



In days-gone-by if you wanted to broadcast professional looking video interviews on the TV or Stream to the internet, you had to fork out big bucks for equipment and software. This ability was out of the reach of the average person. But now with BoinxTV, a computer, and a DV video recorder anyone can have their own TV studio and create professional looking videos.

BoinxTV creates Live to Disk, Live to Internet, and Live to Stage video.

- Live to Disk means means you do all your editing while you are recording and the final video is saved to your hard drive.
- Live to Internet means that in addition to saving your video to the hard drive, it also outputs the final video to the screen. So with the proper 3rd party software like (the free) CamTwist, you can stream it to the Internet (in real time).
- Live to Stage means you can use BoinxTV to send your video to a large display or to an overhead screen using a projector - much in the same way you display a Keynote presentation. If you use an RSS feed or database in your presentation, BoinxTV can display the most up-to-date info every time you make your presentation. You can even have one of the presenters connected via Skype or audience participation via Chat or Twitter.



Figure 1



Figure 2

BoinxTV was designed for broadcasters, video podcasters, educators, corporate communicators, and event organizers (for concerts, sermons, seminars, sports events, etc.).

BoinxTV's interface is based on layers - much like Photoshop's layers. Each layer builds upon the previous layer. A layer is an element that will be drawn to/added to the output video. Each layer can have up to three video inputs that can come from camcorders, movies, animations or still images. Layers can be customized or created using Quarts Composer (I believe it is part of the OS X software).

When you first open BoinxTV you are given the opportunity to use one of the ready-made templates (figure 1) or you can start from scratch. For the purposes of this review we will choose the "News" template. Once a template is chosen, you are presented with BoinxTV's main window (figure 2) which contains all of the layers needed to create a TV broadcast.

The BoinxTV Main window is divided into three columns or parts. The left column displays the live input feed preview along with all of the user modifiable settings for the layers. The center column contains the layers, and the right column contains the live combined output feed (what will be recorded). As you can see from the screen capture (figure 2), there are many layers in this example. One layer contains the video feed of the reporter, another for the background, additional layers contain: a Spinning Globe of the world, a News flash, Station logo, Show title, Digital clock, News crawl, Lower third, Over the shoulder inset, Info board text, and an Info board.

Each layer has a red "Live" button that activates that particular layer. Each layer can also have a Toggle key assigned to it so that you can quickly activate and de-activate that layer. So for example, while the newscaster is talking you can hit the number 1 key to have a news crawl to scroll across the screen, then (if you have more than one camera connected) you can hit another key to split the screen to show two feeds e.g. one of the newscaster and another of the topic she is talking about. Hit a third key to switch to only the second feed and then a final key to switch back to only the newscaster's feed. This can all be done on-the-fly, so if you are recording yourself, you could toggle the layers on and off without even looking at the keyboard. If done right, it would look like you had a whole crew behind the scenes - but you know better.

To give you an idea of what you can do with this program, here are 31 of over 60 available layers:

- **Placer** displays a single source (which could be a live feed, a pre-recorded movie or a static image) in fullscreen, letterbox, at 100% or at a custom size.
- **Heading with Object** shows a headline bar with a logo or picture placed on a spinning cube or sphere.
- **Lower Third** will temporarily overlay text at the bottom of the screen.
- **News Crawl** displays an RSS feed across the screen.
- **Static Text** will overlay a multi-lined text on the screen.
- **News Flash** will flash up to five different text items on the screen in succession.
- **Interview Layer** will show two feeds which could be two camcorder feeds, one camcorder feed and a prerecorded movie or a static image.
- **News Show** and **PIP** (Picture in Picture) are similar except the News Show includes a subtitle at the bottom of the second video source overlay.
- **Scrolling Credits** dims the underlying layers and then scrolls text up the screen.
- **Static Text 3D** draws text on the screen with a 3D effect.
- **Twitter** displays a Twitter feed on the screen.
- **Sparkling text** draws text across the screen preceded by single or multi-colored sparkles.
- **Spotlight** dims the background letting your eye zero in on an item or section of the screen.
- **Clouds, Computer Circuits, Line Art, Night Sky, Rain, Snow, and Star Field** fills the background with a moving picture. These can be used when you are removing the current background using chroma-keying.
- **Axis IP Camera** displays an Axis IP-Camera feed.
- **Baseball Score keeper** and **Basketball Scores** displays sports scores on the screen (in two different ways).
- **Sports Standings** displays team standings based on data gleaned from an XML file.
- **Weather Map** shows a map that has the temperature sitting under small sunny, cloudy, or thunderstorm images. Currently it only displays Germany, but I found a YouTube tutorial showing how to replace the map.
- **Leading countdown** shows an old fashioned cinemascope count down on the screen.
- **Painter** this allows you to draw on the screen much like a football commentator diagramming a play on the TV screen.
- **Panorama 360°** shows a rotating panoramic image as the background.
- **Screen cast Intro** displays an animated 3D screen cast intro with highlightable category logos
- **Spinning Videos** shows four video sources rotating in circle.

So as you can see, BoinxTV has a layer for just about anything that you would need for your production.



Figure 3

# *Silicon Summit*

## **Testing the program**

I first started by connecting a single digital video camcorder to my computer. After activating the camcorder in BoinxTV, the camcorder feed instantly showed in BoinxTV's screens. I quickly clicked on the record button and successfully captured the incoming feed and saved it as a QuickTime movie. I next tried a Picture in Picture layer - assigning a previously made movie to the second feed. It worked as expected. For my last test I attached a second camcorder and set up a green-screen behind the the recording area. Afterward I was able to use BoinxTV's Chroma-key feature to remove the background and replace it with the Cloudy Sky layer as I was recording. Finally, using the toggle keys, I was able to jump back and forth between the two camcorders as I recorded my production.

Once I was satisfied with capturing the video I turned my attention to trying all of the different layers. I had the SMMUG logo rotating on a cube, several videos and images spinning in a circle, etc. It was a lot of fun to play with.

## **My future plans**

My ultimate plan is to use BoinxTV to record my family history. I am going to use the Interview layer and two camcorders - one to focus in on the person asking the questions and the other pointed at the one telling the history. I plan to use the toggle keys to switch back and forth between the two - following the person speaking. Just like a regular interview you see on TV. Through the course of the interview I plan to have text flash on the screen showing the date and relevant info for the time period talked about. I might add still images of locations overlaying the video. Afterward the interview will be saved as a QuickTime file and then archived on a DVD disk. I can't wait to get started. So as you can see, this program can be used for more than broadcasting purposes.

## **Inputs**

BoinxTV Accepts video feeds from DV Camcorders, pre-recorded movies, audio from your camcorder or from separate microphones, and graphic files.

## **Outputs**

BoinxTV can record directly to disk as a QuickTime file or converted to one of many different formats (figure 3). It can save as either NTSC or PAL - in 5 different Frame Rates, or convert to Internet stream using an external converter or 3rd party software.

## **Software**

BoinxTV comes in two versions: a regular version and a less expensive sponsored version. This sponsored version is the same as the regular version but requires a 5 second "Made by BoinxTV" credit be added to your movies.

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### The Skinny

**Evaluation:** I am very pleased with BoinxTV. Once you have a basic understanding of the program, it is very easy to use and tech support was very helpful in telling me how to fix the three problems that I was experiencing. Basically, anyone who needs to output a video production would find this useful.

My only negative is minor and has nothing to do with the program. It is the lack of a manual (BoinxTV has neither an in-app written Help nor a PDF manual). The in-app Help takes you to video tutorials found on the Boinx Software web site. These were very helpful but I wanted written instructions. So I did a search on the Internet and found several written How-To instructions and several video tutorials found on YouTube. One video tutorial was created by a very knowledgeable young lady who takes you step-by-step through using BoinxTV. So with the written How-To's, tutorials found on the Boinx Software web site, and the YouTube tutorials, I had a basic understanding of the program. So I got by. I was informed by Boinx Software that they are in the process of making a manual. Once created, my only negative will disappear.

**Requires:** Mac OS X Leopard (10.5.7 or higher including 10.6), the latest version of QuickTime (7.5.5 or higher) an Intel-based Mac with discrete graphics from ATI or NVIDIA or the latest PowerMac G5 with a ATI graphics and a minimum of 2GB of RAM. A DV video recorder or an iSight camera, and a microphone - if your camera doesn't have one or if it is of inferior quality. I suggest you try the demo before purchasing to see if your setup can handle the program.

**Company:** [Boinx Software Ltd.](#)

**Street Price:** Get BoinxTV for \$499 or the BoinxTV Sponsored Edition for \$199.

[Available 5 day Demo](#)