

An OPCUG Product Review



Creating a Simple Video Tutorial

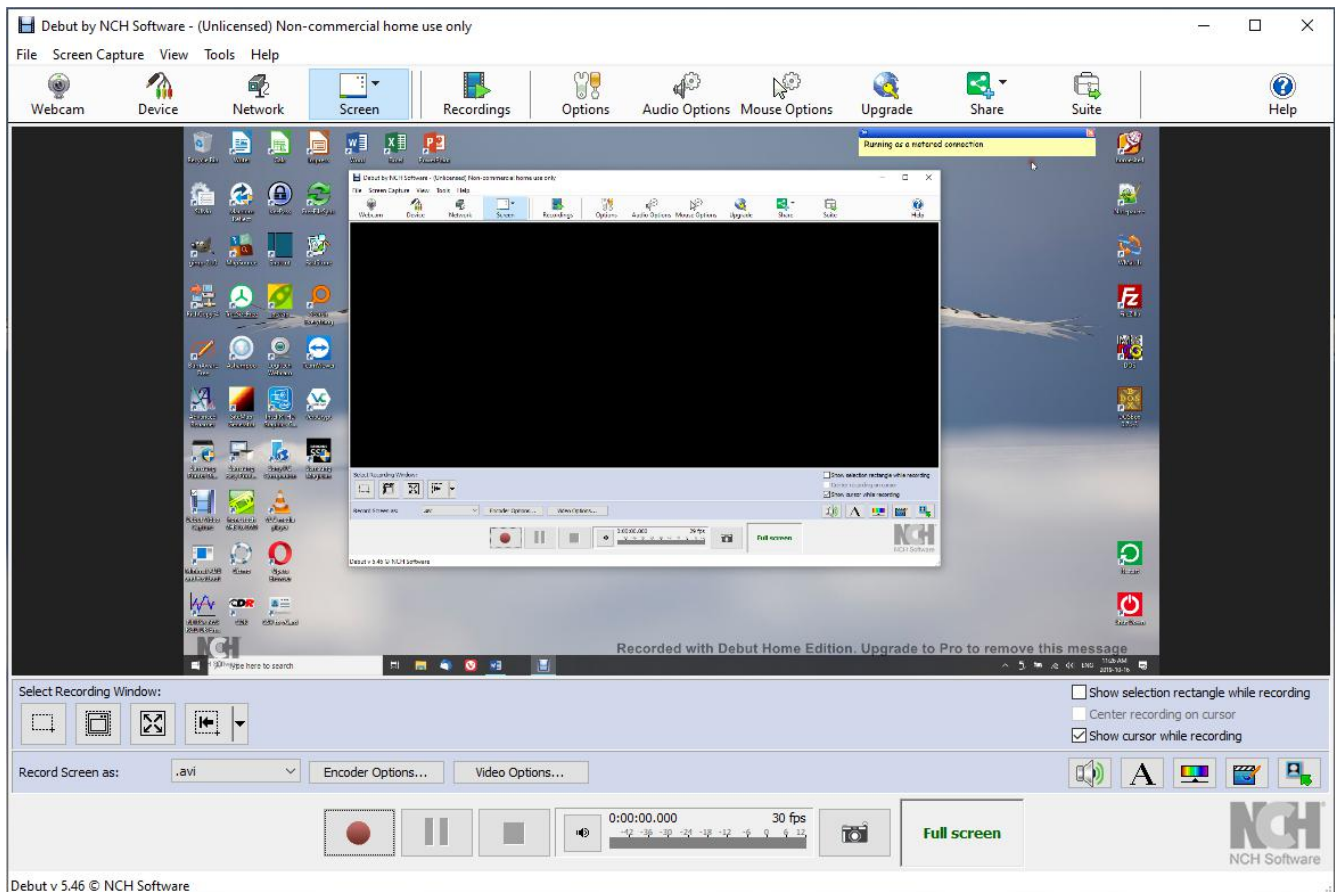
By Alan German

I have a friend who, each time she returns from a trip, has difficulty downloading the digital photographs from her camera to her PC. In the past, we have tried sitting down at the computer and slowly going through the process, and have also used TeamViewer to repeat this exercise remotely. Unfortunately, this one-off approach didn't seem to stick. I then tried writing out a series of step-by-step instructions but, apparently, my friend got lost around Step 3! Clearly, another technique was required.

And then I thought of YouTube University. That's my usual go-to source for how-to information. Now, there may well be appropriate video tutorials on YouTube that would solve the file transfer between devices issue, but I thought that making a custom video couldn't be too difficult.

In fact, this idea gave me the opportunity to try a category of software – desktop video capture - that had interested me for some time but for which I previously had no real application.

Looking for some free software that would let me experiment led me to Debut Screen Recorder Software, a free version of the package made available for non-commercial use by its developer, NCH Software.



Running the program is initially a little disconcerting since it runs on the desktop and displays the desktop with itself running on the desktop! However, the program's basic operation is very simple since it is controlled by VCR-type record, pause, and stop recording buttons.

So, just press the big red record button. A pop-up window notifies you to press Ctrl-F10 to stop the recording. Press the "Start Recording" button in the pop-up dialogue box, perform the series of actions required to copy photographs from a camera to a folder on the computer's hard drive, and then press Ctrl-F10. The video is automatically saved and can be viewed by pressing the "Recordings" icon.

It is probably useful to set a few options prior to making a video tutorial. For example, you probably want the mouse movements to be visible in the recording so make sure that the "Show cursor while recording" button is checked (or navigate to Mouse Options – Record). Similarly, you may wish to provide a verbal commentary on the on-screen actions so make sure that an appropriate microphone is selected through the Audio Options – Audio menu item.

The software has many more optional settings, but these are left for you to discover!

Bottom Line

Debut Screen Recorder Software (Freeware)

NCH Software

<https://www.nchsoftware.com/capture/>

Copyright © Ottawa PC Users' Group (OPCUG) <https://opcug.ca/copyright-and-usage/>