

## SnaZio\* TV PVR

The SnaZio\* TV PVR is probably one of those products you never really thought about but when you DO have one, you might find yourself using it almost everyday. Why am I saying this?

Well first thing's first, the SnaZio\* TV PVR is a TV programming and capturing device. It fits in a PCI slot and accepts ports for TV antenna, composite video, S-Video and audio line-in. Basically, there's a TV capture module on the PCI board. It processes all incoming TV signals and transmits it to your PC. The sad thing however is that you must also use the bundled 3.5mm stereo cable to connect from the audio line-out port to the audio line-in port of your sound card. Otherwise, you won't get any sound.

With the capability to record from any analog sources, including TV, the SnaZio\* TV PVR comes with two software that lets you do that. The first one is **Snazzi\* PVR** which is a standard multimedia application with buttons for recording, snapshots, setups and playback. For those of you who has owned a Snazzi\* product, this application is probably very familiar to you. With it, you can encode incoming videos into DivX, XviD, WMV and AVI.



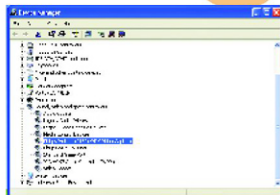
Web: [www.onemmm.com](http://www.onemmm.com)  
 Price: \$589  
**Videos:** DVD, SVCD, VCD, DivX, MPEG-4, WMV  
**Streaming**  
**Input:** TV antenna, Composite video, Audio Line-in, S-Video  
**Output:** Audio Line-out, Remote Jack  
**Bundled:** TV Capture card, remote controller, remote cable, composite video cable, S-Video cable, 3.5mm stereo cable, software CD, brief documentation.  
**Min. System Requirement:** Intel Pentium 4, 2.0GHz and above (for MPEG-4 real-time recording) Windows 2000 or XP, 64MB RAM, Overlay supported VGA card, sound card.



WinDVR 3 comes with a remote control that works like a standard TV remote. It lets you record, stop, play, recall a channel, scan the TV channel, time-shift and even snap digital images.

### Channel Surfing with InterVideo WinDVR 3

The application that makes us most happy however is the second one by InterVideo called WinDVR 3. With it, you can watch TV, record video into your hard disk drive, capture videos, select different channel, fine-tune some of your TV channels and even create scheduled recording if you can't be home in time for the next episode of Fear Factor.



After installing the drivers, you will see 'Philips Proteus WDM Capture' and 'Philips WDM TVTuner' listed under Device Manager.

Upon installation of the card, you will find that the TV PVR uses codecs based on Philips' Proteus WDM Capture and WDM TVTuner instructions (**Start** → **Control Panel** → **System** → **Device Manager** → **Sound, Video & Game Controllers**). You must have the drivers for these devices installed if you want to be able to capture anything on the TV PVR.

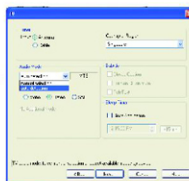
After that, install both Snazzi\* PVR and/or InterVideo WinDVR 3. You must also connect your TV antenna cable (or composite video or S-Video for other video sources) to the rear of the card. Start WinDVR 3 and you'll promptly go through a step-by-step configuration wizard. The first step is to auto-scan your TV signal for viewable channels.



The WinDVR 3 interface is based on a standard window and panel control. Notice that you can configure your window to display video in 4:3, 16:9 or Free form aspect ratio. For normal TV, it would be better to display your images in 4:3 format, unless you're watching a DVD or HDTV program. Here, we've used Free form to simply drag the video window to any size we want.



Upon loading up WinDVR 3, you will have to set the TV format (NTSC or PAL), the video source and the audio source to standardize the volume of your line-in recordings. WinDVR 3 also comes with Advanced Deinterlacing so that you can watch smoother TV programs on your PC.



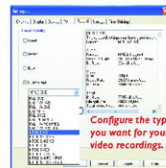
You will also have to specify the TV tuner connection you're on, the country you're from and the audio mode (notice that you can specify Mono, Stereo or SAP; SAP being a secondary audio channel from say a digital TV broadcast).

One of the unique features of WinDVR 3 is the ability to do Multi-Channel Surfing. A button on the interface lets you click on 'Surfing' and you get a Matrix-window of all the different channels you have auto-scanned previously.



WinDVR 3 lets you display up to 16 channels at once. The program displays video thumbnails of 16 channels to help you quickly scan what's on. If you have 80 channels, you can see what all of them are playing with just 5 clicks.

To record a TV program or an analog video source, just click on the RED recording button on the left of the panel control. To configure your recordings, click on the small arrow on the right of the panel control. You can choose between TV settings and General settings.

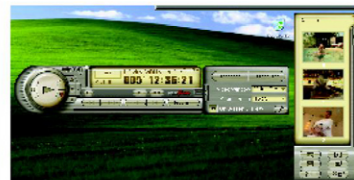


Configure the type of quality you want for your TV and video recordings.

Whatever settings you're on, you can specify the recording quality you want. This can be either Good, Better, Best or Customized (a long list of PAL/NTSC/VCD, SVCD, DVD choices will be at your beck-and-call).

Note also that you can specify where you want your recordings to be saved (Storage tab) and how much 'buffer time' (in minutes) you want to dedicate for time-shifting. Time-shifting allows you to pause a live action show (like a live telecast of Euro 2004), grab a beer and resume watching the show without missing the action. The way it works is that you're actually buffering the scenes you've missed in a buffer memory and it plays from where you stopped when it resumes. Note that if you time-shift while recording a live program, your system performance will take a backseat.

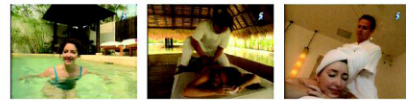
Another feature which we really like from WinDVR 3 is the ability to OVERLAY your video (be it TV or an analog video) over your desktop so that your full-screen video is your wallpaper. This means that you can do your work (type document, email, surf web) in a smaller window while still having a full-screen TV broadcast in the background. We saw this on the BenQ Joybook 8100 (using their Q-Media software) and now we're seeing it again here.



When you take still images off your video, a small sidebar pops up to show you the photos you've taken. If you look at the little buttons at the bottom of the sidebar, it allows you to save all your photos as BMPs into a particular folder, change the aspect ratio and view a larger image. Also note that you can burn your video to hard drive and then burn them to a CD-R or DVD via a separate burner. Transcoding options (MPEG conversions) are accessible via the button on the right.

I think V One's decision to bundle InterVideo's WinDVR 3 with the SnaZio\* TV PVR is an extremely smart move. For additional information on what else WinDVR 3 can do, we advise you to check out [http://www.intervideo.com/jsp/WinDVR\\_Profile.jsp](http://www.intervideo.com/jsp/WinDVR_Profile.jsp).

The video quality of the SnaZio\* TV PVR is excellent. TV programs emerged looking pretty good despite being de-interlaced to fit the higher demands of an LCD or CRT monitor. We also tried capturing some game videos from an Xbox using the composite video connection and found the quality to be just as good. You can easily tweak hue, brightness, contrast and saturation to fit the best quality video you want appear on-screen. ☺



Here are some of the captured still images from Channel 5 using the TV PVR.