

Money

Housing
Forecast:
When
Will Your
Market
Turn?
PAGE 65

Buy Oil
Stocks
Now.
Really.
PAGE 37

A Post-
Crash
Guide to
Paying
for College
PAGE 82

What
the Stimulus
Package
Means
for You
PAGE 17

The **7** New Rules of Financial Security

And Why
You Need
to Know
Them

PAGE 50



\$3.99US \$4.99CAN



04>

0 72440 10095 4

New Life for Old Memories

The smartest ways to digitize your photos, home movies, and more. **BY ADAM BLUESTEIN**

Those videos of your kids pushing birthday cake into each other's faces—you'll watch them again, right? Maybe not. Videotape can start to degrade in as little as a decade, says Sarah Stauderman, preservation manager at the Smithsonian Institution. Home-movie reels, photos, and slides aren't immortal either. And if they're not in a format that's easy to use, no one is going to see them.

The solution: Turn your old-media images digital. Once you stow them on DVDs, you'll be able to view them on your computer or TV whenever—not to mention easily foist them on others. Follow our smart strategies, and you can say to those college friends who post embarrassing pix of you on Facebook: Revenge is at hand.



TO DIGITIZE PHOTO PRINTS

→ ON THE CHEAP

Got hundreds of snaps? Your most economical move is to send 'em to an automated scanning service.

Scanmyphotos.com is one of the quickest and least expensive around.

COST

\$70 (including shipping) for 1,000 photos, or

7¢ each

TURNAROUND

You'll get JPEG files on a DVD in a couple of days.

QUALITY

Not always perfect, but fine if your main goal is sharing pix with others online

→ THE DIY UPGRADE

For better quality than a bulk service, digitize the photos yourself using a scanner. Choose a resolution of at least 600 dpi (dots per inch) for photos you may want to enlarge later.

Canon's well-reviewed **CANOSCAN LIDE 600F** sells for \$150; if you scan 500 prints, that's **30¢** each.



TIME SAVER Use a professional service such as **ScanCafe.com** or **DigMyPics.com**. They do 600 dpi flatbed scanning with cropping and color correction—the same quality you can achieve at home.

PRICE

27¢
to
45¢
each

PRICE

\$45
to
\$65
each

→ GOING FIRST CLASS

If you have treasured family photos or want to make top-quality prints later, take them to a shop in your area that specializes in high-end photo printing. The pros there can do not only the crispest possible scanning but also the retouching that's needed for most decades-old prints to look their best.





TO DIGITIZE VIDEOTAPES

→ FEELING AMBITIOUS?

If you have a DVD recorder and a VCR, you can convert VHS tapes yourself. (The process is slow: one hour for a one-hour tape.) Or use:



▲ A combo VHS-DVR unit such as **SAMSUNG'S DVD-VR 375** (\$180), which can do tape-to-DVD dubbing



▲ Sony's compact **DVDIRECT VRD-MCS** (\$200), which lets you plug in a VCR, pop in a DVD, and record

→ FEELING LAZY?

Use a video-conversion service instead. **DigMyPics.com** offers one of the best deals:

\$15

plus shipping for a two-hour VHS-to-DVD transfer

→ FEELING LIKE SCORSESE?

Want to turn tapes into files you can edit on your computer? Use either a video-card-equipped PC (and appropriate software) or an external video-capture unit such as the **Canopus ADVC-110 DV Converter** (\$230). They let you import video in a digital format that can be edited on a PC or Mac using programs like Windows Movie Maker or iMovie.



TO DIGITIZE SLIDES AND FILM NEGATIVES

→ FACEBOOK FANS

If you plan to look at the images mainly on a computer screen, scan them yourself. Many good consumer-grade photo scanners, including the Canon on the previous page, can also handle slides and negatives. Scan them at a resolution of 1,200 dpi so they're crisp when you blow them up to viewing size.

→ PRINT LOVERS

If you plan to make large prints from the images, call in the pros again. **ScanCafe.com** can do the job at a superclean 3,000-dpi resolution.

Negatives
24¢
each

Slides
29¢
each



TO DIGITIZE HOME MOVIES ON FILM

→ OUTSOURCE IT

Reasonably priced services that can handle the conversion include **Mymovietransfer.com**, **Homemoviepot.com**, and **Moviestuff.tv**. They'll digitize 8mm, 16mm, and Super 8 film, the most common home-movie formats.

TYPICAL COST

\$20

for a 50-foot reel of 8mm film (about 4½ minutes of running time)

CAVEAT

You won't get high-def quality for that price—but for home movies, who cares?