

Best Practices for Screen Recording with QuickTime Player

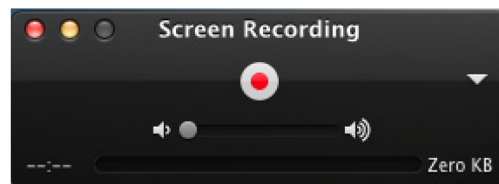
Using QuickTime Player is one of the quickest and easiest ways to capture a screen recording on your computer. To best utilize this program, let's look at how to set it up.



QuickTime

Setting It Up

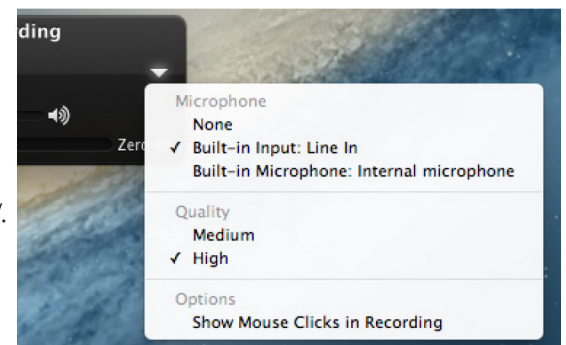
First, open up the QuickTime Player application. Then at the menu on the top of the screen, select File > New Screen Recording (or use the keyboard shortcut, Control + Command + N). This will open up the Screen Recording interface.



You'll notice that the interface only has a few buttons. There is an adjustable volume slider, which controls the loudness of the sound that's being recorded. There is a big red button in the middle; this is the record button. There is also a small triangle button off to the right side of the interface. Click on this to reveal the Settings menu.

AUDIO:

If you'd like to record sound along with the screen capture, you'll want to use an external microphone for the best quality. To utilize this, go to the Settings menu by clicking on the little triangle, then under the Microphone heading select Built-In Input: Line In.



If you don't have an external microphone, then you'll want to use the internal microphone. Again, go to the Settings menu and click on Built-In Microphone: Internal microphone. It's important to remember that if the Line In input is selected, but there is no external microphone, the recording will NOT contain any sound.

QUALITY:

QuickTime Player has two quality settings for Screen Recording: Medium and High. Because of the different codecs, or wrappers, Apple uses for each setting, it's best to select High quality to produce the highest quality image as well as the smallest file size. If Medium is selected, the output file will be roughly double the size of the same file output at High quality.

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OPTIONS:

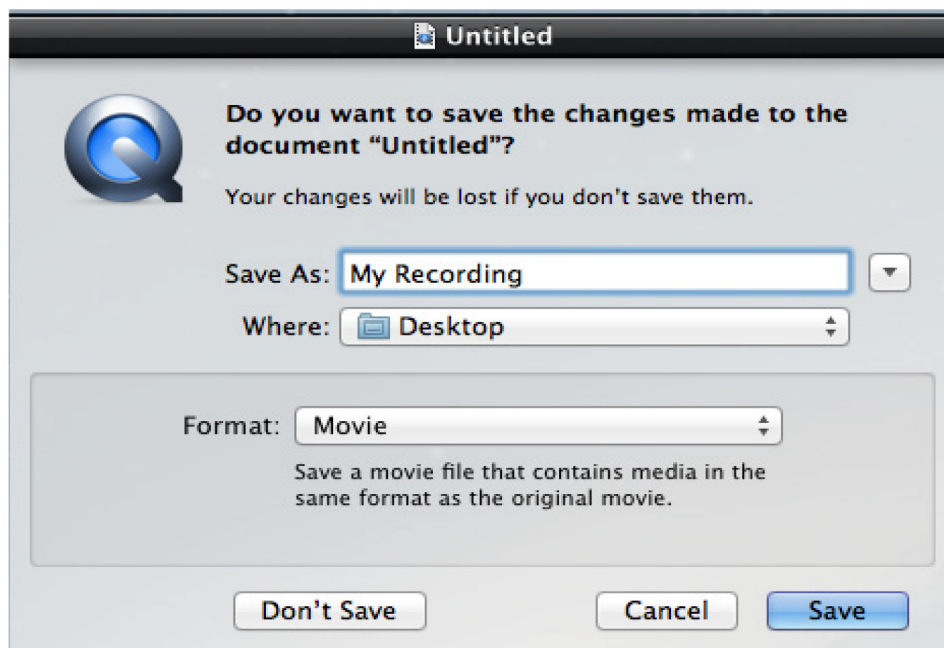
There is also an option available to Show Mouse Clicks. This creates a visual cue in your video each time the mouse is clicked. This can help your audience keep track of where the cursor is at all times, which can be especially useful if you're giving a tutorial on how to navigate a website, for example.

Recording and Saving

Once your settings are all selected, it's time to record. Click the red circle button in the middle of the Screen Recording interface. A dialog box will come up. You may either click anywhere to record the full screen, or click and drag to create a frame for your recording; this will only include what's inside the frame in the final recording.

Once your dimensions are selected, simply click anywhere to begin recording. On the interface, the bottom left corner will show a rolling timer that tells you how long your recording is. The bottom right side displays the estimated file size of your recording.

When you're finished recording, click on the grey square button to stop it. Your video will then pop up on the screen. To save it, click on the red "X" button on the top of the recording. Another dialog box will pop up asking you what the file name is and where you would like to save it. It's best to create a new folder or have a set location for the video, but if you haven't decided that yet, then simply name it and save it to the desktop.



Now your video will export and be ready for viewing or uploading.