



High-Definition Experience & Performance Rating Test

# **HDXPRT 2011 v1.0**

# **USER MANUAL**

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# 1 INTRODUCTION

HDXPRT, the High Definition Experience & Performance Ratings Test, is a benchmarking software tool for assessing the capabilities of PCs at handling real-world media scenarios using common consumer applications. It presents results in a way that is meaningful to and easily understandable by consumers. HDXPRT 2011 uses mainstream applications to test the performance of the system, and its setup installs trial versions of all required applications. The HDXPRT 2011 setup takes about 20 minutes on most mainstream systems. The following sections provide information on HDXPRT 2011, its minimum system requirements, installation process, and run instructions.

## 1.1 The HDXPRT Development Community

Principled Technologies (PT), a leading provider of independent technology assessment and marketing services, formed the HDXPRT Development Community to provide a forum for feedback and guidance for the ongoing evolution of the benchmark. A number of Members of the Community have contributed to the design of HDXPRT 2011. Membership in the Community is open to anyone willing to pay a nominal annual membership fee.

PT created and administers the Community Web site, where anyone can learn more about HDXPRT or join the Community, collect input to help define future versions of HDXPRT, and coordinate and work with other members.

The official Web site for the HDXPRT Development Community, <http://www.hdxprt.com/> provides more details.

## 1.2 The HDXPRT Development Process

HDXPRT's development follows a well-defined cyclical yearly process:

**Phase 1. Request for Comments.** Each year, the process starts with the *issuing of a request for comments (RFC)* by the HDXPRT Development Community to its members asking for comments and ideas for the next version of the benchmark.

**Phase 2. Design specification.** The Community Administrator collects Member feedback and uses it to *produce a design document* for the benchmark. The Community Administrator then publishes the benchmark design document and distributes it to all Community members. This design guides the implementation of a Beta version of the benchmark.

**Phase 3. Beta release to community members.** The Beta version is distributed to all Community Members for evaluation for *Beta testing*. During the Beta testing period, the Development Community supports the Beta testing process for its members via webinars, online information, etc.

**Phase 4. Public release.** Members provide feedback on the Beta version, and the Community Administrator uses this feedback to *produce the final version of the benchmark*. After a testing period,

the Community Administrator releases the new version of the HDXPRT benchmark software to the Community and to the public at large.

This four-phase process cycle is repeated for each new release of the benchmark. Once a version has been publicly released, the Community Administrator will collect feedback from members and users and coordinate issuing patches as required.

Further information on the design specification of HDXPRT 2011 and user support is available on the HDXPRT Development Community Web site at <http://hdxprt.com/>.

If you are interested in a more detailed technical discussion of the benchmark, you can download the HDXPRT 2011 white paper from <http://hdxprt.com/2011whitepaper.pdf>.

## **2 MINIMUM SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS**

- Intel® dual-core 2.0GHz processor or equivalent
- 2 GB dual-channel DDR2 SDRAM at 533MHz
- 40 GB of free disk space
- Video display settings 1,024 x 768, 24-bit color
- DVD ROM to install HDXPRT
- Microsoft® Windows® 7 32-bit or 64-bit editions (Language: US English)

## **3 APPLICATIONS REQUIRED TO RUN HDXPRT 2011**

HDXPRT 2011 bases workloads on usages performed with common consumer applications. These applications are required to run a HDXPRT 2011 test. To make it easy for users to test HDXPRT, trial versions of some of the required applications are included in HDXPRT setup and are automatically installed when HDXPRT is installed.

### **3.1 Bundled Applications**

The following applications are included in HDXPRT 2011 installation. Some of the applications bundled with HDXPRT are trial versions and may expire after the trial period and/or may not have their full functionality enabled (the features required to run HDXPRT tests are enabled).

- Adobe® Flash® Player 10.2
- Apple® iTunes® 10.1
- Adobe® Photoshop® Elements 9
- Adobe Premiere® Elements 9
- Cyberlink MediaEspresso 6.5
- DivX® for Windows

- HDRsoft Photomatix Pro 1.0.1
- Unified Color™ HDR Expose™ 1.1.0

Some of the trial software installed by HDXPRT 2011 will expire 30 days after the installation of HDXPRT. This will cause HDXPRT 2011 to stop working after 30 days. To continue running HDXPRT tests on system 30 days after the installation, you will need to reinstall HDXPRT (a fresh OS install may be required). You may also choose to purchase licenses for the bundled software and activate the trial version installed by HDXPRT to avoid expiration or reinstallation after 30 days.

## 4 INSTALLING HDXPRT 2011

*Notes: You must be a user with administrative privileges to run and install HDXPRT 2011. Prior to installation, you should always do a full backup of your system and close all open programs; Microsoft Visual C++ Redistributable Package will be installed. These may not be removed during uninstall of HDXPRT 2011.*

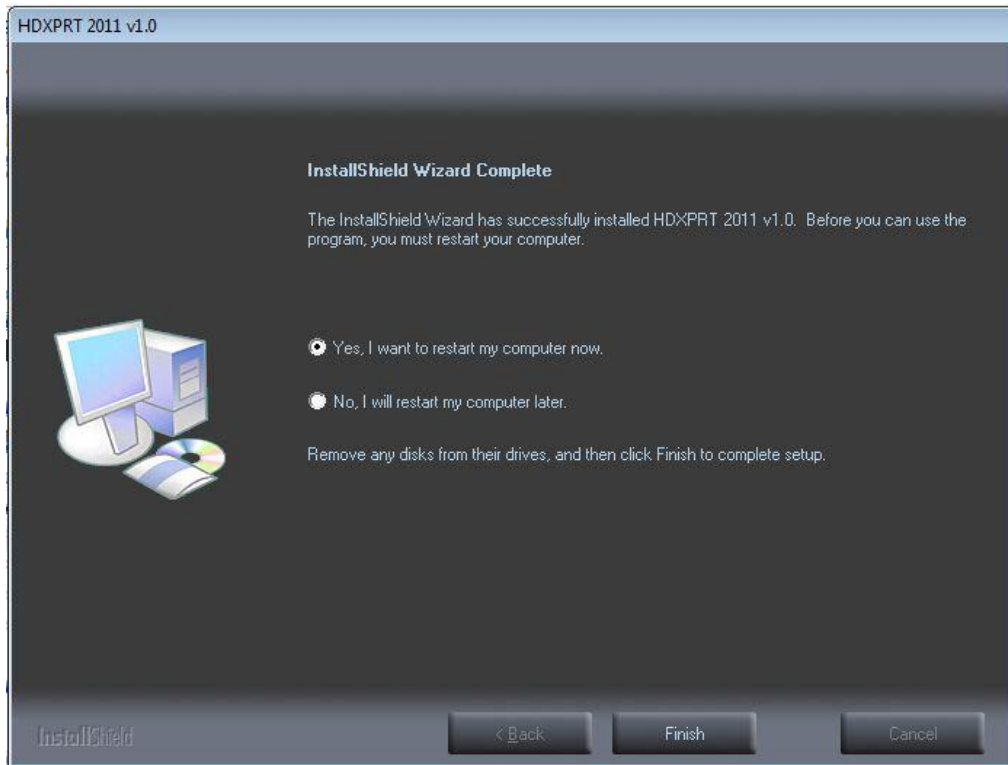
1. Insert the HDXPRT DVD-ROM into your DVD drive.
2. The install welcome screen displays automatically (see Figure 1). If the welcome screen does not display automatically, use Windows Explorer to locate HDXPRTSetup.exe, and double-click.



**Figure 1. The HDXPRT install welcome screen.**

3. Click Install HDXPRT. If the HDXPRT installer cannot find the prerequisite applications in the system, the installer will install the setup and list the missing application(s). Please install the missing applications and restart the HDXPRT setup.
4. Review and accept the HDXPRT end user license agreement.

5. HDXRT setup will install the bundled applications listed in Section 3. The installer automatically executes the setup of the required applications. Please do not click on any intermediate dialogs that come up until you see the setup complete message (See Figure 2.)
6. After the setup is complete, we recommend rebooting the system.



**Figure 2. The HDXPRT install completion screen.**

## 5 STARTING AN HDXPRT TEST

Running an HDXPRT test is easy.

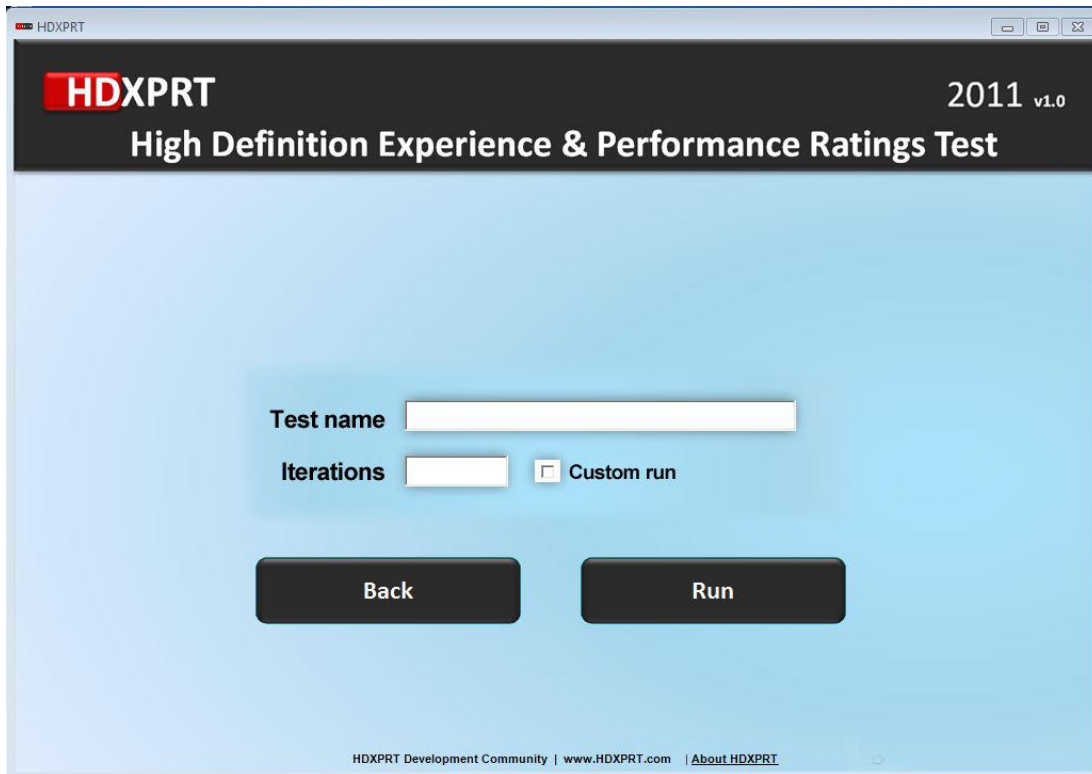
1. To launch HDXPRT 2011, click the HDXPRT 2011 shortcut on the desktop. You can also launch HDXPRT 2011 from the Start menu.

This launches the HDXPRT home screen. (See Figure 3.)



**Figure 3. The HDXPRT home screen.**

2. Click Run HDXPRT.
3. Enter a test name and the number of times you want to run the test (see Figure 4). HDXPRT produces only one set of results for a test with multiple runs. For more accurate test results, we recommend running the test with at least three iterations.



**Figure 4. Entering a test name and number of iterations in HDXPRT.**

4. To start the test, click Run. If any of the required applications (E.g. DivX, Photoshop Elements, etc.) is not present, HDXPRT will stop the run and report an error message. HDXPRT will attempt to run the benchmark on any hardware configuration provided all required software is present, even if the hardware configuration does not satisfy the minimum benchmark requirements.
5. HDXPRT will reboot the system before running the tests. If the test encounters an error, the error information is displayed on the screen and an error report is automatically created on the Desktop.
6. The Results Screen automatically appears at the end of a successful run (see Figure 5). The results files of a test are archived in <ProgramFiles>\HDXPRT\Reports\<TestName> folder. To move the results of a test from one system to the other, simply move the <ProgramFiles>\HDXPRT\Reports\<TestName> folder to the new system.

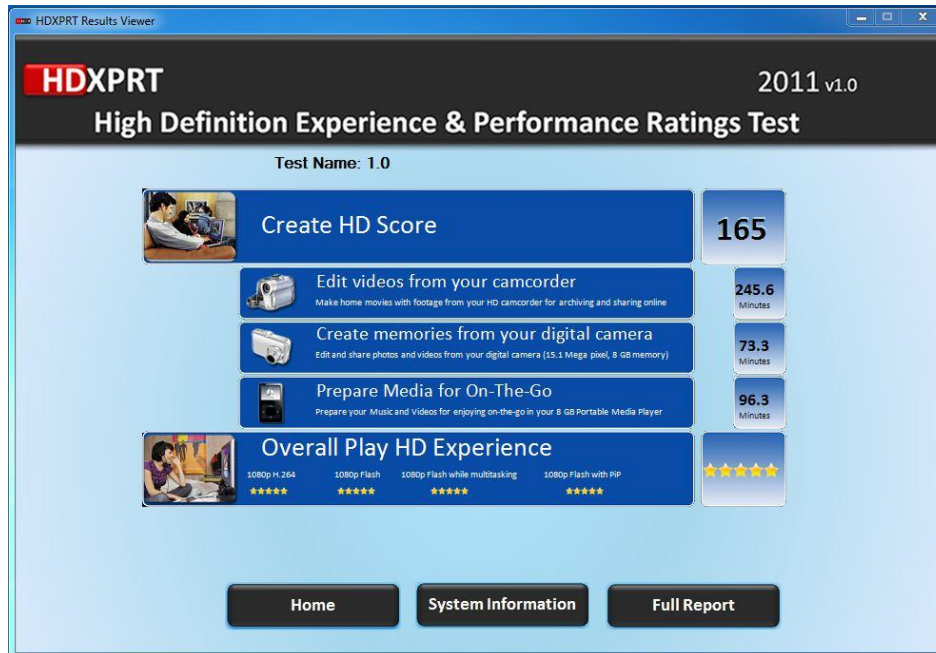


Figure 5. The HDXPRT results screen.

## 6 RESULTS VIEWER

Use the HDXPRT 2011 Results Viewer to view previous tests run on the machine or view results copied from another machine. You can also launch the Results Viewer from the HDXPRT 2011 program group in the Start menu.

The detailed system information of the test machine is also archived as part of the HDXPRT results report and can be viewed by clicking on the System Information button. The Results Viewer also allows users to view multiple test results in a side-by-side comparison.

## 7 UNINSTALLING HDXPRT 2011

To remove HDXPRT 2011, uninstall it through the Control Panel → Add/Remove software utility.

Uninstalling HDXPRT 2011 will not remove certain items, such as the results folders, from the system.

## 8 GUIDELINES FOR RELIABLE TESTING

The following recommendations represent good practices for consistent and reliable testing with HDXPRT 2011; however, these are not necessary to run HDXPRT.

- Running HDXPRT on “clean” systems ensures accurate and consistent evaluation of the test system’s capabilities by HDXPRT. You can restore most systems to their original or clean state by using the restore disks provided by the system manufacturers or installing a clean image created using applications such as such as Norton Ghost™ ([www.ghost.com](http://www.ghost.com)).
- Do not attempt to initiate any other system activity while HDXPRT is running.
- Restart the computer before running the benchmark and after making any driver/hardware changes.
- Disconnect any Internet connection before installing/running HDXPRT.
- Disable any networking connections and file sharing. Network activity may affect the tested system and its performance.
- Close and disable any open applications and background programs, such as automatic disk defragmentation or virus scanners with automatic update features.
- Run the test using at least three iterations. When you run HDXPRT with multiple iterations, it produces only one set of results. This result is an average of the test system’s performance in multiple iterations.

## 9 KNOWN ISSUES

1. HDXPRT 2011 may fail to run on a few machines configured with only 2 GB of RAM. In these cases, we recommend increasing memory to at least 3 GB in order to run the test.
2. Some applications installed by HDXPRT 2011 may expire 1 month after the installation of HDXPRT. This will cause HDXPRT 2011 to stop working at this time.
3. You can install HDXPRT 2011 only to the C:\Program Files directory.
4. When the hardware components in a test system are changed, you may have to reinstall the related drivers to produce accurate results.
5. HDXPRT 2011 requires the display size of text and other items on your screen to be set to *Smaller -100%*, which is the default option on many computers. You can access this setting on your PC from Control Panel→Appearance and Personalization→Display. (See Figure 6.)

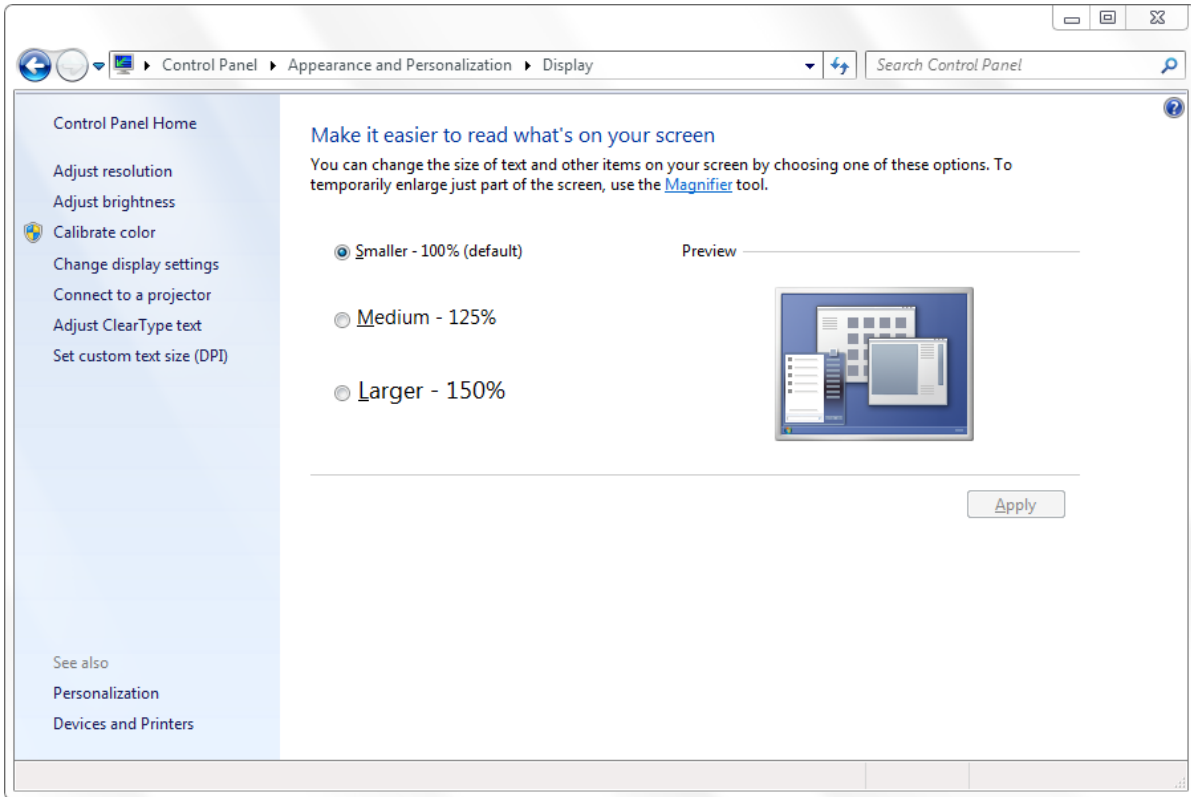


Figure 6. The resolution setting required for running HDXPRT 2011.

6. An HDXPRT 2011 test may not generate results and you may see Apple iTunes on your screen (see Figure 7).

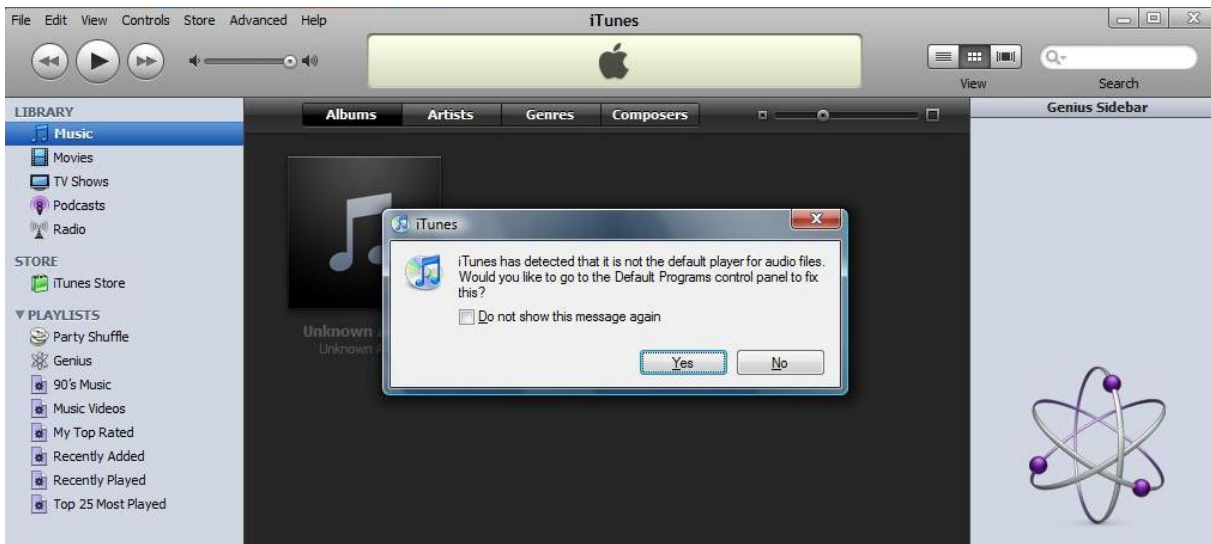


Figure 7. The Apple iTunes screen.

To resolve this issue, check the Do not show this message again checkbox, and click Yes. Close iTunes and reopen it to ensure you do not see this message again.

## 10 TECHNICAL SUPPORT

To provide feedback or report any issues, please send all correspondence to the following email address: [HDXPRTsupport@hdxprt.com](mailto:HDXPRTsupport@hdxprt.com).

For up-to-date information on HDXPRT, patches, and workarounds, please refer to the following URL: [www.hdxprt.com](http://www.hdxprt.com).