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## Time and Place Shifting TV

If you have young children and a DVD player in your car, you already know that a video system can turn a car ride from agony into a pleasant experience. Today, many adults are using this same technology to turn public transportation commutes into a more pleasant experience. If you already watch video on an iPod or other portable device, you can expand your viewing experience by place shifting your favorite TV shows to the player of your choice.

Time shifting television viewing can be much more fun if you also place shift the viewing experience. Instead of renting or purchasing videos for your next commuter trip, why not transfer your favorite TV shows to your portable player? Doing so is not as hard as you might think.

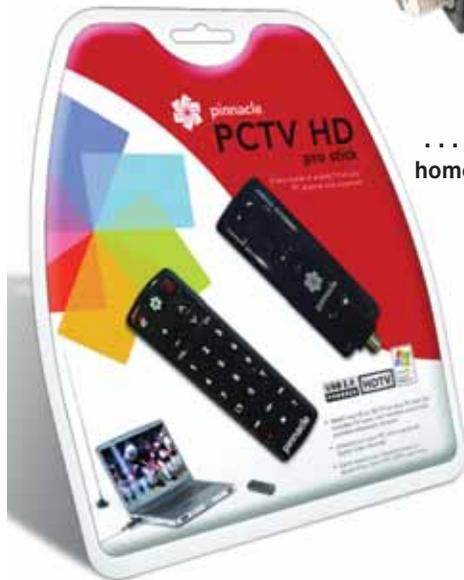
Your computer can easily serve as your transfer device, and the Pinnacle HD Pro Stick (\$129) is the perfect device for performing the transfers.

The HD Pro Stick plugs into your computer's USB 2.0 port. Pinnacle PCTV Media Center software completes the installation and turns your computer into a fully functional digital video recorder (DVR).

To start digital video recording, you need to attach an external antenna to the Pro Stick. If you have fantastic TV reception in your area you can record using the portable antenna supplied with the unit. If not, you will simply attach the Pro Stick to your cable, satellite or home entertainment system. Having done so,

you are ready to pause a live TV broadcast, schedule a future recording or archive TV shows for future enjoyment. To take advantage of an electronic programming guide, you

**Use Pinnacle's HD Pro Stick to transfer TV shows to your portable player . . .**



**. . . and to transfer home video recordings to DVDs.**

will also need a connection to the Internet.

Let me emphasize that you will need a superior TV reception area to effectively use the antenna that comes with the unit. When I tested the unit with its own antenna, I only received two channels one day and none on subsequent attempts. However, cable reception was fantastic, and I found it very simple to program the unit to schedule a recording. I could also set the unit to turn off my computer after it completed recording a time-shifted show. However, note that you can't program it to turn

on your computer just before a show airs. Also, the electronic programming guide that is pulled in from the Internet proved less user friendly than the one you find on a Tivo or Replay digital video recorder.

Still, not only can you record shows when they are broadcast, but you can also transfer previously recorded Tivo or VCR recordings to your computer for shifting both the time and place you will view the show. A word of caution here: One hour of TV with commercials will

consume about 1.6 gigabits of hard drive storage. If you decide to take advantage of the unit's ability to time shift and record HDTV, disk usage for storage

will certainly go up. I didn't test any HD capabilities.

Once a show is recorded, you can fast forward to skip commercials. You can directly record a show to a DVD or, better yet, set the file format so you can transfer the show to your iPod or other portable device for future viewing.

If you decide to archive the show to DVD after you have recorded it to your computer, you can use video production software such as Ulead VideoStudio to edit out the commercials. The cables supplied with the Pro Stick also allow you to capture video from your VCR, Tivo, Replay or even your camcorder. Note that this flexibility makes the Pro Stick perfect for transferring your old home video recordings to DVDs.

### Recalling the Facts

1. Describe digital video activities that you can do using the Pro Stick.
2. The Pro Stick comes with an external antenna. What conditions are necessary for its successful use? ©

*Alan Pierce, Ed.D., CSIT, is a technology education consultant. Visit [www.technologytoday.us](http://www.technologytoday.us) for past columns and teacher resources.*