



The Mac - OS X - Screen Capture Utility - Grab

Many Mac Users may not realize that Grab has much more to offer than the old days of simple **Screen Capture**. Mac OS X has included an OS-Level screen capture utility since the very early days.

Most of us commonly know as “**Cmd-Shift-3**.” As you may already know, “**Cmd-Shift-3**” quickly captures the entire screen and saves the resulting image to the desktop as a Picture. The resulting “captured picture” is typically named Picture 1.png. It was saved as .pdf in OS 10.3 and earlier versions.

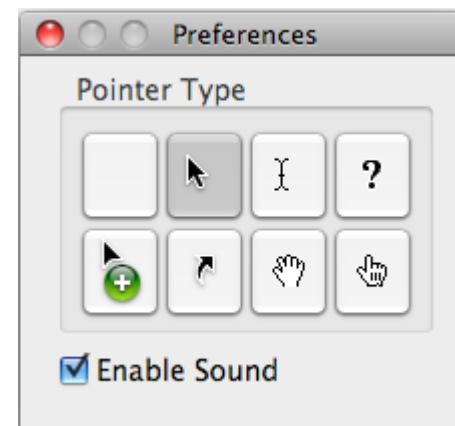
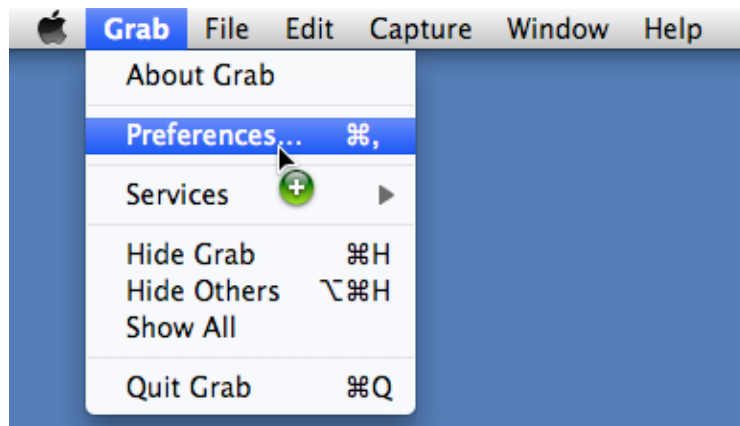
This method of capturing a screen was very useful, but was somewhat limiting. If you are trying to *capture only a specific part of the screen* it was necessary to open the resulting image in an image editor and crop and resize the picture, to obtain the desired results.



Grab Preferences are in the Grab Menu next to the Apple Icon in the Menu Bar.

As of OS X 10.4 (Tiger) the cursor was no longer visible in screenshots. In most situations, that is what we want. However, from time to time we may want to point to specific item on the screen, or perhaps better demonstrate an action visually. Here we move into Grab's Preferences.

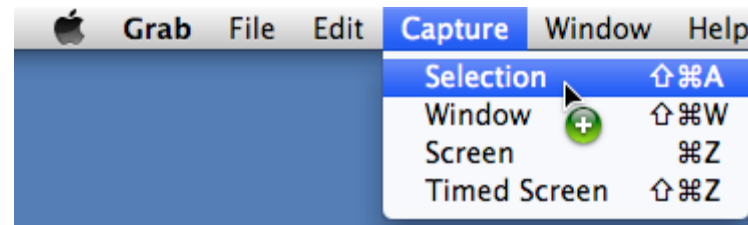
There are eight selections for dealing with the cursor in the screen capture. The user may choose to **hide the cursor**, or **select from seven cursor styles that will be displayed in the picture**.



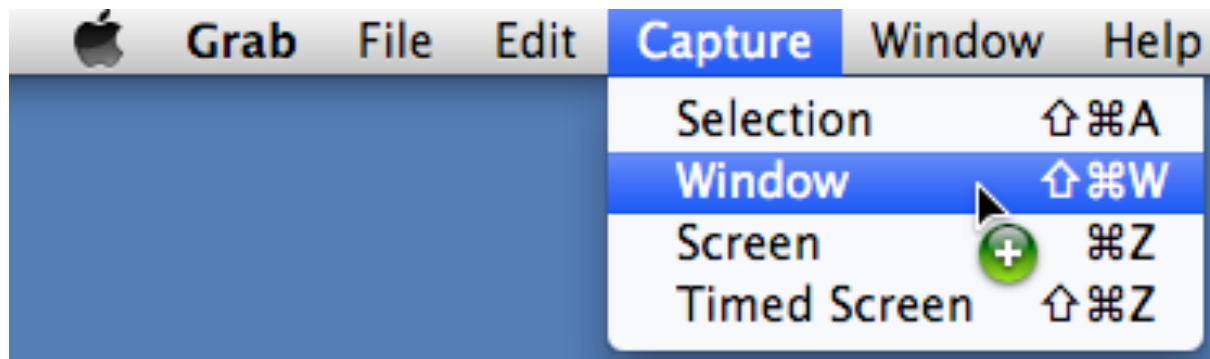
You may also Enable Sound by placing a check mark in the box.

Now, In addition to capturing the entire screen, users may select the “**Capture Menu**” and select from **the 4 options** it presents.

Selection - Changes the cursor to a crosshairs, allowing you to draw a box of any size around the contents of which is captured.

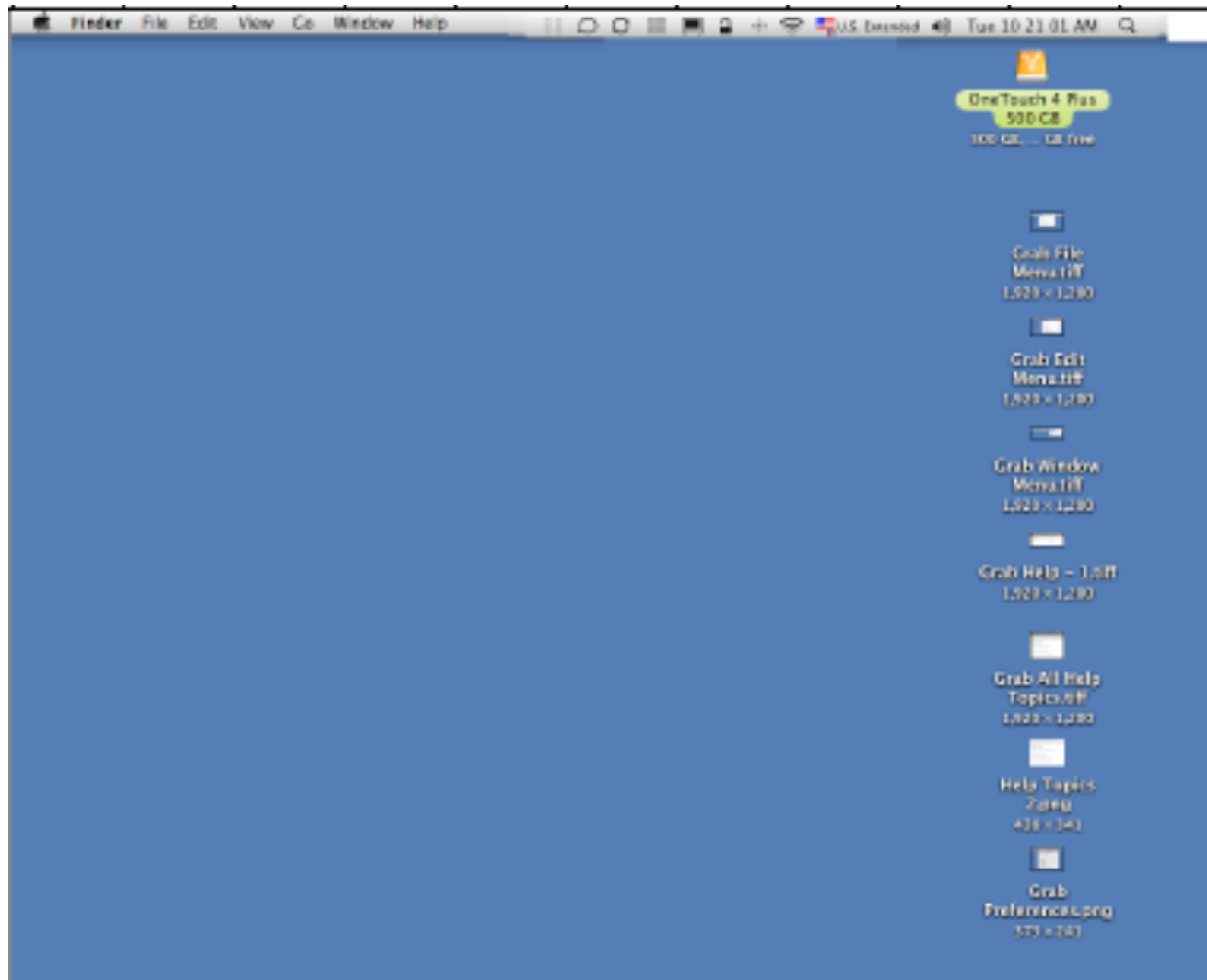


Window - Changes the cursor to camera, allowing you to click on and capture any open window, icon, dock, Menubar, Menu Item, etc.

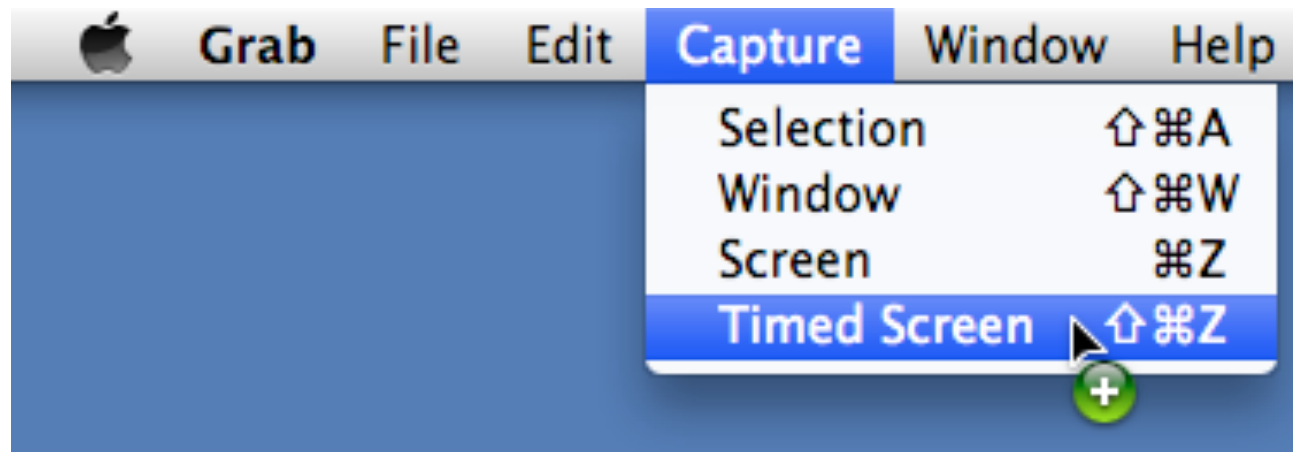


Screen - This is the old stand-by that most of us are already familiar with.

This is identical to the “**Cmd-Shift-3**,” where **everything that is visible on the screen is captured**.



Timed Screen - Similar to Screen, this option sets a timer for 10 seconds and will capture the screen after that 10 seconds has lapsed, allowing time to open a fullscreen app or to easily capture Screen-savers at work, etc...



Screen Capture Keyboard Short-cuts

“Cmd-Shift-3” captures the screen without the need for Grab.app to be open. And there are there keyboard short-cuts for these other screen capture styles.

Screen Capture Keyboard Short-cuts

- 1 Capture Screen = Cmd-Shift-3**
- 2 Capture Selection = Cmd-Shift-4**
- 3 Capture Window = Cmd-Shift-4, then the Space Bar**
- 4 Timed Screen - Is only available in Grab**
- 5 Saved Captured Image to Clipboard, not Desktop - Hold the Control key while using any of the above short-cuts**