Notes on “Pro” DVD Authoring Features

• Subtitles, alternative audio
• Slideshows as full-fledged tracks
• Separate building/compilation
• Stories
• Buttons over tracks
• Scripts

Subtitles, Alternative Audio

• DVD tracks are full-fledged parallel streams of video, audio, and text
• Text streams are typically called “subtitles,” but can be used for any time of text captioning (karaoke, comments)
• Audio streams are usually reserved for languages, but can also involve commentary
Slideshows as Full-Fledged DVD Tracks

• Once specified as a list of images with transitions, slideshow objects can be “exposed” for what they really become: a DVD track complete with alternative audio and text streams

• At this point, slideshows can be manipulated in the same way as straight-up video assets

Separate Building and Compilation

• DVD deployment is more transparent than the one-button “burn” function of consumer DVD authoring

• Explicit build/compilation step creates exact copy of the DVD on the hard drive

• This copy can be run by a DVD player without requiring a burn to DVD
Stories

- Tracks can have markers which are typically used for chapter selections
- Markers can also be used for stories — any arbitrary combination of segments from an existing DVD track
- Typical uses: highlight segments, reusable or repeating clips

Buttons Over Tracks

- Essentially, “clickable subtitles”
- “Force display” a subtitle — meaning the viewer always sees it
- Define a button around that subtitle, setting target in the usual way
Scripts

- DVD-Video specification provides for a simple scripting language
- Scripts make the difference between a completely “canned” DVD and one with enhanced interaction
- Scripts are separate entities on a DVD, making them reusable at any time, from any applicable context

- Scripts are divided into commands, for a maximum of 128
- Part of a script’s abilities is to manipulate memory, or variables; the DVD standard calls them “register memories” (RMs)
  - 8 general-purpose (GPRM 0-7): use as you please
  - 24 system parameter (SPRM 0-23): predefined by the DVD standard
- Registers are all 16 bits in size (e.g. they can hold values from 0 to 65,535)