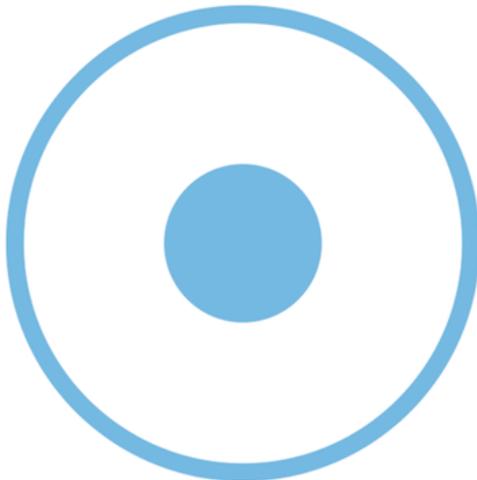# Screencast Software Comparison

Comparing PowerPoint, Panopto / HudStream, Screencast-o-Matic, Camtasia.

Screencast Software Comparison
General Feature Check List

Software Feature	Microsoft PowerPoint	Panopto/ HudStream	Screencast-O-Matic	Camtasia
Extra Cost to Individual Staff?	✓	✓	✓	✗
Unlimited Recording Time?	✓	✓	15 Mins	✓
Flexible recording (Webcam, screen, no video options).	✓	✓	✗	✓
Flexible recording (will record .mp4, etc).	✗	✓	✓	✓
Flexible output formats (will export / output .mp4, etc).	✗	✓	✓	✓
Built-In Editor	✓	✓	✗	✓
Integrated within Brightspace?	✗	✓	✗	✗
Extensive audio settings (control level / while noise)?	✓	✓	✓	✓
In-House knowledge of software	✓	✓	✗	✓

Screencast Software Comparison
Microsoft PowerPoint

Microsoft PowerPoint is a very familiar piece of software to most, although many people who use it do not know of its recording capability. Again, limited like video notes as you will only be able to record what is located on the PowerPoint as opposed to the entire screen, but unlike video notes you the recording time is not limited.

It also comes with the added benefit that if you make a mistake, you don't necessarily have to delete the entire narration, but instead delete the narration that occurred on the slide you were talking on as the software will automatically keep track of where you are in the presentation.

It should be noted however, even if you do upload a PowerPoint into Brightspace as a PowerPoint Show file (which would make the presentation play by default), the presentation is still interactive, and students can still simply flick through the video and miss out important pieces of information.

Software	Positives	Negatives
Microsoft PowerPoint	• Embedded within the PowerPoint itself. • Unlimited recording time. • A lot of in-house knowledge of the software. • Will automatically identify when you have switched slides. • Can remove individual slides of narration. • Can record specific segments of the presentation. • Can export so students access the presentation and narration without instructions required.	• Will only record what is on the PowerPoint. • File size increases as the recording time increases. • Cannot download the audio you record. • Does not make an individual file of the recording. • The presentation remains interactive meaning audio can be skipped or overlooked.

Screencast Software Comparison
Panopto/HudStream

Panopto differs from Camtasia in several ways. Which tool you choose depends on what kind of activity you want to record, how much editing you want to do, and how you want to deliver that recording.

Video Editing software solutions have quickly become one of the most crucial tools in the market. Camtasia is not the only Video Editing software available, and it is not necessarily the perfect choice for your requirements. That is why we have compared Camtasia with Panopto, weighing one software against the other.

If you're reading this comparison, then you're probably interested in choosing Camtasia or Panopto. Camtasia provides features like User Interface, Animations, Cross Platform, Video Sharing, Video and image management, etc.

Software	Positives	Negatives
Panopto/ HudStream	• Panopto recordings support simple editing allowing you to remove segments, or add previously recorded segments. • Records live classes in the classroom to capture your lecture and student interaction. • Students create their own notes that are synchronized with the recording. These notes are searchable later.	• Staff Confidence and worries about being recorded – universities need to make it clear what the purpose of recording is and to consider giving lecturers 'opt-in' choices. • Some staff say the technology is limiting – in reality, though, there are lots of ways in which savvy users are recording classroom activities or demonstrations that go beyond the tradition lecture capture use case.

Screencast Software Comparison
Screencast-O-Matic

The software similarity is high between Screencast-O-Matic and Camtasia when it comes to recording functionality, however it should be noted Screencast-O-Matic is much more performance friendly for low end PCs and so if you have an older PC, it may be useful to give Screencast-O-Matic a try before purchasing Camtasia. Camtasia may still need to be used (or a different piece of editing software) if you want to have more refined video productions.

It should also be noted that Screencast-O-Matic is the most flexible out of the three pieces of software when it comes to video output/recording formats. Screencast-O-Matic is able to produce videos that will be able to be received by almost any video editor, and played in its unedited and edited formats. This is an advantage since Camtasia's recording files can only be read by Camtasia, and therefore only opened by Camtasia. This means effectively, until a file has been edited in Camtasia, you cannot access the recording.

Software	Positives	Negatives
Screencast-O-Matic	• Free to use. • 15 minute max recording size. Perfect for shortform videos. • Saves in a multitude of file types, by default .mp4 which can be accessed by most editors regardless of version type. • File sizes are reasonable for the recording length available. • More options for audio quality, audio settings and testing. • Minimal setup required. Click a button, click record done. • Uses minimal disk and memory whilst recording, meaning low hardware machines don't	• Not much in-house knowledge of the software at the University. • Requires access to the internet. • No editor is attached, so still requires Camtasia or other editing pieces of software. • Not too dissimilar to Camtasia – most positives focus on the performance of low end PCs as well as video formatting.

Screencast Software Comparison
Camtasia

Camtasia is a hybrid piece of software, being able to be used as both a recorder and an editor. This is one of its biggest advantages over the other pieces of software in this document as the others either have very basic editors, or have no capability at all.

It is very likely, that if you are going to be creating videos that require some editing or you want to add some effects to a video to make it aesthetically pleasing, you will end up using Camtasia as your choice of editor. It is quite user-friendly, and if you are stuck, there is a lot of in-house knowledge of the software at the University. It also allows for unlimited editing time, and the file sizes are quite small in comparison to other recorders.

This software however, does have some drawbacks. Firstly, you will need to pay for a license to use the software, and the software is quite hardware intensive, meaning if you have a very old machine, then problems with the software may incur. It also encrypts its recording files with its own specific file type, meaning if you record with Camtasia, you cannot edit the file without using Camtasia. This means if you lose the means to access Camtasia, you will not be able to salvage any unedited recorded files.

Software	Positives	Negatives
Camtasia	• Attached to the editor which is used within the production of the video. • Allows for unlimited editing time. • File sizes are smaller in comparison to most other recording software. • Is updated by parent company regularly.	• Software uses a lot of disk and memory on low-end machines. This can lead to stuttering, and input lag on the laptop. • Files created can ONLY be edited from within Camtasia's editor. This also changes slightly from version to version meaning an older version cannot access a newer version of a Camtasia file. • No option to backdate a project file. • Audio options and recording quality isn't the best. • Requires some setup. Around 5 minutes at the beginning and end of a recording.