

## PowerDVD 9 Ultra By Bart Koslow

PowerDVD will playback in HD mode your DVDs, CDs and media files of all formats (including Blu-ray) from any source. That is just the beginning. This program has more bells and whistles than you could possibly master in a month of Sundays. I have used earlier versions and am simply amazed at the scope of the current version.

When I opened the program without a DVD in my computer, I was somewhat dazzled by the screen appearance. I saw numerous movie box covers, which when moused over displayed information about the movie. The top of the screen showed, "MoovieLive.com-The ultimate companion movie web site for PowerDVD users". The upper right corner invited me to join MooveiLive, which I did. When I went to the web site I found out about MoovieLive. This is a service for viewing and sharing movie viewing experiences. You can view ratings, reviews and viewing information about a movie, detailed movie and disc information, submit your reviews, ratings and updates to the existing information, and view and download available Movie Remixes for a movie. You must have the original movie DVD in order to play a downloaded remix.

I asked myself, "What is a Remix?" I found out that you can create your own versions of movies in the Movie Remix room in PowerDVD, and can upload them to the MoovieLive web site to share with others. You may easily select clips from a movie and then edit the video, audio, titles, etc. You may add your own special effects as well. The Remix Room is a complete program in itself.

If you place a DVD in your computer, PowerDVD will automatically play it, either when the program is open or when you open the program. The bottom of the screen displays a number of interesting icons in addition to the usual Start, Stop, Play, etc icons. Clicking on the True Theater icon brings up the True Theater screen which enables you to control HD sharpness, lighting, motion smoothness, numerous aspect ratios and sound quality. Another icon selected displayed movie and disc information downloaded from MoovieLive, to which you may add your own personal notes and remixes. One of the icons selected the Movie Remix Room, already described above. I next pointed to the one that looked like two sheets of paper. It said "Display Your Movie Collection". This is a Movie database in which you can file movie facts & figures, trivia, reviews & ratings, and lots more like movies watched with PowerDVD, your remixes, your favorite movies, etc.

The extra functions icon gives you many other options like Repeat, Shuffle, Bookmark. Frame capture, Karaoke etc. A new feature is called FancyView. Select the icon that says "Display the Chapter Viewer", and you see a fan shaped arc of the movie chapters which may be moved, viewed, selected, etc. There is another icon where you may see the chapters in a grid view. If you right click the

forward or backward play icon you will see a list of chapters with an arrow pointing to the one currently being played. I forgot to mention that you may create playlists of any playable media. How about capturing frames from your favorite movies to the clipboard, a file, or as wallpaper or tiles? Is there more? You bet! It goes on and on.

If you are a movie fan, then PowerDVD9 is for you. If you are not, and just wish a straightforward playback program the enhancements to your played videos still make it a serious contender. This is a program that should satisfy almost everyone, from beginner to the most advanced user.

Low Online Delivered Price: PowerDVD 9 Ultra - \$94, Deluxe \$73, Standard \$57.

**CyberLink PowerDVD includes the following main features:**

supports the playback of Blu-ray Discs, AVCHD and AVCREC discs.  
supports DivX, DVD (MPEG-2), DVD+VR, DVD-VR, DVD-Audio, VCD (MPEG-1), SVCD, MiniDVD formats and DVD files on hard disk drive (HDD) playback.  
Two separate modes of CyberLink PowerDVD for playback: Classic mode and Cinema mode.  
Chapter viewer that lets you view a disc's chapter thumbnails in fan or grid view.  
Create your own versions of your favorite movies in the Movie Remix room.  
keep track of your disc collection, your favorite movies, Movie Remixes and viewing history in the Movie Collection. Read movie reviews and share your Movie Remixes with friends on the MoovieLive web site.  
TrueTheater HD option that up scales the original video to a higher resolution version, which is sharper and artifact-free. It is capable of up sampling 480p video up to 1080p. TrueTheater Motion feature that enables frame rate up sampling, from 24 fps up to 60 fps, to make panning scenes, particularly in action movies, play more smoothly. TrueTheater Lighting (CyberLink Eagle Vision) video enhancement technology that dynamically adjusts the brightness/contrast/saturation ratios in scenes that are overly dark or too bright.  
TrueTheater Stretch (CyberLink Pano Vision) video stretching technology that produces minimal distortion in the center of the picture. TrueTheater Surround (CyberLink Multi-channel Environment Impression Mode), an audio channel expansion technology that converts stereo sound to a multiple-channel output.  
TrueTheater Surround (Virtual Speaker Mode) virtual surround technology developed by CyberLink. TrueTheater Surround (Headphone Mode) technology for headphone surround sound. Proprietary dual subtitles capability.  
CyberLink Mobility functions allow for longer movie playback time on notebook computers. 4X/9X Digital zoom equipped with location indicator. AB repeat function that lets you set your favorite scenes for instant repeat. Import and export your favorite bookmarks. Smart video de-interlacing ensures a smoother and clearer video image.

**System Requirements: Win XP SP3**

Minimum: Pentium 4 2.4 GHz. recommended: Pentium 4 3.0 GHz or above.

**AMD: minimum:** Sempron 2600+ 1.6 GHz. **recommended:** Athlon 64 2800+ 1.8GHz or above. System Memory (RAM) 512 MB or above.  
DVD Disc Drive. AGP or PCI Express graphic accelerator supporting DirectX 9.0.  
TV or computer monitor for digital/analog output.

For Blu-ray Disc Playback CPU

**Minimum:** Pentium 4 or better, Athlon 64 X2 3800+ (2 GHz) or better  
Super Multi Blue combo disc drive. BD-ROM/BD-RE.

Graphic Card **video RAM:** memory requires 256 MB or above.

TV or computer monitor for analog output.

Support:

Free email support, knowledgebase, and forums at [www.cyberlink.com](http://www.cyberlink.com) Phone support for two months is \$29.95.

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