

CAMTASIA LAB

Step 1: Download and install the free trial of Camtasia from
<https://www.techsmith.com/camtasia.html>

Step 2: Open Camtasia and watch the brief overview video.

Step 3: Create a new project that you can fiddle with.

Step 4: Rejoice! Slash, get after it.

Things that you should attempt to do before you leave the room:

- Screen capture! Camtasia allows you to capture the entire screen or a specified region of the screen. Make sure that you know how to do both.
- Cursor highlighting! This feature is extremely useful when you're showing users how to navigate a complex interface. However it can also be distracting if the interface is simple enough for users to follow the cursor without the highlighting. Test out the cursor effects with a couple of the online visualization tools we've seen in class to get a feel for when these effects are useful.
- Video clip trimming! You literally just drag the end of the clip. This should be a no-brainer.
- Video clip splitting! You do not need to nail a screen capture in a single take (particularly when you're just capturing PowerPoint slides). When you nail a particular section of your screen capture, it is useful to take a pregnant pause before you move on to the next section. If you completely botch the next section, this gives you some buffer for trimming the clip down. If you nail the next section, you can split the clip at your pause, trim each end, and then put them back together. Magic!
- Voice narration! In most cases, talking along with a screen capture will do the trick, but you can also record a voice track separately.
- Transitions! You do not need 10,000 flashy transitions in any video. However, it is sometimes nice to have a simple transition for shifts between slides and a live demo (and back).
- Sharing! Finished videos can be exported as a locally saved file, or directly to a video sharing site. At the very least, test the playback of a locally saved file to make sure that everything came out alright.

You have 30 days to enjoy the blissful wonder of Camtasia before your free trial runs out. Don't waste a second of it!