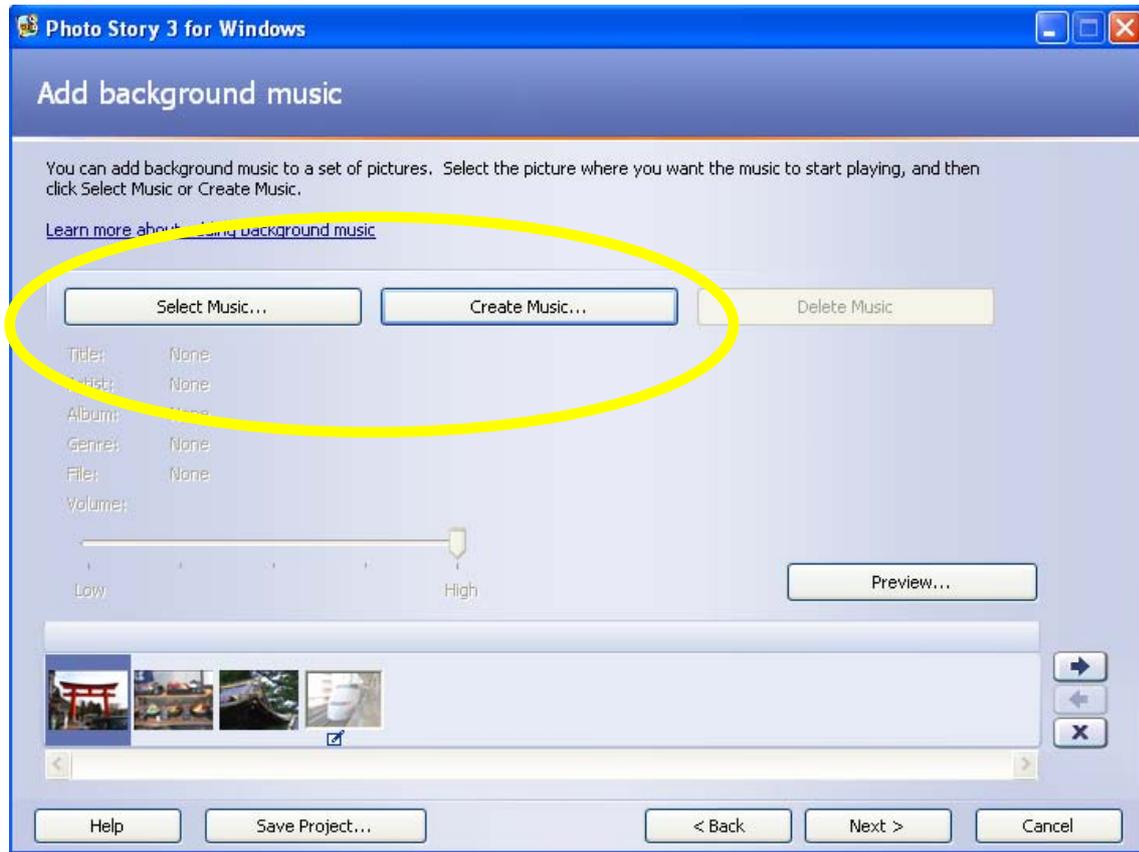
Narration and recording

Once images are chosen and text added if needed it is then time to record any narrative that accompanies each picture, or add background music, or both! To narrate your slide simply click on the record button circled in the image below and talk through your slides, advancing them as you go at the appropriate point. Click on stop when the recording is complete. You can also adjust the transition 'style' between images, speed of transition and other attributes of 'motion' all of which are easily previewed prior to starting your recording (circled in red below):



It is also possible to add background music to the Photo Story. You can either upload existing music files from your computer, or create your own using various default genres, moods and styles by clicking on the 'create music' button and once again, this can all be readily previewed:

Finally, Photo Story will ask you how you would like to save your video and where. Once this is determined there is a short delay while the package 'builds' your story and you will then be given the option to view your story, create another story, or exit the application.



Sample Photo Story

The link below directs to a Photo Story created by a former University of Hertfordshire Student. Annalisa Caddy, now a Mental Health Nurse Practitioner, was able to 'show and tell' her uniquely produced digital story based on the recovery of a 9 year old child from anorexia nervosa to health and well being.

[Click icon for Annalisa's Photo Story](#)

