



In this issue:

Editing Snips

Interview with CyberLink's Product Planning VP

Metadata Manipulation, date sorting and the Library

The Newbie Room—To upgrade or?????

Places to Visit



Editing

Snips

Intel 8th gen Core Coffee Lake CPU review.

An interesting review of the new developments. The initial line up of 8th gen processors includes six models, two Core i7s, two Core i5s and two Core i3s, with one K-sku which has an unlocked multiplier for easy overclocking per family.

But to use an 8th gen CPU you'll need a new motherboard based on the Intel Z370 chipset !!

[Full review can be read here:](#)

360 Video

Mike McCarthy has a nice intro to 360 video.

"The difference between "Full VR" and "360 Video," is that while both allow you to look around every direction, 360 Video is pre-recorded from a particular point, and you are limited to the view from that spot. You can't move your head to see around behind something, like you can in true VR. "

[Read the article here:](#)

ORPHEUS— The Cutting Edge of Audio

An EU collaboration to develop "immersive and interactive" content for the future.

If you want a bit of strategic development, then go ahead and have a read and a look at the BBC's run through the project.

[Go here:](#)

Editor's Note.

Two things of interest this month -

A [new layout](#) purely for creative purposes only, so anyone with ideas can shout out, good or bad!

An [interview with CyberLink's VP of Product Planning](#) covering a number of topics which have appeared on the forum and which I hope are of interest to readers.

My thanks to CyberLink staff who assisted with this interview.

Currently CyberLink has over 700 employees, with 500 engineers in product design and development.

The Q3 2017 Update shows that PowerDirector has 33m+ users and PhotoDirector 49m+

[Read the full Update here:](#)

GoPro Hero 6

GoPro launches its new and improved GoPro HERO6 with 4k 60fps, 2.7k 120 fps and 1080p 240 fps. GoPro claims twice the performance thanks to its new processor. It has what seems to be fantastic in-camera stabilization and some other stuff.

[More here:](#)

Video Scopes—Use and reading

"if you're crushing the blacks in that night shot, clipping the whites in those clouds, and what exact hue and saturation that logo is. Your monitor may not be properly calibrated, so that can't be trusted, and our eyes adapt to the image, so we can't trust them either.

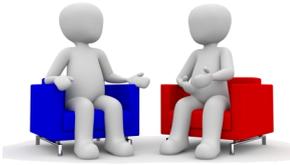
But we can trust the scopes.

The scopes never lie."

[Get the full article here:](#)



PDNews Interview with CyberLink's VP of Product Planning

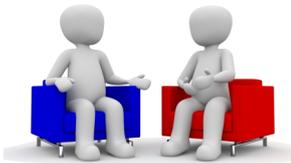


In general terms, what is the development cycle for a new version of PowerDirector?

"The development cycle for each version of PowerDirector is about a year. It usually starts after the release of the previous version, and includes the design, software development, localization (multi-language user interface and help translation), alpha and beta testing, and more.

The development doesn't include the planning, which is always on going. Planning for a specific version refers to the discussions and decisions on what features and user improvements are implemented in that version.

The planning for a lot of program features, and the technology involved, can actually take several years of research and development."



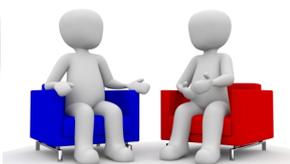
Some users have been asking for Ultra HD Blu-ray burning. Can you update the readers on the industry's position and when CyberLink may implement this feature?

"Sure. When we were planning and developing PowerDirector 16, there was no official specification document for Ultra HD Blu-ray burning. This spec is provided by the Blu-ray Disc Association (BDA) and is what we use as the guideline for development for Blu-ray related features, including for both playback and burning.

The BDA's specification is required for industry standard development and is needed to achieve the official Ultra HD Blu-ray logo certification. This logo certifies that all burned discs are playable on standalone Ultra HD Blu-ray players and has always been one of the deciding factors for our development. If we did not adhere to the BDA specification and did the development on our own, the playability of the resulting discs would not be consistent across players.

We also had discussions with several optical disc drive manufacturers, and were led to believe that at the time they had not started implementing Ultra HD Blu-ray burning in their devices.

However, there is some positive news to report as there is now a draft spec for Ultra HD Blu-ray burning, and we will be considering this feature for a future version once the spec is set."

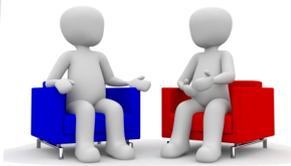


Besides Ultra HD Blu-ray burning, what are some of the key trends in consumer video editing that CyberLink sees happening over the next 3-5 years?

"We definitely see the trend in 360 and virtual reality video editing continuing. As the technology continues to improve, so too will the editing features in PowerDirector. Other video editing trends include 8K and 10-bit video.

CyberLink is also currently researching and developing AI technology for PowerDirector and our other software, as we believe this will be a key investment for the future."



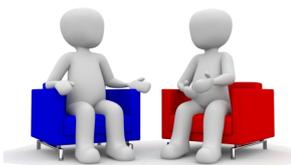


It often appears that the camera manufacturers drive the editing requirements by constantly developing new technical boundaries. How easy is it for CyberLink to keep ahead of the game?

“It is not easy because there are many factors to consider when new cameras offer higher bitrates for video, new video codecs, or some other advancement in technology. It is not just a factor of PowerDirector supporting the latest video, but we also need the hardware support.

A good recent example of this is for Ultra HD Blu-ray playback in PowerDVD. Our software readiness was actually ahead of the hardware shipping. PowerDVD’s Ultra HD Blu-ray certification passed BDA certification in December 2016, however the supported hardware, such as optical drives, CPUs, and graphic cards were not shipped until Spring 2017. This caused us to hold off the release of PowerDVD for a few extra months, until after the supported hardware was ready in the market.

There are also some cases where new technology requires an update to PowerDirector’s architecture. This requires a lot more development time as the software’s engine is rebuilt. So it definitely depends on the situation, and you can begin to understand why the development cycle is over a year.”



Some readers often ask for solutions to be implemented immediately via patches etc. but how often is this possible and what constraints/difficulties operate as regards liaising with others like video driver developers, camera manufacturers etc. to deal with changes or problems that arise?

“As a general rule, within two months is what users should expect. But let’s remember that hot fixes (beta patches) are made available in the meantime as both a means of convenience and for additional invaluable user testing.

Also remember there are many factors to consider when a new issue is found. For example, ease and probability to reproduce, severity (i.e. is there a work around), how many reports we receive, is it a hardware issue, etc. Some issues are caused by Windows or driver updates, and some are caused by an individual update made by the user on their computer. So every issue is different and the time it takes to fix depends on the specific situation.”



How does CL see the trend of providing 3rd party plugins and how are such arrangements made?

“The addition of third party plugin effects continues in PowerDirector 16 with the inclusion of Boris FX. We hope to continue this trend so our users can make the videos they want to make.

I can share with you the exciting news that very soon some PowerDirector features will be available as plugins for other video editing programs. A VR stabilizer for 360° video will be the first plugin available before the end of this year, and CyberLink is planning on developing more plugins for other programs in the near future.”





Metadata, Date and Time tags and PDR16 Media Library

This will be moderately complicated, but I hope that the principles and the information in the article will have applications for other purposes as well. Although I reference dates throughout, it is really date and time, but that's a little cumbersome to write and read.

The problem:

The date sort function in the Media Library uses the Date Created tag for indexing. Seems logical, yes? Sadly, Windows trips us all up yet again, because the Date Created tag is really not what we want and, in fact, we can end up with all our media assets having the same Date Created tag – so sorting our 850 (or whatever) media assets from our vacation, on date, is a nonsense, it is frustrating and it then requires a strong drink and some meditation to become calm and creative again, after we realise it's just screwed up.

Let's see what happens to metadata tags when we start to organise our newly shot vacation project. Here's 323 assets, mainly .jpg images but also a few .mov video files, ready for transfer off the SD card.

Couple of things to note:

If you right click on the header row in File Explorer you can access a shedload more info tags (depending on the exact file type!). If you select the [More] button from the drop down, you will be able to get lots and lots more, and these can become part of your display view, very useful - really!! The new columns can be dragged around to give you the view you want. You can see that I have selected the ones I have chosen for my view.

So far, so good. You can see that the 3 important tags - Date Created, Date Modified and Date Taken – all have the same value for each file. Remember they are still on the original SD card straight off the camera.

Right Click here

Date Created correct

323 items selected

Choose Details

Select the details you want to display for the items in this folder.

Details:

- Name
- Date modified
- Date created
- Date taken
- Type
- Size
- #
- 35mm focal length
- Account name
- Album
- Album artist
- Album ID
- Anniversary
- Assistant's name
- Assistant's phone

Width of selected column (in pixels): 272

Lots and lots of tags to play with



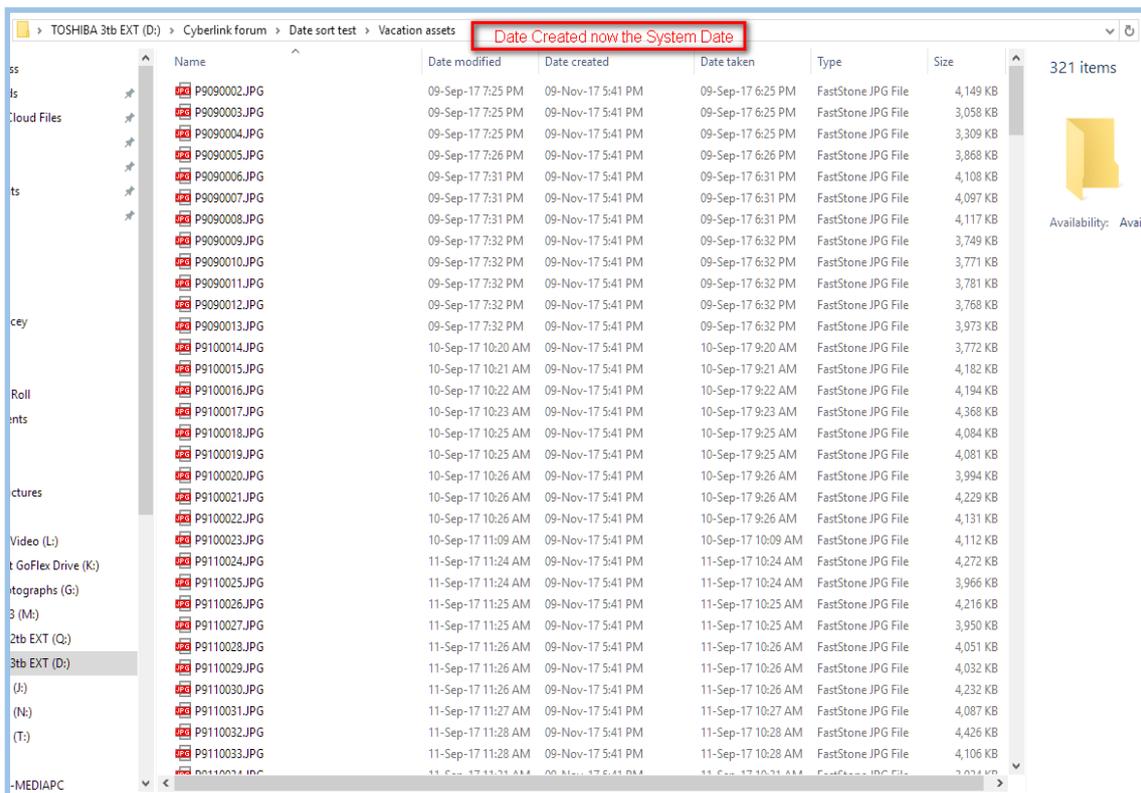
So, now we start to organise, using our best practice guidelines (of course?), and we copy these files to our chosen location on our system.

Now, study carefully what has happened! The Date Taken and Date Modified tags remains true, BUT BUT BUT the Date Created tag is now changed.

In fact, the Date Created tag takes on the date on which it was created ON THE SYSTEM – in this case November 9th 2017.

Note:

Of course, if we were to modify a file now the Date Modified would reflect the date of modification, the Date Taken would remain and the Date Created would remain as at the date of creation on the system.

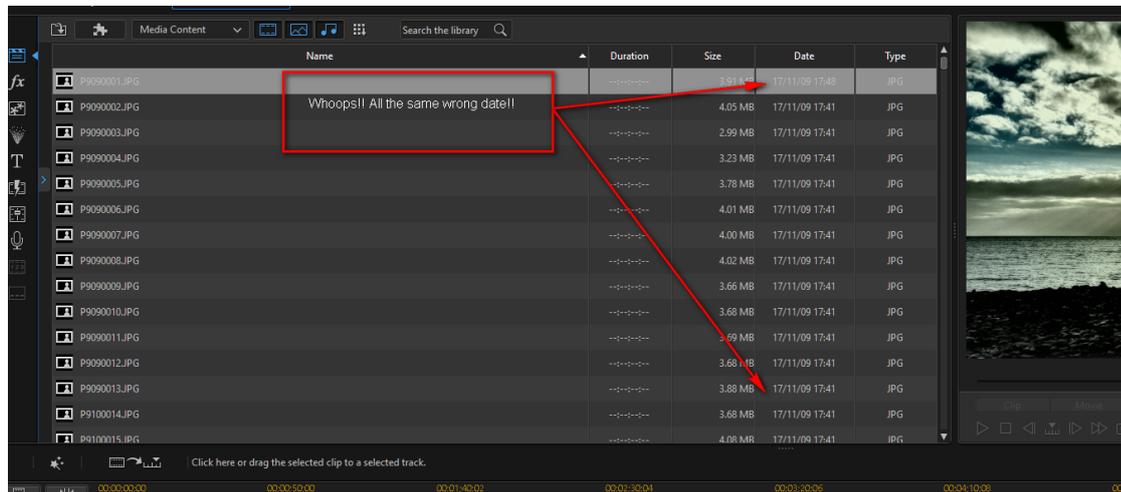


Any software that accesses the Date Created tag, can now only return the **system date** as of whenever it was copied.



Now, check out the resulting Media Library in PD – all are dated with the Date Created tag metadata – which is the date of copying.

Really, really not what we want!!! No date sort possible, disaster strikes – need a drink! The very small time differences in the original copy process will allow a sort to take place, which is but a small consolation – because basically it’s still useless for us!



Now, we can ask “why doesn’t PD just look at the Date Taken tag and use that?”

I have no idea, but it actually isn’t that simple anyway, because MOST VIDEO FILES DO NOT HAVE ANY “DATE TAKEN” METADATA.

Aaaaagh!! Need another drink!

So, a fudge is necessary for video files and we may as well use it for image files. This all comes down to workflow, and it is not foolproof, but it may do the job.

Basically, once the files have been copied from the SD card to your new system location, the new Date Created tag is useless, image files will have the correct Date Modified and Date Taken but video files will only have the Date Modified as correct (at this point!!!)

So, if we can replace the Date Created values with the Date Modified values, we will have a working Date Sort facility in PD, with the correct equivalent of Date Taken data.

Easy!

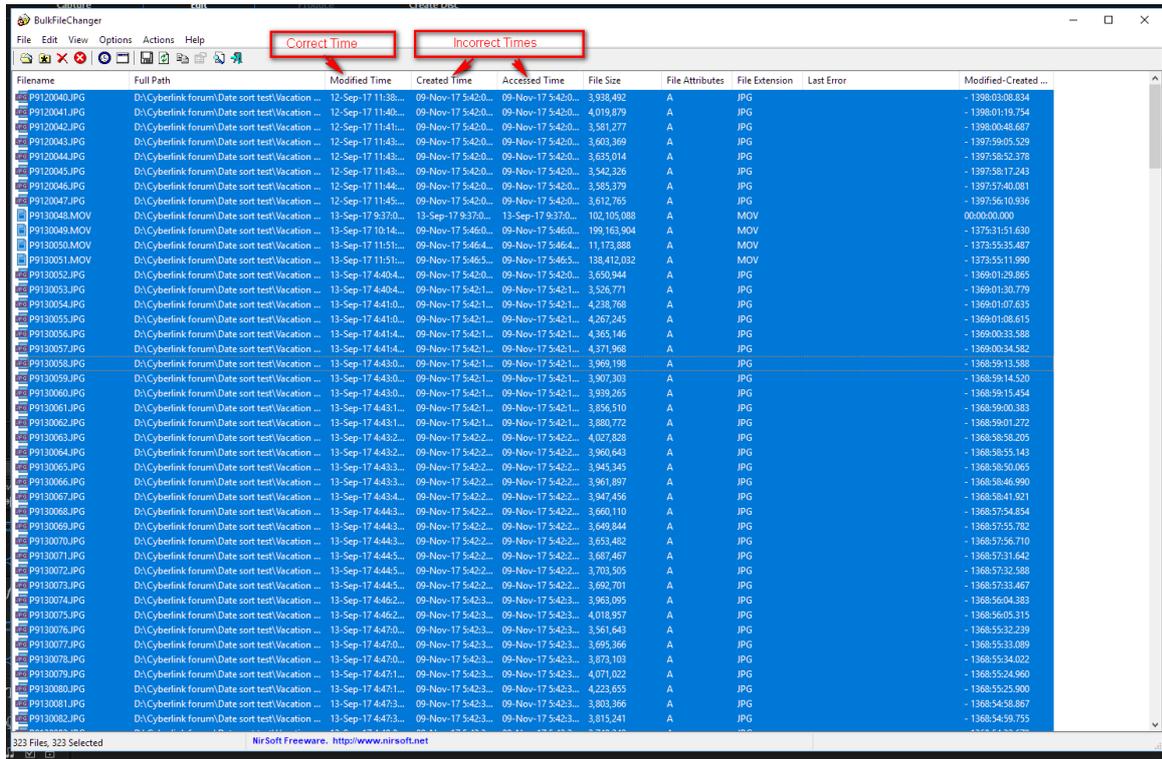
There are several, more or less complex, EXIF manipulators and renamers out there.

Depending on your needs and expertise you can choose which one suits you.

As an example, I have used the simpler, but effective, [BulkFileChanger](#).



Open it up, load your assets into the process list

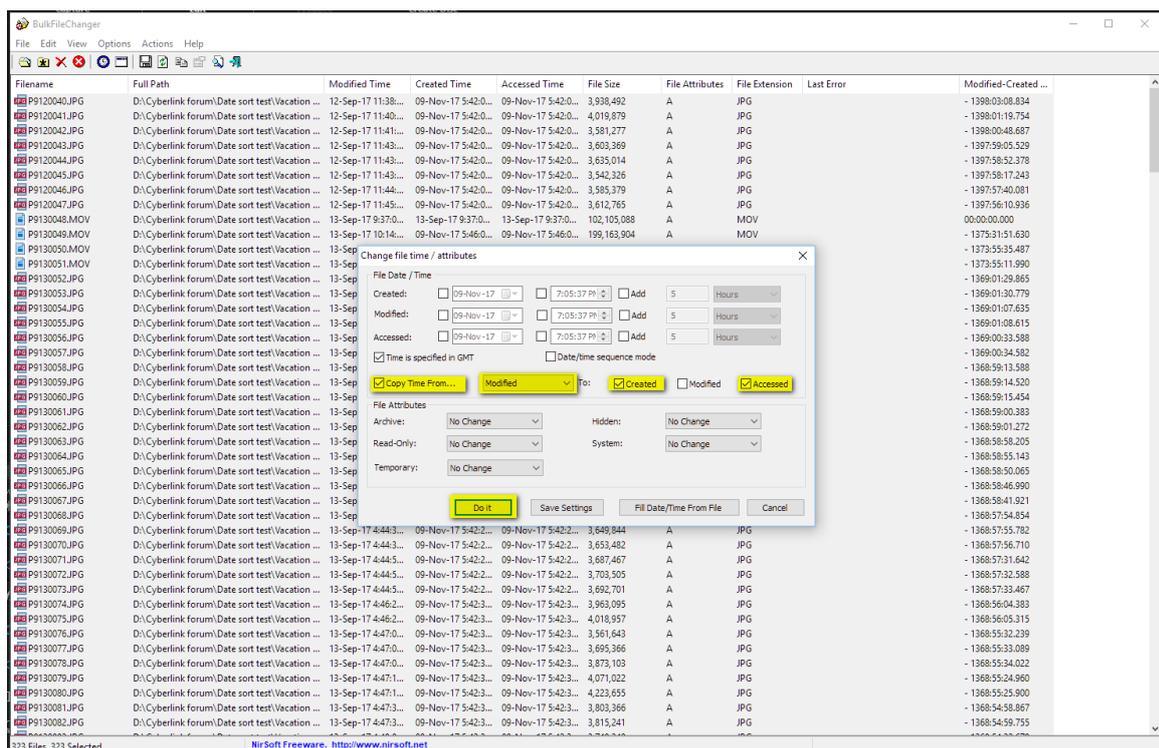


select all your files, select [Actions], then from the pop up select [Copy Time from.....]

Select [Modified] (because this still contains the original time, which is equivalent to the Date Taken)

Select [Created] and [Accessed]

Take a deep breath and press [Do it]



Relax, have a drink, well done!

The Date Created tag now contains the Date Taken value!

Name	Date modified	Date created	Date taken	Type	Size
P9090001.JPG	09-Sep-17 7:24 PM	09-Sep-17 7:24 PM	09-Sep-17 6:24 PM	FastStone JPG File	4,000 KB
P9090002.JPG	09-Sep-17 7:25 PM	09-Sep-17 7:25 PM	09-Sep-17 6:25 PM	FastStone JPG File	4,149 KB
P9090003.JPG	09-Sep-17 7:25 PM	09-Sep-17 7:25 PM	09-Sep-17 6:25 PM	FastStone JPG File	3,058 KB
P9090004.JPG	09-Sep-17 7:25 PM	09-Sep-17 7:25 PM	09-Sep-17 6:25 PM	FastStone JPG File	3,309 KB
P9090005.JPG	09-Sep-17 7:26 PM	09-Sep-17 7:26 PM	09-Sep-17 6:26 PM	FastStone JPG File	3,868 KB
P9090006.JPG	09-Sep-17 7:31 PM	09-Sep-17 7:31 PM	09-Sep-17 6:31 PM	FastStone JPG File	4,108 KB
P9090007.JPG	09-Sep-17 7:31 PM	09-Sep-17 7:31 PM	09-Sep-17 6:31 PM	FastStone JPG File	4,097 KB
P9090008.JPG	09-Sep-17 7:31 PM	09-Sep-17 7:31 PM	09-Sep-17 6:31 PM	FastStone JPG File	4,117 KB
P9090009.JPG	09-Sep-17 7:32 PM	09-Sep-17 7:32 PM	09-Sep-17 6:32 PM	FastStone JPG File	3,749 KB
P9090010.JPG	09-Sep-17 7:32 PM	09-Sep-17 7:32 PM	09-Sep-17 6:32 PM	FastStone JPG File	3,771 KB
P9090011.JPG	09-Sep-17 7:32 PM	09-Sep-17 7:32 PM	09-Sep-17 6:32 PM	FastStone JPG File	3,781 KB
P9090012.JPG	09-Sep-17 7:32 PM	09-Sep-17 7:32 PM	09-Sep-17 6:32 PM	FastStone JPG File	3,768 KB
P9090013.JPG	09-Sep-17 7:32 PM	09-Sep-17 7:32 PM	09-Sep-17 6:32 PM	FastStone JPG File	3,973 KB
P9100014.JPG	10-Sep-17 10:20 AM	10-Sep-17 10:20 AM	10-Sep-17 9:20 AM	FastStone JPG File	3,772 KB
P9100015.JPG	10-Sep-17 10:21 AM	10-Sep-17 10:21 AM	10-Sep-17 9:21 AM	FastStone JPG File	4,182 KB
P9100016.JPG	10-Sep-17 10:22 AM	10-Sep-17 10:22 AM	10-Sep-17 9:22 AM	FastStone JPG File	4,194 KB
P9100017.JPG	10-Sep-17 10:23 AM	10-Sep-17 10:23 AM	10-Sep-17 9:23 AM	FastStone JPG File	4,368 KB
P9100018.JPG	10-Sep-17 10:25 AM	10-Sep-17 10:25 AM	10-Sep-17 9:25 AM	FastStone JPG File	4,084 KB
P9100019.JPG	10-Sep-17 10:25 AM	10-Sep-17 10:25 AM	10-Sep-17 9:25 AM	FastStone JPG File	4,081 KB
P9100020.JPG	10-Sep-17 10:26 AM	10-Sep-17 10:26 AM	10-Sep-17 9:26 AM	FastStone JPG File	3,994 KB
P9100021.JPG	10-Sep-17 10:26 AM	10-Sep-17 10:26 AM	10-Sep-17 9:26 AM	FastStone JPG File	4,229 KB
P9100022.JPG	10-Sep-17 10:26 AM	10-Sep-17 10:26 AM	10-Sep-17 9:26 AM	FastStone JPG File	4,131 KB
P9100023.JPG	10-Sep-17 11:09 AM	10-Sep-17 11:09 AM	10-Sep-17 10:09 AM	FastStone JPG File	4,112 KB
P9110024.JPG	11-Sep-17 11:24 AM	11-Sep-17 11:24 AM	11-Sep-17 10:24 AM	FastStone JPG File	4,272 KB
P9110025.JPG	11-Sep-17 11:24 AM	11-Sep-17 11:24 AM	11-Sep-17 10:24 AM	FastStone JPG File	3,966 KB

PD can now sort on the new and correct Date Created value and all is well with the world.

Name	Duration	Size	Date	Type
P9090001.JPG	---	3.01 MB	17/09/09 18:24	JPG
P9090002.JPG	---	4.05 MB	17/09/09 18:25	JPG
P9090003.JPG	---	2.99 MB	17/09/09 18:25	JPG
P9090004.JPG	---	3.23 MB	17/09/09 18:25	JPG
P9090005.JPG	---	3.78 MB	17/09/09 18:26	JPG
P9090006.JPG	---	4.01 MB	17/09/09 18:31	JPG
P9090007.JPG	---	4.00 MB	17/09/09 18:31	JPG
P9090008.JPG	---	4.02 MB	17/09/09 18:31	JPG
P9090009.JPG	---	3.66 MB	17/09/09 18:32	JPG
P9090010.JPG	---	3.68 MB	17/09/09 18:32	JPG
P9090011.JPG	---	3.69 MB	17/09/09 18:32	JPG
P9090012.JPG	---	3.68 MB	17/09/09 18:32	JPG
P9090013.JPG	---	3.88 MB	17/09/09 18:32	JPG
P9100014.JPG	---	3.68 MB	17/09/10 09:20	JPG
P9100015.JPG	---	4.08 MB	17/09/10 09:21	JPG

Until anything changes of course, and you copy the files to your backup drive or transfer them to your laptop, in which case windows kindly changes the Date Created tag to this latest system date again. But it's easy enough, if you remember, to change them back with your newfound friend.

There are more complicated, but more exact methods, using different software but this does work for both images and video, albeit with the proviso that the Date Modified continues to have the correct equivalent date to the Date Taken date, and/or any change that have occurred are "corrected" before copying the files to another drive or system.

It's certainly not ideal, but for those who need to sort the Media Library by the equivalent of Date Taken - it's a pragmatic workaround.



The Newbie Room

The place to come if you are new to PowerDirector, video making and editing.

Visit here to pick up some new and useful tips.

TO UPGRADE, OR NOT TO UPGRADE - THAT IS THE QUESTION

I have had a very long struggle with this question, but at last the agony is over. Until a few days ago my PC was home to PowerDirector 13 and that has mostly been a loving relationship, I can honestly say that I have never lost a project or been tearing my hair out because of failures that were the fault of PowerDirector. My problem was that I now only film in 4K for viewing on my TV, and to be honest PD13 struggled to handle the high workload. It was not a case of maybe, but definitely needing proxy files to edit the 4K material.

Using Shadow files was a nightmare because of the eternity it took to convert them to a usable resolution, so I downloaded our old friend, optodata's Magic+PD, and that became the saviour of PD13 for me. It all took extra valuable time which I didn't want to spend before making my films - that's the background.

HESITATION

A few days ago, after a period of will I, won't I, shall I, maybe..., I took that plunge and downloaded the *Ultimate* version of PD16. I did not know what to expect, but I thought, rightly this time, there must be something worth upgrading for after the passing of PDs 14 and 15.

This article, by the way, is not intended in any way to be a review, but simply my early findings when using PD16 for the first time.

COMPARISON

If I was to be truly happy that I had spent my money wisely, I needed to compare what PD16 is capable of compared to PD13. Here are, in my opinion, the amazing results.

THE MEDIA

For the exercise I used 46 clips totalling exactly 10 minutes duration. The resolution was 3840x2160 and the frame rate was 25.

Timeline challenge



PD13. When played in full 4K mode the timeline stuttered and stopped after 30 seconds



PD16. Again in full 4K mode, but this time there was no stutter, and the full ten minutes played successfully.



Shadow Files



PD13. To generate the full ten minutes took 42 minutes 10 seconds.



PD16. This time the generation took 7 minutes 44 seconds that's 2 minutes better than my old favourite Magic+PD.

Producing



PD13. I've never been disappointed in the production times of PD13, in the main, I suppose, because I didn't know any better. This production was a reasonable 23 minutes and 11 seconds.



PD16. PowerDirector 16 zoomed through the production phase in 19 minutes and 53 seconds. Not a huge improvement, but it's a big exercise.

The settings on the production page were the same for both versions, i.e. H264 MP4 3840x2160/25.

The original tests were carried out with the media on a plain timeline and no editing was attempted. But, that was not good enough for me, so I threw some pretty hefty editing at the ten minute project (fig.1) to see what would happen, and how the program would react.

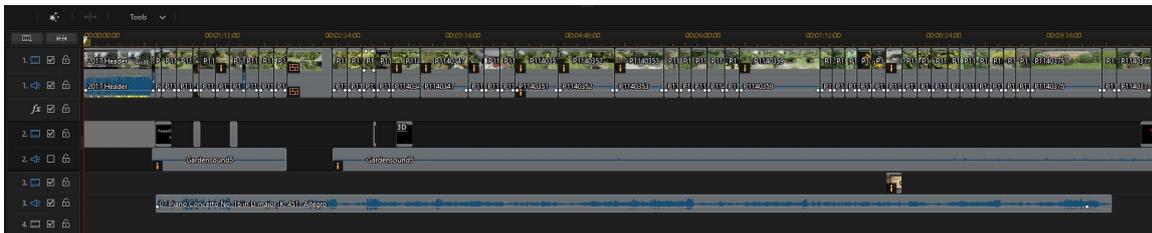


Fig 1

All sorts of edits were made, from transitions, speed changes, fix and enhancements, cropping and more. Any of these would have sunk PD13 editing 4K material that hadn't been turned into a shadow or other proxy file.

What happened was, in my eyes, truly amazing. The project played from start to finish without so much as a flicker.

This project was completed with an i7 processor with integrated HD graphics. There is no dedicated graphics card installed.

I think the results speak for themselves, I *did* make the right decision to upgrade. PD16 is a fantastic improvement on PD13 and full of good editing tools to boot.



Places to visit

Tutorials—inc. PDR16

- [Official CyberLink Tutorials](#)
- [PD University](#)
- [Hans van Kempen's Starter Course \[for Dutch users\]](#)
- Also many of [PDtoots tutorials](#) are useful to PD users.

Members Resources Websites

- GodfreyZA's Templates: <http://oneclickmobi.com/powerdirector-templates/>
- Barry Gill's resource page: http://www.bgillcyberstudio.com/barry_gill_cyber_studio_002.htm
- Eric Matyas music page: <http://soundimage.org/>

Useful Documents

- Future Suggestions:
 - [Q2 2017 wishlist](#)
 - [Q3 2017 wishlist](#)
- Guide to Good Posting : [Before Posting](#)

Resources

- DirectorZone
 - [Effects, particles etc.](#)



Request for sample video files

[Barry The Crab's site](#) has a wide selection of interest to editors, including sample files from many camera sources to trial or work with, donated by other members etc.

HE NEEDS MORE SAMPLES TO KEEP THE COLLECTION UP TO DATE!!

Please consider visiting and [uploading samples](#) that are not already available, it will help support a good service.

