Using Microsoft Encoder to Create a Video Capture Movie

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In this chapter, you will learn the following to World Class CAD standards:

- Locate and Download the Microsoft Encoder Website on the Internet
- Install the Microsoft Encoder Software
- Make a Movie with Microsoft Encoder

Locate and Download the Microsoft Encoder Website on Internet

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In this chapter, you will learn how to locate, download, install and employ the Microsoft Encoder video capture software. Microsoft Encoder is an application that enables anyone to make quality videos that others can view and hear and in most instances will result in the viewer learning a process or procedure quickly. The software is free to anyone with a computer running an authentic copy of a Microsoft 2000, XP or Vista operating systems. After following the steps in this chapter, you can begin to make training videos that show the steps to completing a task, which is very helpful to a large percentage of students who are visual learners.

You can begin to learn how to use Microsoft Encoder by venturing to their website. As shown in Figure H.1, select the start button on the Windows desktop and the Internet Explorer shortcut to launch the Internet explorer application.

Figure H.1 – Starting Up the Microsoft Internet Explorer Application

On the address bar in Internet Explorer, type www.google.com or the name of the any other of your favorite search engines, so you can locate the Microsoft Encoder website. As shown in Figure H.2, type Microsoft Encoder into the search textbox and press the search

command button. The number one site for the keywords Microsoft Encoder should be the following URL.

http://www.microsoft.com/windows/windowsmedia/forpros/encoder/default.mspx

Figure H.2 – Searching for Microsoft Encoder on a Search Engine

After we choose the Microsoft Encoder website, there are three options you have for video capturing software. You can download Microsoft Encoder 9, which runs on 32 bit, Windows 2000 or XP operating systems. Another choice is the 64-bit Microsoft Encoder 9 edition for 64 bit Windows 2003 Server, XP or Vista operating systems. The last choice is the Microsoft Expression Encoder for publishing to Microsoft Silverlight.

We recommend that you select either versions of the Microsoft Encoder 9 software. In this chapter, we choose the 32-bit version. On the 32-bit Encoder webpage, you can explore the system requirements for video capturing. The minimum computer hardware requirement to make the best quality video is to have a 2 GHz, dual core processor with Windows XP and 256 MB of RAM.

Select the Continue command button to validate your version of the Microsoft operating system. After a few seconds, the webpage will update with the button changing to Download. Press the Download button and the File Download – Security Warning window appears. Go ahead and save the file to your desktop by pressing the Save command button as shown in Figure H.5.
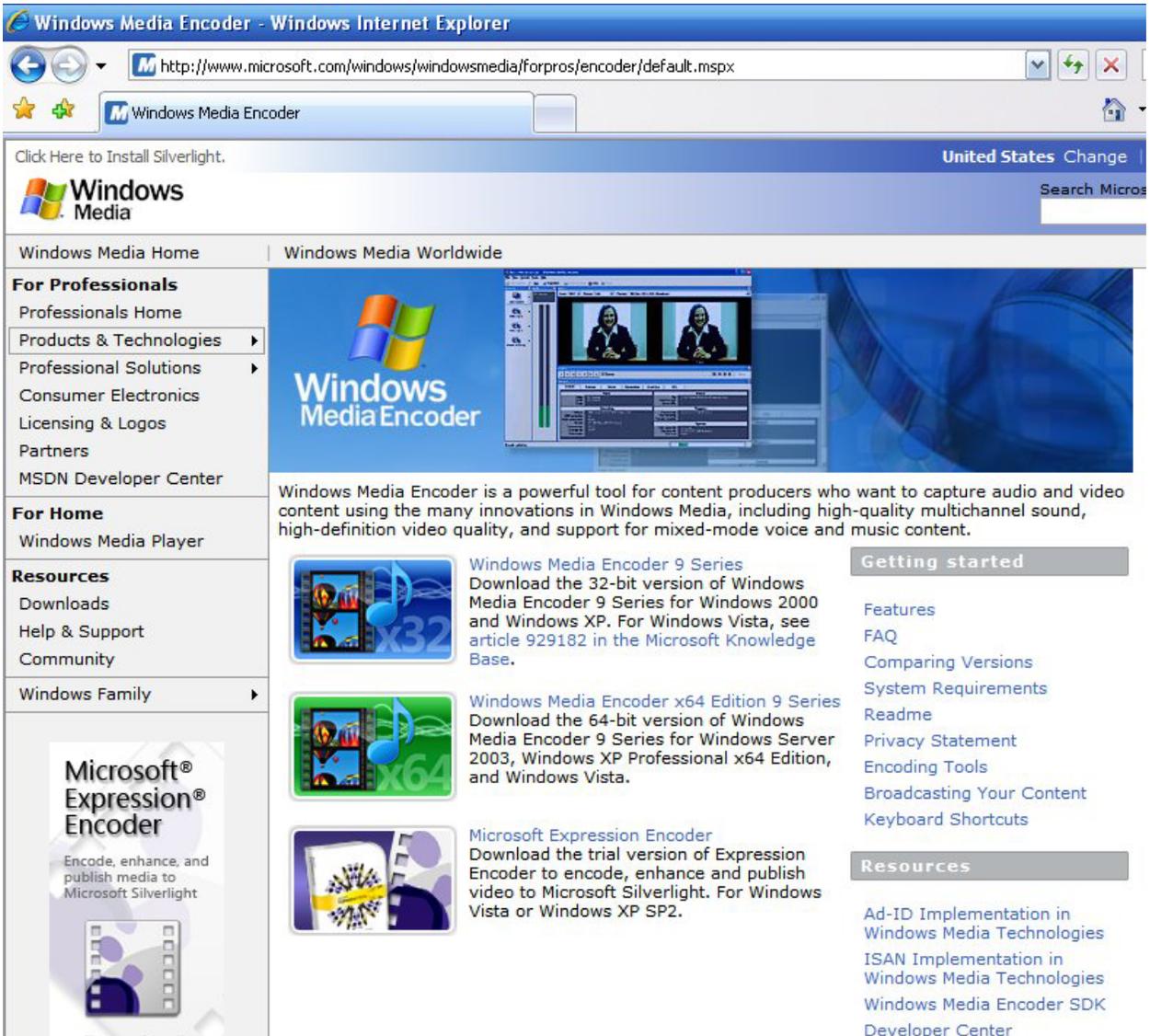
Figure H.3 – The Microsoft Encoder Website
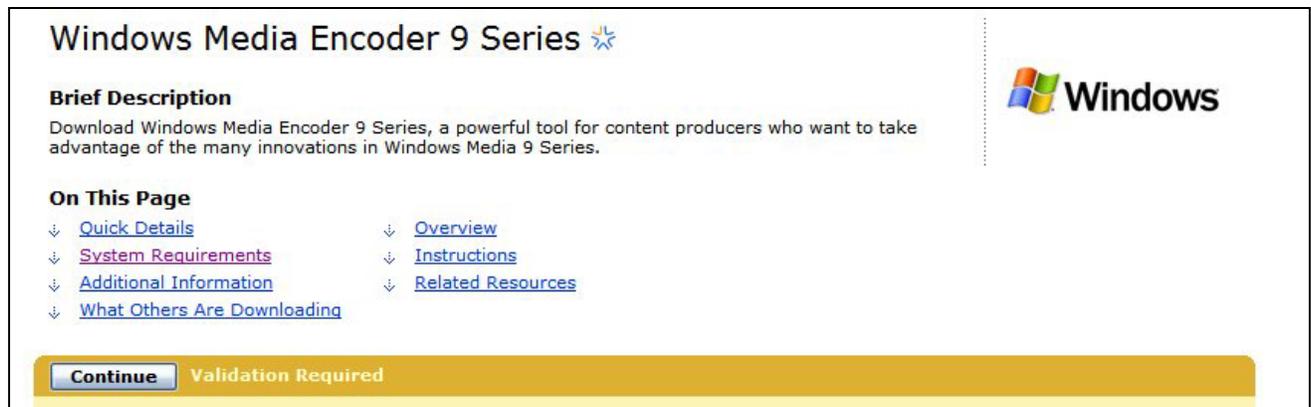
Figure H.4 – The Microsoft Encoder Specifications

The download process may take a few minutes or an hour depending on your Internet connection speed. We used a broadband connection and the 9.45 MB file was transferred to the desktop in a few minutes.
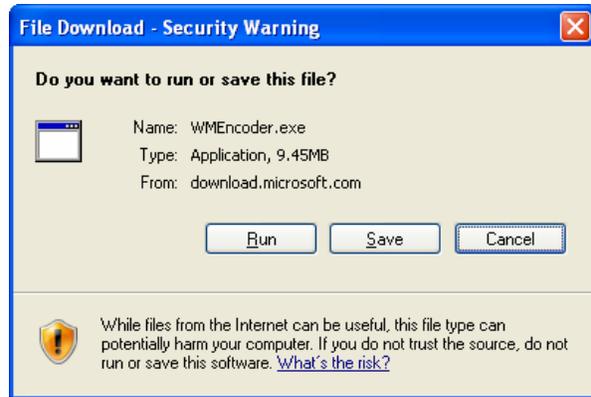
Figure H.5 – File Download - Security Warning

Install the Windows Encoder Software
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When the file transfer is complete, close all the applications you have open like Internet Explorer and then you will double click on the WMEncoder file on the desktop to start the install process. The Windows Media Encoder 9 Series Setup window will appear. Select the Next command button to continue.

Figure H.6 – Starting the Setup Wizard

Then the Windows Media Encoder 9 Series License Agreement dialogue box will prompt you for two choices, to accept or not to accept the terms of the Encoder License Agreement. We choose "I accept the terms…" and then press the Next command button.
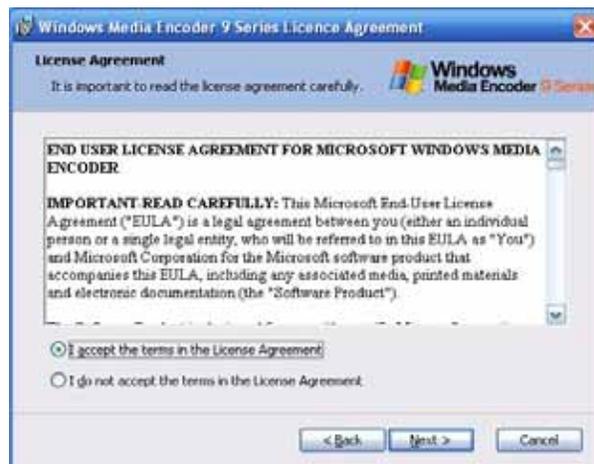
Figure H.7 – License Agreement

The subsequent window will show the default installation folder are you can place the folder in another location. We recommend using the default location.

Figure H.8 – Installation Folder

Next, click the Install command button to commence the software installation. The next window will show a green status bar, which will grow from 0 to 100% as the application is loaded to your computer.

Figure H.9 – Ready to Install

The last window will inform you of a successful setup and you will want to pick the Finish command button to complete the program installation.

Figure H.10 – Finish the Setup Wizard

Make a Movie with Windows Encoder

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Launching Microsoft Encoder is as simple as picking the Windows Media from the Program Files list in the Startup Menu and then Windows Media Encoder as shown.

Figure H.11 – Launching Microsoft Encoder
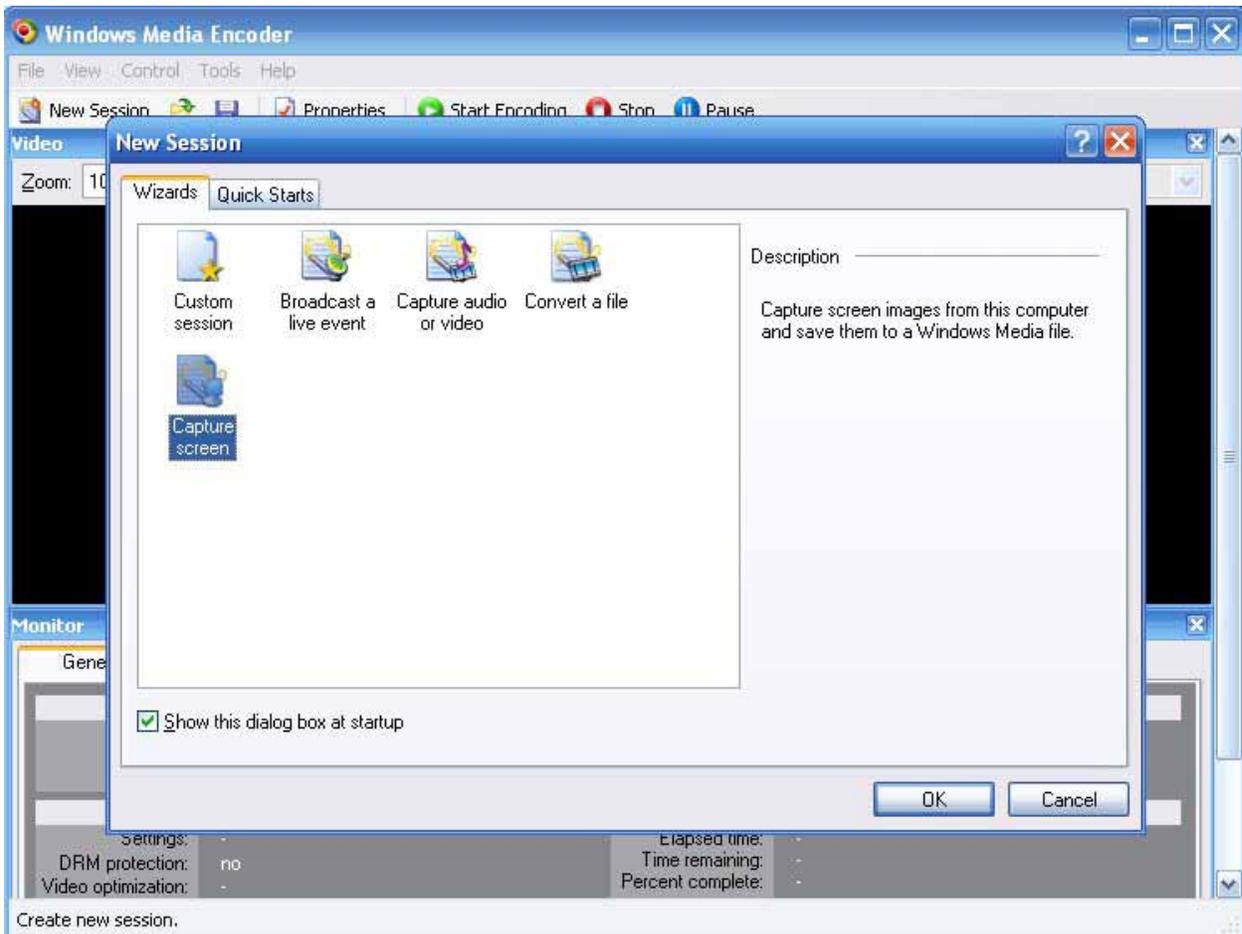
Figure H.12 – Select Capture Screen

Now that the software is loaded and you are ready to make your first video, highlight the Capture Screen icon and press the OK command button.

For this exercise, we will pick the entire monitor screen as shown in Figure H.13 and check the capture audio from the default audio device, which will allow you to record your voice from your computer microphone or headset. Occasionally, you may want to opt for a different method of video capture by selecting the Specific Window option button. You would choose this option when working in only one application window. Even less often, you could setup the region of the computer monitor for video. We use the entire screen and specific window options regularly, but hardly ever just the region. After choosing one option and the audio checkbox, click the Next command button.

Figure H.13 – New Capture Screen Session

The next step is to name the output file. The video and sound is sent directly to this file during the capture process, so when you stop the video and sound, the file is saved in the location set at these beginning prompts.
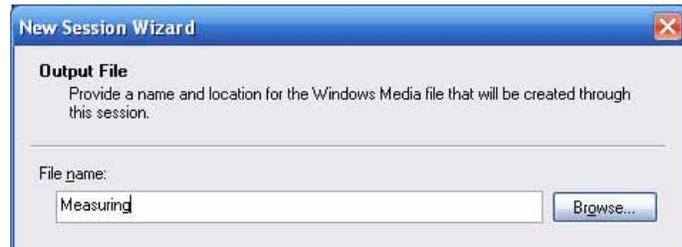
Figure H.14 – Output File Name

If you do not type in the entire file path including the folder location, the computer will inform you of the entire folder path and file name with a message box as shown in Figure H.15.

Figure H.15 – An Alert Message Box

If you desire to place the video file on the desktop as we did in Figure H.16, then select the Browse button and change the Save in location to your Desktop.
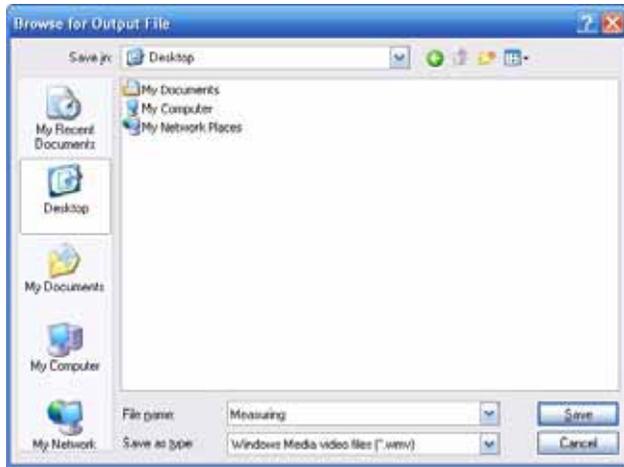
Figure H.16 – Customizing the File Location

Figure H.17 – Final Output File Name

The next window allows you to elect whether you want low, medium or high quality. For your first web video, pick the Medium option button and watch the results of your work. If you are satisfied with the condition and the content of the movie, then move to publishing. If you are not happy with the resolution, choose the high quality alternative. Remember, for non-web related movies; always pick the high quality radial button. Running a large file movie on your Windows XP, Vista or 2003 Server should not hinder a local high-speed Intranet connection using Category 5 cable.
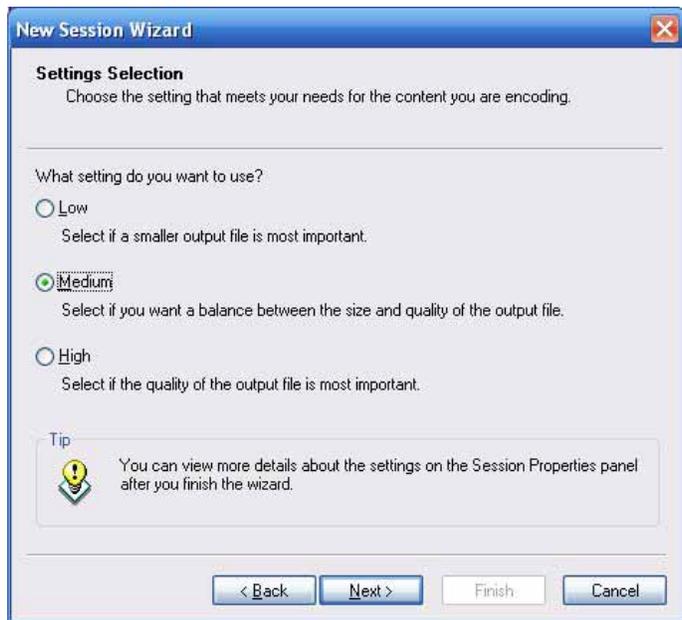
Figure H.18 – Film Quality

The New Session Wizard window allows you to input publishing information such as title, author, copyright, rating and description. We suggest to you to take the time and fill out this information correctly. If you are being paid for the work, the copyright textbox should include the name of the organization that owns the work. This can be different from the author's name. For example, if World Class CAD, LLC is paying for the work, they are the owners of the copyright and you would still be the author. Add a rating if you feel the content warrants a warning and incorporate a complete description of the film.

Figure H.19 – Authoring Information

The Settings Review window gives you feedback of all the decisions you made concerning the video capture project. If you do not like any or all the choices you made, utilize the Back button to return to the specific new session wizard window and make the appropriate change. We usually do not check the "Begin capturing screens when I click Finish", so are poised to start the movie making at the next screen. Select the Finish command button and the display will appear as shown in Figure H.21.

Figure H.20 – Settings Review

Figure H.21 – Starting the Video and Sound Capture

Now that you have completed the initial setup, you need to get your headset in place and you want to be mentally prepared to make a film that captures your live computer screen and your voice. When you are ready, pick the green Start Encoding arrow shown in Figure H.21.
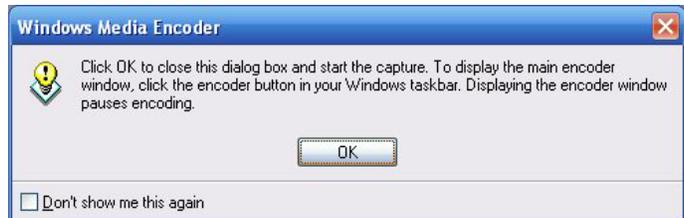
Figure H.22 – Video Message Box

One more alert message will popup on the monitor as shown in Figure H.22. Select OK and the video and voice capture begins. Occasionally, you will fumble the few words or actions right at the beginning of the video, so click back on the Windows Encoder application and select the red Stop button as shown in Figure H.24. To write over the existing file, just select the New Session button as shown in Figure H.25 and we will have the overwrite video alert message appear as shown in Figure H.26. Press the Yes command button and you can begin the video again.
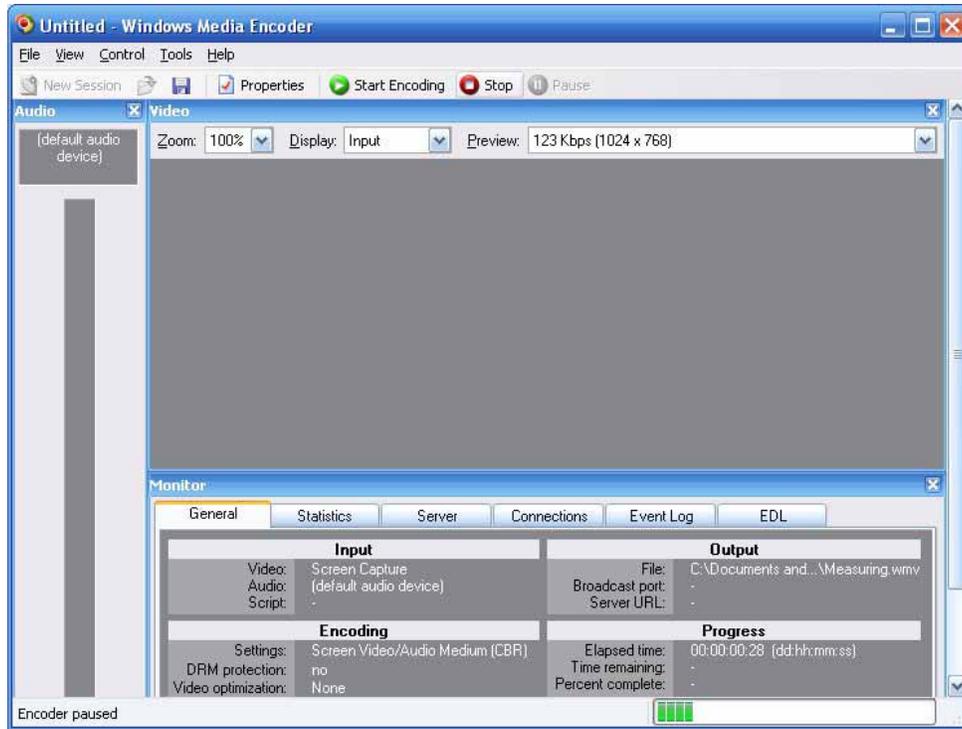
Figure H.23 –Video and Sound Capture in Progress
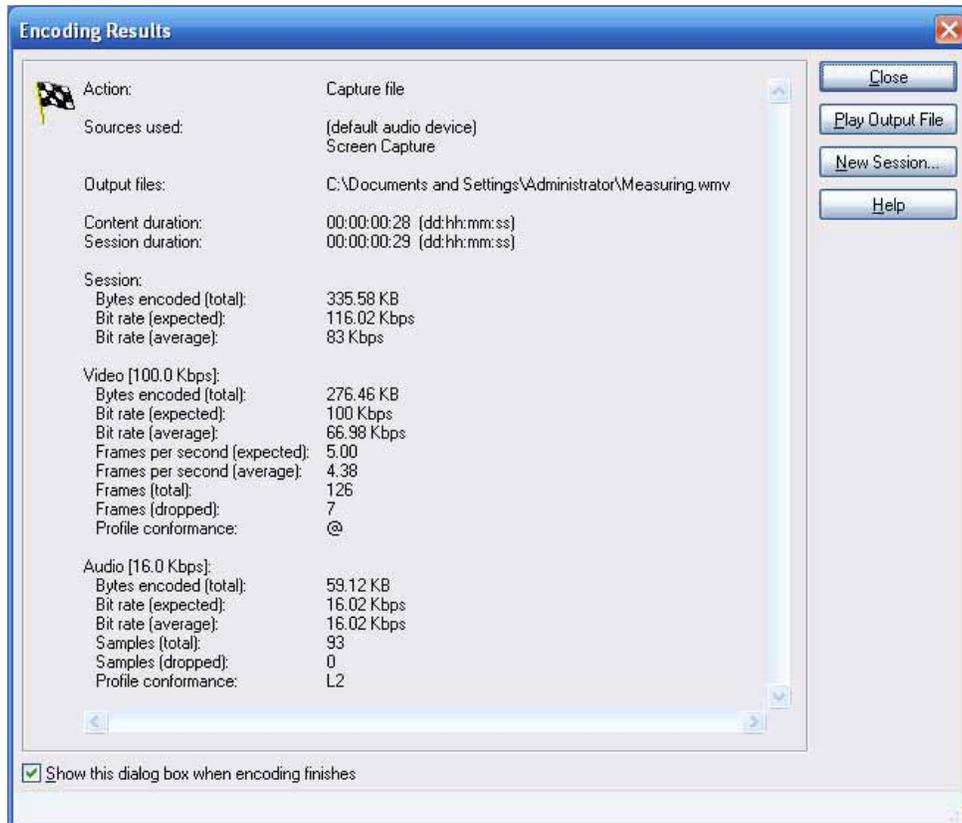
Figure H.24 – Completed Film

Some easy control features in the program are:

Start Encoding: Control+Shift+E
Pause: Control+Shift+P
Stop: Control+Shift+S

You can use these keyboard shortcuts to stop the movie without exiting the application you are filming.
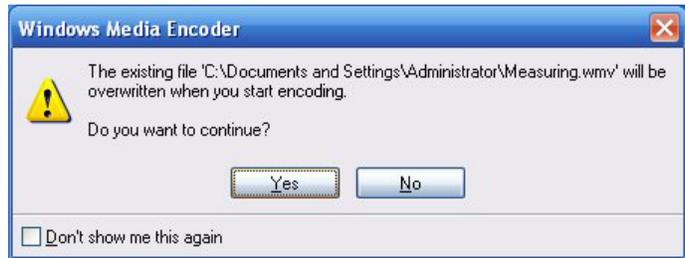
Figure H.25 – Overwriting a Video File

At the conclusion of the entire process, the movie, measuring.wmv is now located on your desktop. Double click on the movie to watch the film with Windows Media Player.

Figure H.26 – The Measuring.wmv Movie

* World Class CAD Challenge 15-100 * - Create a video and sound capture in a specific software application using Microsoft Encoder 9 that communicates adequately to your target audience. The movie should contain no errors. Complete this task in less than 60 minutes to maintain your World Class ranking.

Send your best time and a copy of your webpage for verification to the authors of these problems to have your name, location and time posted. See the web site for instructions.

www.worldclasscad.com