

# Notes on “Pro” DVD Authoring Features

- Subtitles, alternative audio
- Slideshows as full-fledged tracks
- Separate building/compilation
- Stories
- Buttons over tracks
- Scripts

## Subtitles, Alternative Audio

- DVD tracks are full-fledged parallel streams of video, audio, and text
- Text streams are typically called “subtitles,” but can be used for any time of text captioning (karaoke, comments)
- Audio streams are usually reserved for languages, but can also involve commentary

# Slideshows as Full-Fledged DVD Tracks

- Once specified as a list of images with transitions, slideshow objects can be “exposed” for what they really become: a DVD track complete with alternative audio and text streams
- At this point, slideshows can be manipulated in the same way as straight-up video assets

## Separate Building and Compilation

- DVD deployment is more transparent than the one-button “burn” function of consumer DVD authoring
- Explicit build/compilation step creates exact copy of the DVD on the hard drive
- This copy can be run by a DVD player without requiring a burn to DVD

# Stories

- Tracks can have *markers* which are typically used for chapter selections
- Markers can also be used for *stories* — any arbitrary combination of segments from an existing DVD track
- Typical uses: highlight segments, reusable or repeating clips

## Buttons Over Tracks

- Essentially, “clickable subtitles”
- “Force display” a subtitle — meaning the viewer *always* sees it
- Define a button around that subtitle, setting target in the usual way

# Scripts

- DVD-Video specification provides for a simple scripting language
  - Scripts make the difference between a completely “canned” DVD and one with enhanced interaction
  - Scripts are separate entities on a DVD, making them reusable at any time, from any applicable context
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- Scripts are divided into commands, for a maximum of 128
  - Part of a script’s abilities is to manipulate memory, or variables; the DVD standard calls them “register memories” (RMs)
    - 8 general-purpose (GPRM 0-7): use as you please
    - 24 system parameter (SPRM 0-23): predefined by the DVD standard
  - Registers are all 16 bits in size (e.g. they can hold values from 0 to 65,535)