

Videux video software

I was delighted to be asked to be a beta tester of this new software Videux (pronounced Vid-Oh) which had been developed by a team fronted by underwater photographer Chris Parsons.

As our interview with him later in this issue reveals, he had terabytes of video footage filed in various drives and folders and he needed a way of cataloguing and quantifying them all. Not being able to find anything suitable on the market he used his coding skills to create the software and soon realised that it might appeal to a wider audience both above and below the water; and how right he was!

Furnished with an early beta copy, without any form of instruction manual, I was up and running creating a catalogue of ALL of my footage in a matter of minutes without cross copying, duplicating or otherwise moving very large files.

I am a very occasional Lightroom user for still images but even I could see from very early on that Videux could easily claim to be the Lightroom of video footage; this is how well it works and how more productive it has made even me in a very short and very enjoyable space of time.

On the most basic level it makes viewing your clips almost instant. A couple of keystrokes (literally) and you are viewing full screen footage. This led to a slight red herring time out as I found myself looking at clips from years ago for the first time in years and enjoying watching them again - surprised at how well they were holding up in terms of image quality and steadiness :-)

Having indulged myself for a while I began to realise that I really should catalogue these clips and Videux was ready to let me do this with Keywords

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and Metadata. In addition to the basics of subject matter and location it allowed me to add my own crucial details of camera movements such as Pan left to right (PnLR or PnRL), up and down (PnU or PnD) as well as Zoom in or out (ZI or ZO).

In really no time at all I was thinking about new sequences which could be assembled now that I knew where the footage was and what it did, if you get my drift.

I am still on the early rungs of the ladder of Videux's capability but if you shoot video I really recommend you check it out.

I was rewarded with a complimentary copy in return for my beta feedback but, and I can admit this to Chris now, if you hadn't been so generous I would have happily paid for it ! At \$99 from the App Store it will revolutionize how you find and work with your footage.

Recovering reefs

Reports coming from the Red Sea indicate that with the recent plummet in visitors and therefore divers and underwater photographers to Sharm el Sheik the local reefs are showing signs of incredible recovery. This is obviously from the faster growing soft corals but oak trees from acorns etc.

The sad irrefutable fact is that our clumsy presence caused most of the decline in the first place; not just our physical being but also our bubbles.

The second irrefutable fact is that the images of this newly emerging splendour will encourage us

all to return when the travel restrictions are lifted and, in no time at all, we'll be back to square one.

Plymouth Sound Marine Reserve

I hope I don't jinx things by letting you know that there are plans afoot to have Plymouth Sound in Devon, England designated as a marine reserve.

It is perfect topographically and tidally and would be so easily policed as eyes are already in place to look after our fleet of naval vessels (what's the singular of fleet?) so it would make so much sense.

It is such a naturally obvious place for a marine reserve that I would hope that the red tape could be minimised. Commercial fishing is limited to a few lobster pots and the odd illegal drift net and this could be terminated almost overnight.

My only fear is that they go for a 'soft' reserve and make it voluntary, as they did in nearby Wembury Bay. Who ever heard of a fisherman volunteering to stop?

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