External Hard Drives 9/22/12

The best standards to adhere to when choosing a useful drive for the Comm. Multimedia lab are as follows:

- FireWire 800 drives are preferred over USB 2.0 drives. Please be aware that there are situations where a USB 2.0 drive will not out perform a Firewire drive. Peak bitrate does not equal sustained bit rate.
- Firewire 800 can be used on all machines in the lab and it makes for happy- happy sunshine.
- 7200 RPM rotational speed
- Choose at least a 8 MB backside cache; 16+ MB advisable for HD
- If possible a SATA II (as in 2; sometimes specified as 3.0+ Gbps) drive (as opposed to a SATA drive which has an implied 1 after it; 1.5 Gbps)
- A preference but not a requirement: aluminum cases with internal fans. They cost more but last longer and are more reliable.
- Size is up to you and your pocketbook. REMEMBER: most production courses are not asking you to purchase textbooks so a drive purchase can be justified as such. For HD projects over 80 GB an external hard drive is required and I recommend that you get a drive with Firewire 800. High Def. video (all classes) will push you beyond this GB limit easily.
- Bus powered is not as good as powered by power supply. Your data will be safer with a powered unit!!

The following are provided as examples, not requirements...nor are the vendors being endorsed above any other.
If you want to get the drive and enclosure together then in general $160 – 250 is a good cost::return ballpark. However, coming in below that mark are the following:

OR

OR
http://www.bhphotovideo.com/c/product/552200-REG/Buffalo_HD_HS1_0TQ_1TB_DriveStation_Combo_4.html

OR
You can Froogle the following drives and find one that suits your fancy. These are suggestions amongst a myriad of possibilities.

Some good choices:
LaCie d2 Quadra External Hard Drive - 1TB - 7200rpm – External
LaCie d2 Quadra External Hard Drive - 500GB
Seagate FreeAgent Desk Hard Drive - 1TB - 7200rpm - External
G-Tech G-Drive 500GB External Hard Drive - Titanium

A word of caution: IT IS EASY TO GET CONFUSED BY SOME OF THE DRIVE NAMES. The companies use similar names but include entirely different drives and parts (busses) internally. So, read the specifications or please feel free to see Mark Robinson.