Sun City Summerlin
Computer Club

Microsoft Windows Vista
Home Premium and Ultimate Editions

Media Center Tour

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Agenda

- **Media Center – What Is It?**
- **Hardware Requirements**
- **Media Center Desktop**
- **Pictures**
- **Music**
- **Videos and Movies**
- **TV Tuning and Recording**
- **CD and DVD Burning**
- **Assorted Tasks**
- **Web Links**

Media Center - What Is It?

- **Alternate User Interface to Vista**
  - **Only on Vista Home Premium / Ultimate**
- **Evolved from Windows XP Media Center Edition**
- **Can co-exist with the Windows Vista Desktop**
  - **Run it as a regular window or full screen**
  - **Features Large Characters and icons**
- **Can support a remote control**
  - **"10 foot user interface" (for TVs)**
- **Primarily Oriented to Multi-media Activities**
- **Takes Some Getting used To**
- **Most MC features also accessible from Start Menu**

Hardware Requirements

- **Media Center Requires _Full_ Support for Aero Glass**

- **Minimum Requirements for Aero Glass**
  - **1 GHz P4 CPU., 1 GB of RAM**
  - **DirectX 9 Graphics Card with WDDM driver, Pixel Shader 2, 32 bits / pixel (for Aero glass UI)**
  - **15 GB free hard disk space on a 40GB drive**

- **Tom's Recommended Requirements for Media Center**
  - **1.8 GHz P4 CPU., 2 GB of RAM**
  - **DirectX 9 Graphics Card with WDDM driver, Pixel Shader 2, 32 bits / pixel (for Aero glass UI)**
  - **100 GB free hard disk space on a 200GB drive**

  - **Windows Vista Upgrade Advisor**
    - **http://www.microsoft.com/windowsvista/getready/upgradeadvisor/default.mspx**

Demo of Media Center Desktop

- **Designed for use with a remote control**
  - **Vertical arrows to move between major functions**
  - **Horizontal arrows to move between sub-functions**
  - **Click to select a specific function**
  - **Click "go back" arrow at upper left to go back a level**
  - **Click round Windows icon to go full screen**
- **For TV viewing and recording, you need a TV Tuner**
  - **Internal PCI card or external USB tuner device**
- **Functions in Media Center similar to Vista Programs:**
  - **Media Player, Movie Maker, Photo Gallery**

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Media Center Pictures

- **Automatically locates pictures for library**
- **Can play slide shows**
- **Can play music in background**
- **Browse around by different attributes:**
  - **Date taken, Tags, Folders, …**
- **Can adjust settings for slide shows**
  - **Speed, transitions, panning**

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3

Media Center Music

- **Organize and view your library**
  - *Artisit, Album, Genre, Song List*
- **Play single songs**
- **Queue up songs (now playing)**
- **Save the Queue as a Play List**
- **Delete Songs**
- **Edit song information**
- **Buy music**
- **Burn music to CDs**
- **Turn on visualizations**

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Media Center Videos and Movies

- **Part of Pictures and Movies area**
- **Video Library**
  - **Similar to picture & music library**
  - **Recognizes various video file formats**
- **Various Views**
  - **Video name, Date taken**
- **Online Media**
  - **Streaming video from the Internet**
  - **Seems to be mostly pay**

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TV Tuning and Recording

- **Requires a TV tuner card or external USB tuner**
- **Can set up Media Center to know channels, preferences**
- **Basically lets you use your PC as a TV**
- **Need an antenna or cable feed**
- **Most likely won't work well with DirecTV or Dish**

CD and DVD Burning

- **Media Center has a "burn" function**
- **Offers "contextually relevant" burn choices**
  - **Depends on type of blank media in drive**
  - **Data CD / DVD**
  - **Music (Audio) CD**
- **To burn Video DVDs, you must first insert a blank DVD**
  - **DVD+R, DVD-R, DVD+RW, DVD-RW**
- **Apparently, no choice for MP3 CDs or DVDs**

Assorted Tasks

- **Media Center lets you do some basic computer management functions.**
- **Choose the Tasks function**
  - **You can shutdown your PC.**
  - **You can Restart your PC.**
  - **You can sleep your PC.**
  - **You can log off your PC**
  - **You can burn CDs and DVDs**
  - **You can sync to/from your external device.**
  - **You can adjust settings for the Media Center.**

Media Center – Web Links

- **Microsoft Windows Vista Site**
  - **http://www.microsoft.com/windowsvista**

  - **http://www.microsoft.com/windows/products/windowsvista/features/details/mediacenter.mspx**

- **Review – Coding Horror Blog**
  - **http://www.codinghorror.com/blog/archives/000784.html**

**Questions
And
Answers**

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