

# Distributed Summarizing & Learning Centers with CamStudio

## What in the world is it?

*CamStudio* by RenderSoft is a tool for recording computer monitor activity into standard AVI video files. Anything that you can see on your screen, *CamStudio* will be able to record allowing you or your students to play the video back later on. It operates by taking a series of bitmapped screenshots (called “frames”) which, when displayed in rapid succession, exhibits motions. The more frames-per-second (fps) you record, the smoother the motion.



## What educational purposes can *CamStudio* be used?

- Make a demonstration video for operating software.
- Create an instructional movie on how to do a specific math problem.
- Make a short lesson to illustrate a key concept.
- Create a “how-to” video to show students the steps to follow to perform a task.
- Record a movie stream.
- Convert your .avi move file to flash to include it on a website.

## The process:

1. Launch the program by clicking the *CamStudio* icon: 
2. Click the red circle button to start recording.
3. Select the boundaries of the desktop you wish to record.
4. Perform the demonstration within the confines of those boundaries.
5. Click the blue square pause button to stop recording.
6. Name your resulting .AVI file and save it to a suitable location or burn it to a CD.



## Basic Operational Features:

**The File Menu:** Nothing earth shattering here. The commands in this menu perform the same functions as the buttons. Frankly, it is easier to use the buttons!



**The Region Menu:** The “region” is the specific area of the screen you wish to capture. “Region” allows you to select the size before recording. “Fixed” is just what it implies – the size is fixed and you can move the selected area around but cannot alter the size. “Full Screen” takes the entire screen AND the most memory.

**The Options Menu:** Clearly, the heart of the program:

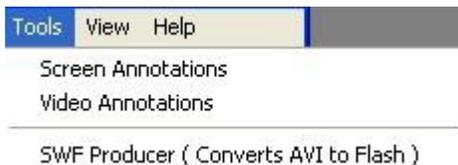
Go here to decide frame rate, whether or not the cursor is seen.

This section provides options for audio – use it or not – and where the source is located to record.

If you are using audio – here are the controls for it.

Autopan allows you to move the record-region window while it is recording.

Program and Flash options are used to set specific requirements. Keyboard shortcuts allow you to set these.



**The Tools Menu:** Allows you to insert annotations over top of your presentation – either written or an actual video image of yourself narrating. The SWF producer program converts your final product.

**The View Menu:** Allows you to toggle the program between three different views.



Button View



Compact View



Normal View

## Versatile:

The video files created by *CamStudio* are saved in the standard .avi (Audio Video Interleave) format, which is used in many Windows applications that support video, including MS Office. You can effectively paste an AVI file into an *Office* application just like pasting text.