Windows Media Center

A presentation to the Sacramento PC Users Group

May 16th, 2012
What's on the Agenda?

- A Little Bit of WMC history
- What's up with WMC?
- WMC Hardware
- WMC Software
- WMC in XP versus Vista/7
- WMC Futures - Windows 8 (??)
A Little Bit of History

- First, Windows XP Media Center Edition
- Versions diverged in 2005, Media Center Extender(s) added
- New version with Vista but dropped support for many MCX's
- TV Pack added in 2008, only with new PC
- TV Pack+ included in WMC for Windows 7
What's up with WMC?

- Up to 16 TV Tuner devices - DVR/PVR
  - Analog, Digital OTA, Clear QAM, CableCard
- Electronic Program Guide - schedule
- Burns to DVD, xfer to portable players
- 10-Foot User Interface
- Media organizer (videos, music, etc.)
WMC Hardware

- Originally just with certified PC's
- HTPC (Home Theater PC)
- TV Tuner devices (and content!)
- Remote control with sensor
- Media Center Extenders
  - XBox 360
  - Linksys DMA2200 (discont'd)
  - HP MediaSmart HDTV (discont'd)
WMC Software

- WMC API
- Add-ons (SecondRun.tv, etc.)
- WMC work-alikes:
  - XBMC
  - Media Portal
  - Boxee
  - MythTV
WMC Add-ons

- SecondRun.tv
- Lifextender
- Hulu Desktop Integration
- My Channel Logos
- DVRMSToolbox with iPodifier
- My Movies 3
- WebGuide
- Media Browser
WMC Futures - Windows 8

- Very touchy pre-Windows 7
- Windows Media Center not included in Windows 8 by default
- DVD Playback and some audio codecs moved to Media Center Pack, a priced upgrade for Windows 8 Pro
References

- Windows Media Center home page
- Wikipedia's Windows Media Center page
- HTPC info at Anandtech
- WMC add-ons info: Everything-Microsoft
That's All Folks!

Thanks!