

## Media Blitz

With the birth of my first child comes the media blitz. My daughter Kaitlyn was born just two weeks ago and already she has taken up a couple of gigabytes of storage space on my computer system. I know, it's a geeky way to measure the love of your child but who can resist taking pictures and video of her every moment of life?

As a new parent I am amazed at how technology integrates into my life. My wife and I take a hundred pictures of her every day. The digital video camera has never gotten so much use, and the nursery music is never ending. Lets not forget to mention the requests from family for new pictures to be e-mailed every few days. I can't imagine trying to balance all of these tasks without the use of a computer!

I wrote a few years ago about Microsoft's Media Center Edition, (MCE) software. E-mail me if you need a reprint of this article. I still believe it is the best, most useful operating system Microsoft has ever released. It has proved especially useful now that Kaitlyn is in our life. This software allows us to organize and easily access all of the pictures and video of Kaitlyn. In addition all of our music, including the nursery songs, have all been transferred and categorized into libraries on the Media Center for easy playback using a simple remote control. Now when friends and family come over the Media Center is up and running on the television so that we can share every moment of her life with everyone.

Another incredibly useful program that Microsoft provides free of charge to all Windows XP users in Windows Movie Maker. I have written about video editing software bundles in the past. This one however is very simplistic. I think it's the perfect software suite for parents on the run, like me, that don't have the time or patients to learn to use the more complicated video editing suites.

Windows Movie Maker is the perfect software to use when you just need to get it done. I was amazed at how automated the entire process was. After plugging in my digital video camera the software immediately rewound the tape and began capturing the video to the computer. After the video is captured the software gives you the ability to add titles and transitions to the video to make it more interesting.

Windows Movie Maker is not the most robust video editing software around but it offers just the right level creativity with ease of use for the novice filmmaker.

The Computer Depot has always offered FREE diagnostic service and up-front pricing. Call Thomas, Roger, or Aaron at 947-0749 to find out how we can help you with your computer problems.