

OBS Studio for Tutorial Videos

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 we are setting it up for video recording instead of streaming and using it as a virtual camera for this tutorial.

Overview

In this tutorial, you will learn how to:

1. **Use the Auto-Configuration Wizard** to quickly optimize OBS for recording.
 2. **Set up Scenes** (e.g., screen capture, webcam overlay, title slides).
 3. **Record a screencast** with both audio and video in one go, minimizing the need for editing.
 4. **Switch Scenes on-the-fly** to include different elements such as talking-head overlays, opening/closing slides, and screen-only views.
 5. **(Optional)** Use the OBS Virtual Camera for live online demos.
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Before You Begin

1. **Hardware/Software Prerequisites:**
 1. A Windows laptop with sufficient processing power.
 2. A headset with a microphone (recommended for clearer audio).
 3. A webcam (built-in or external).
2. **Download OBS Studio** from <https://obsproject.com/>^[1] if it's not already installed.
3. **Location to Save Recordings:** Decide (or create) a folder on your computer where you'll store your video files.
4. It is best to set your screen resolution to 1920 x 1080 so that scaling is unnecessary when saving the video.

SESSION 1 (1.5 Hours)

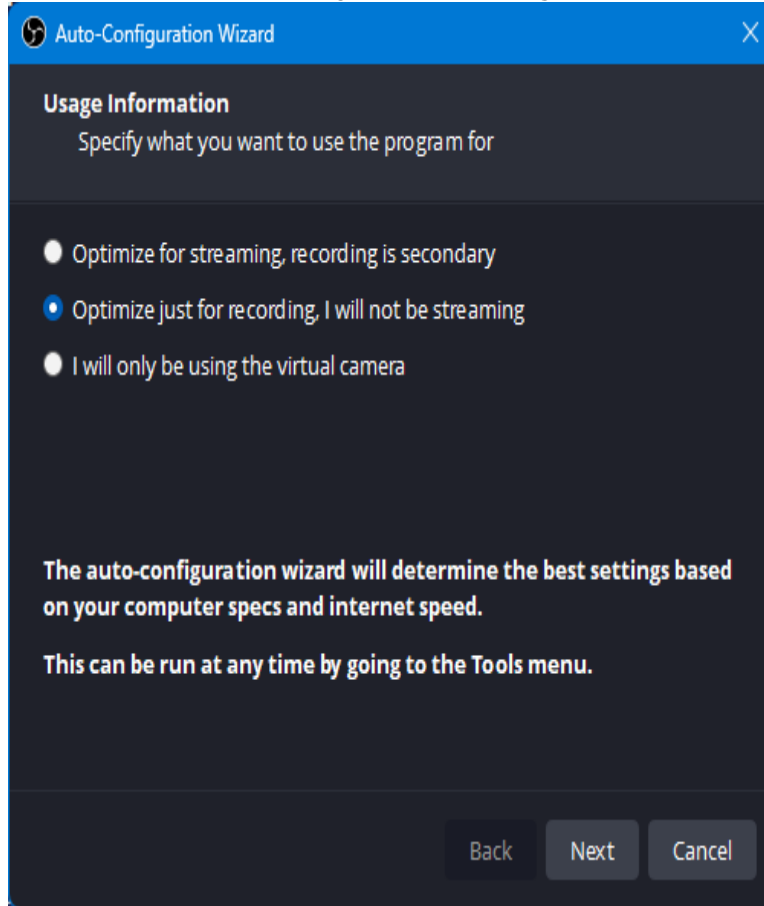
1. Introduction & Goals

1. **What Is OBS Studio?**
 - OBS (Open Broadcaster Software) is a free, open-source tool for recording and live streaming.
 - You'll be using it primarily to **record screencasts** (your screen + your webcam) for quick software demonstrations.
 2. **Your Goal for Today**
 - By the end of this session, you should be able to do a basic recording that includes your computer screen, your voice, and optionally your webcam video in the corner—**no editing required**.
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2. Installing & Running the Auto-Configuration Wizard

1. **Installation Steps**
 1. **Download the Installer:** Go to <https://obsproject.com/download>^[2] and choose the **Windows** version.
 2. **Run the Installer:** Double-click the .exe file and follow the on-screen prompts.
 3. **Launch OBS:** Once installed, open OBS from your desktop or Start menu.
2. **Auto-Configuration Wizard**
 - When you first run OBS, you should see a prompt to configure OBS automatically. If it doesn't appear, you can access it by going to **Tools > Auto-Configuration Wizard**.

- **Selection:** Choose **Optimize just for recording, I will not be streaming.**



- Follow the wizard's steps to let OBS detect the best settings for your computer.

3. Confirm the Wizard's Results

- OBS will provide recommended settings (resolution, frame rate, etc.).
- Accept and **apply** these recommended settings.
- You'll see a summary of what was configured (often 1920×1080 at 30 FPS for most laptops, which is ideal for our purposes).

You're now done with the initial setup and ready to create Scenes.

3. Setting Up Scenes & Sources

Scenes & Sources Overview

- **Scene:** A layout of visual and audio elements. Examples:
 - Intro (title or image)
 - Screen + Webcam
 - Camera Only
 - Outro (closing)
- **Source:** The actual media or device in a Scene (screen capture, webcam, image, text, etc.).

Step-by-Step: Creating Your First Scene

1. **Scene Panel:** At the lower-left of OBS, find the "Scenes" panel.
2. **Default Scene:** Rename if desired (e.g., "Screen + Camera") by right-clicking → **Rename**.
3. **Add Screen Capture:**
 1. In "Sources," click + → select **Display Capture** (for entire screen) or **Window Capture** (for one application).
 2. Name it (e.g., "Screen Capture").
 3. Choose the specific display or window, then click **OK**.
4. **Add Webcam:**
 1. In "Sources," click + → **Video Capture Device**.

2. Name it (e.g., “Webcam”), click **OK**.
3. In **Device** dropdown, select your webcam.
4. Adjust resolution if needed, then **OK**.
5. Click and drag the webcam preview to position it. Resize by dragging the red bounding corners.

Additional Scenes

1. **Camera Only Scene:**
 1. + in Scenes → Name it “Camera Only.”
 2. In Sources → + → **Video Capture Device** → choose webcam.
 3. Confirm audio is active (Mic/Aux in the Audio Mixer).
 2. **Title or Closing Scene:**
 1. + in Scenes → Name it “Title” or “Intro.”
 2. In Sources → + → **Text (GDI+)** or **Image** to display “Welcome!” or a logo.
 3. Repeat for an “Outro” scene if you want a closing image/slide.
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4. Setting Up Hotkeys for Scene Switching

Hotkeys let you change Scenes **without** clicking in OBS, which is helpful when you’re demonstrating software in full screen.

1. **Access Hotkeys Settings**
 - In the top menu, go to **File > Settings** (or **Settings** in the Control panel).
 - Select the **Hotkeys** tab on the left.
 2. **Assign a Key Combination for Each Scene**
 - You’ll see each Scene listed, with fields labeled “Switch to Scene.”
 - Click in the empty field next to “Switch to Scene (Scene Name)” and press your desired key combo (for example, **Ctrl+Alt+1** for “Intro,” **Ctrl+Alt+2** for “Screen + Camera,” etc.).
 - Make sure to pick combos you **won’t** accidentally trigger during your screencast.
 3. **Save Your Hotkeys**
 - Click **Apply** or **OK** at the bottom of the Settings window.
 - You can now switch Scenes in OBS simply by pressing your chosen key combos—**no need to switch windows**.
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5. Using a Green Screen (Chroma Key)

If you have a green screen, you can remove or replace your background so that **only you** appear over your screencast.

1. **Setting Up the Green Screen**
 - Position the green screen behind you.
 - Ensure it is well-lit, avoiding shadows or wrinkles if possible.
 2. **Chroma Key in OBS**
 1. **Add/Select Webcam Source:** In your Scene (e.g., “Screen + Camera”), click your **Video Capture Device** (webcam) in the Sources list.
 2. **Open Filters:** Right-click that source, then select **Filters**.
 3. **Add Chroma Key:** Under **Effect Filters**, click the + icon → choose **Chroma Key**.
 4. **Select Key Color Type:** Usually “Green” is the default.
 5. **Adjust Similarity & Smoothness:** Move the sliders until your background disappears, and only you remain visible.
 6. **Close** the Filters window.
 3. **Positioning**
 - You can resize and reposition yourself in the Scene. You’ll appear over your captured screen or background image.
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6. Audio Checks & Quick Test Recording

1. **Audio Mixer:**
 - Check the **Mic/Aux** bar moves when you speak into your headset mic.
 - Adjust the volume slider if too loud or soft.
2. **Test Recording:**
 1. Click **Start Recording** (bottom right in “Controls” panel).
 2. Use **your Hotkeys** to switch Scenes (try Intro → Screen + Camera → Camera Only).
 3. Stop recording after ~10 seconds.
 4. Find your file in the **Recording Path** and play it back to check both **video** and **audio**.

SESSION 2 (1 Hour)

1. Building a Short Tutorial Video

Now you'll make a **real tutorial**. The objective is a single, polished screencast requiring **no post-processing**.

1. **Plan Your Task** (5 minutes):
 - Pick a **small software demonstration** (e.g., "How to enable a setting in Keyman").
 - Outline: Intro → Demonstration → Outro.
2. **Set Up Scenes** (if not already done) (5 minutes):
 - **Scene 1 (Title)**: Simple text or image.
 - **Scene 2 (Screen + Camera)**: Display capture + webcam (with or without green screen).
 - **Scene 3 (Outro)**: Thank-you slide or closing text.
3. **Record** (10 minutes):
 1. **Start Recording** in OBS.
 2. Press your **hotkey** for "Title" to introduce the topic.
 3. Press your **hotkey** for "Screen + Camera" to show the software demonstration.
 4. Use your **Outro** scene to wrap up.
 5. **Stop Recording**.

2. Review & Playback

1. Locate your recording file in your chosen folder.
2. **Play It** and verify:
 - Scenes switched at the right times (thanks to hotkeys).
 - Your green screen background is removed (if used) and looks clean.
 - Audio is clear.
3. **Adjust, If Needed**
 - If the green screen effect needs tweaking: go back to **Filters** → "Chroma Key."
 - If audio is too quiet/loud, adjust in the **Audio Mixer**.
 - Re-record as necessary.

3. Additional Features & Virtual Camera (Optional)

1. **Virtual Camera**
 - In "Controls," click **Start Virtual Camera** (if available).
 - In Zoom (or another app), select **OBS Virtual Camera** as your camera.
 - You can then live-switch Scenes in Zoom just like you do in recordings.
2. **Scene Transitions**
 - Check "Scene Transitions" in the lower-right area to change the transition style (Cut, Fade, etc.).
 - Adjust transition duration if desired.

Wrap-Up

1. **Sharing Your Videos**
 - You have an MP4 that you can upload to YouTube or another platform.
2. **Final Tips**
 - **Test Everything**: Always do a quick test before doing a long recording.
 - **Use Your Headset** for consistent audio quality.
 - **Position Your Green Screen** carefully for best chroma key results.
 - **Practice Scene Switching** with your hotkeys to avoid on-screen window toggling.

Quick Reference Checklist

1. **Auto-Config Wizard**:
 - Select "Optimize just for recording."
2. **Scenes**:

- Intro, Screen + Camera, Camera Only, Outro.

3. **Sources:**

- Display Capture (or Window Capture) for your screen.
- Video Capture Device (webcam) with optional Green Screen.
- Images/Text for intro/outro slides.

4. **Hotkeys:**

- Assign a unique key combo to “Switch to Scene.”
- Use these combos during recording for seamless transitions.

5. **Green Screen Setup:**

- Good lighting, minimal wrinkles/shadows.
- Right-click webcam → Filters → **Chroma Key** → Adjust settings.

6. **Record & Review:**

- Verify audio levels.
- Check green screen effect.
- Make sure the Scenes switch at the right times.

You’re now set to record professional-looking screencasts with smooth scene switching via hotkeys and optional green screen effects—all with **no post-processing** required. Good luck with your recordings, and have fun making your tutorials!

^[1] <https://obsproject.com/>

^[2] <https://obsproject.com/download>