



# Social Science Research Labs

American University

Center for Teaching Excellence

New Media Center

my.american.edu

## SPA Lab

Ward Bldg. Subterrace 1  
M,W,F-9:30am-8pm  
T,Th - 9:30am-10pm  
Sat-10am-5pm  
Sun-closed

## SSRL

Hurst Hall, Room 203  
M-Th.-9:30am-11pm  
F-9:30am-7pm  
Sat-12-7pm  
Sun-10am-7pm

Both labs are open  
9:30am-5:30pm during  
university breaks

Class schedule and  
lab reservations

Layout of facilities

## Camtasia and SnagIt

### What are they?

SnagIt is an application that allows you to take a "snapshot" of a computer screen. Screen captures make great visual aids for presentations, web sites, or teaching purposes. Camtasia is another screen capture program that also serves as an AVI video creator. Both programs are easy to learn and simple to use.

### SnagIt

In the upper left-hand corner lies the heart of the SnagIt application. The red "capture" button is almost all you need to make screen captures. When the program opens, it is automatically set to "image capture." This will include everything you see on the screen, including the top and bottom toolbars.

### Capturing an image

- Make the screen look exactly as you would like the capture to look.
- Press the red "capture" button on the SnagIt window.
- A new window will open with a preview of your screen capture.
- At this point, you can modify the image or format it for different output destinations (printer, disk, e-mail, etc.).

### Modifying the image

- In the preview window, select "SnagIt Studio" under the "File" menu. Your image will open inside the SnagIt Studio window.
- From the menu on the left, you can select a variety of characters and symbols to put on your image. Select the symbol you wish to use and click the right mouse button. Select "copy," click on your image and paste the symbol. After pasting the symbol, you can manipulate the size and location of the symbol on the image.
- The studio also features a built-in draw program so you can create custom designs on your image or modify elements of the image.

### Output options

As well as sending your image to the printer, you have the option of saving as a BMP file, or as a Web document. You can also send it straight to the SnagIt Studio. You can collect a series of files created with SnagIt and incorporate them into a video presentation. SnagIt has a studio feature that allows you to annotate and label the screen shots you have taken.

Other SnagIt options include "text capture," for capturing text in ASCII format. This can be used as a replacement for cutting and pasting from one application to another. "Web capture" can be used to collect all the images from a website. SnagIt allows you to choose how much of the screen you wish to capture. If you don't want toolbars to be visible in your capture, select the "window capture" option. There is also an option to make the mouse cursor invisible.

### Camtasia

Like SnagIt, Camtasia is a screen capture program, but deals with video as well as still images. Camtasia is divided into three main functions: the recorder, the player and the producer. You can capture video streamed from the web, or create your own AVI format video from the action on your computer screen. After recording, you can use Camtasia's producer feature to edit and annotate your video.

### Recording and playback

- Click "Record" on the Camtasia interface. You can record the entire screen or a smaller area. If using the viewfinder, position the window wherever the action

will be taking place on screen. When the viewfinder begins flashing, start whatever actions you wish to capture. When you are finished, click the "stop" button.

- When you finish recording, the "Save As" dialog box will automatically appear. Camtasia videos can be played back in QuickTime, RealVideo or Windows Media formats.

### **Camtasia Producer**

- This editing suite allows you to put together presentations with the videos you made, as well as dub sound using the DubIt application (included with Camtasia).
- To create a new movie, choose "Produce Movie" from the File menu. Give your project a name and click OK to return to the work area.
- At the top of the screen, you will see a black area with silhouettes of film frames. Drag the AVI clips you created beforehand into these areas from the thumbnail display area below. This is the "storyboard."
- To edit a clip, drag it into the display area on the lower right side of the screen. Advance the cursor along the time strip below to the point at which you wish to cut. Highlight the area to be cut, and then choose "Remove from Movie" from the Edit menu. When you are finished cutting from the clip, choose "Add to Storyboard" from the File menu.
- When you finish editing your movie, click "Produce Movie" again. Camtasia will render the movie, creating the final product.

For free trial versions and product information about either program, visit the [company web site](#).