OBS Studio

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Record good quality screencast videos with free software and no post production editing!

OBS Studio is free and provides excellent basic training video creation tools. It is a fairly complex tool, but a setup wizard in recent versions preconfigures OBS for your use.

It is a tool with many features, but for this tutorial, we are setting it up for video recording instead of streaming and using it as a virtual camera.

Setup

When recording video, you want your screen set to a resolution that will not make huge video files. HD resolution is still considered the best for screencast videos as it shows the level of detail that is needed and looks good on a large projection screen.

 Before recording a video, you must set your screen resolution to 1920 x 1080. It will also make it much easier now to set up OBS Studio to get the best configuration.

Install OBS Studio 29 or higher
[Open Broadcaster Software | OBS](#)

- When installing the Windows version, pay careful attention to the following prompts and select as indicated here:

Usage Information

Select "Optimize just for recording, I will not be streaming."

Video Settings

Then select 1920 x 1080 as this is HD video.

Final Results

- Then review and apply settings.

Now OBS Studio should be open and running.

Scenes

 Scenes are arrangements of your screen and camera, and can also include titles to display over top of other backgrounds. Rather than change scenes in post editing, we can do it on the fly to minimize production time and have the video ready for release the moment you stop recording.
No scenes have been created and no sources have been selected for inputs to the video. In the middle of the window is the scene, which is a representation of your computer screen and what will be displayed on it.

Essential scenes

As we are making a training video, we will want three types of scenes:

1. A title scene that displays the introduction title and text for your video. You will prepare the text before you begin recording.
2. A full camera scene that displays your webcam. This allows you to talk to the camera before you begin your presentation and then again at the conclusion of the screencast. You can flip back and forth at

any time during the video.
3. A screencast capture scene that displays your screen but with your camera video in the bottom or top right of the screen. You could create two scenes so that you can flip between them to move the camera image out of the way if it is obstructing the view of something on screen

Title Scene

- Right-click on the default scene label **Scene** and select **Rename**. Call it "Title"
- Click the large + under sources to add a source.
- Select **Image** and upload a background image for your intro scene. You will place text over this image in the next step.
- Move and stretch the image to fit across the window inside of OBS Studio.
- Select **Text (GDI+)**
- You can type text in the box with your video title, and drag it to place it anywhere on the screen.
- You can add an additional text box in the same way if you need a subtitle.

 Note that the order of the items in the Source dialog indicate their layering on the screen. The top item in the list is the topmost layer. Drag and drop the source items to change the layering.

Camera scene

- Click the plus under scenes to add a new scene. Call it **Webcam**
- Notice that the sources for Title have disappeared. Now you will add the camera as a source for the Webcam scene.
- Click the + under Sources and add **Video Capture Device**
- I'm labeling mine "Built-in Camera" because this is my laptop webcam, and the settings may be different when I use this with my external webcam at home.
- The camera window will open, and you will select your attached webcam. You can leave everything else set to default for now. Later you can adjust settings to make the image darker or brighter or any of multiple camera settings.
- Select OK, then resize the camera to be full-screen in the OBS Window.

Screencast scene

Now for the most important scene.

- Create a new scene using the + in the bottom left corner. Call it **Screencast + Camera**
- Add a Source and select **Display Capture**
- Name it **Full Screen**
- This should have filled the screen area of OBS with a representation of your display.
- Next, add a source and select **Video Capture Device** again. But instead of giving it a name again, select **Existing device** and choose the same camera as before.
- Resize it quite small and put it in a corner of the video that will be out of your way.

 It would be best to use a green screen, so that only your talking head is taking up space, but we will save that advanced step for later, when you become more proficient at making videos.

Set Hotkeys to control scenes

You will start the video on the title slide, and can then flip to the camera scene after a couple seconds. But you will need hotkeys to control the scenes while you are recording the screen.

- Go to **File > Settings**
- Select **Hotkeys** and scroll down until you see your saved scene names:

- I selected Ctrl + 1 for the screencast and Ctrl +2 for the camera

- While we are in there, we can also set a shortcut key to start and stop the recording

- Click **OK** to apply the hotkeys

Ready to Record

You are now all set to record! Click between your three scenes and watch how they instantly flip the scene that will be in the video from Title to Camera to Screencast.

Start to record

- Select the **Title** scene and press **Start Recording**
- After 2 seconds, switch to the Camera scene and start talking.
- Now you can switch to your application for the demo or training.
- When you are ready, press Ctrl +1 or the hotkey you selected for **Screencast + Camera** scene.
- Now you can complete your training. If you want to hide the screen momentarily, you can press Ctrl +2 or the Camera hotkey to go back to the camera while you switch things around.
- Press Ctrl +1 to show the screen again and continue with the training.
- When finished with the training, just press Ctrl + Shift +2 or the hotkey you selected to stop recording.

 You have now created a training video that requires no post-editing and is ready to be delivered.
You can watch it by going to **File > Show Recordings**. By default, the name starts with today's date.

Upload to YouTube

- Just go to YouTube and Log in if you aren't already
- In the top right you will see a **Create** button, click it and select **Upload Video**:

- Now, drag and drop your video onto the window that opens.
- YouTube will ask you a few mandatory questions, then you will share your video either as a Public or an Unlisted video.

 Congratulations! you just trained 2 people!
Wait… now it's 10

Now 100

This is what we mean by Multiplication in Language Technology

Automatic Scene Switcher

You can actually automate scene selection without pressing any hotkeys! In the tools menu, you can select a window that you have open (Paratext 9.3) and a scene to be activated when the window is full screen.

Now, while you are talking on Camera, you only need to switch to Paratext and start teaching and the scene will automatically change to Screencast + Camera mode.

Green Screen

We'll add instructions here if you bug us enough.