A Brief Explanation of N.L.E. Video Editing

Analogue video and PCs live in two different worlds. To bring these two worlds together, you need a hardware device that can capture the video and convert it to a format that can be edited on your PC. This process is called NLE (Non Linear Editing). Instead of using jog shuttles and special video decks, you simply capture the video to your hard drive. You can then edit and rearrange the scenes much like moving paragraphs around in your favourite word processing program! Today, Non Linear is definitely the way to go. Even if you have an existing linear editing system and edit very long videos (say a 3 hour wedding) you still want to add an NLE system into your production suite. Anything you could do on an old fashioned linear system can be done better with NLE. By simply adding an NLE produced opening title sequence, highlight video or photo/video montage you can make your videos much more exciting! You can create all kinds of cool effects and transitions. As all the video is digital, you have an almost infinite amount of FX to choose from. Page peels; flips and spins are just the beginning. You can add awesome animations and graphics to your video as well! Since the video is digitised, you can instantly get to any exact point in the video! Not only can the video be manipulated but also the audio can be easily edited and have effects and filters added to enhance your production. Those annoying bangs and noises can be removed or reduced with ease.

Video capture boards vary greatly in terms of capabilities and price, so it's important to decide first what you plan to do with video before settling on a solution. Digital video capture boards are designed to perform two basic tasks: (1) capturing for editing and printing back to tape in digital or analogue format and (2) capturing for compression and distributing digitally via CD-ROM or on the Internet. To print back to tape, a board needs a digital or analogue-out port (and adequate throughput).

In selecting an editing board for writing back to tape, the most important feature is output quality. A digital format is superior to analogue. If the footage is captured digitally and processed digitally and finally output digitally the quality of the footage will be termed as lossless. In other words there will be no difference in quality from the original footage. If an analogue input and output is used there will be an element of loss in quality from the original footage.

After quality input, throughput, and output come software features. Both the proprietary capture interfaces and the bundled video editing software have a marked impact on the usability of editing boards. Proven software such as Adobe Premiere and Canopus own editing software are reliable and easy to use.

Other considerations include installation and operational stability. Initially if you are going to carry out the installation yourself, you will need to consider the compatibility of your computer, and disc space. Video editing requires a large amount of space i.e.: digital footage requires 1 gig per 3.5 minutes of footage, analogue doesn’t require as much and is dependent on the level of compression that is applied.

No longer a bleeding-edge technology, digital video has come of age. If you choose your capture card carefully, you can expect to get a flexible, powerful, and easy-to-use desktop editing solution.