

Nitshot — User Guide

Version 0.8 · © 2026 Rekow IT

Nitshot is a fast replacement for the Windows Snipping Tool. Press **Win+Shift+S** or **PrtScn**, pick what you want, and the screenshot is on the clipboard and saved as a file at the same moment. It can also record an area of the screen as a video, and on an HDR display it keeps the full brightness range instead of flattening it.

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Getting started

Requirements: Windows 10 or Windows 11, 64-bit.

Start `Nitshot.exe`. No window opens; the program lives in the notification area (the tray, bottom right) as a small icon. From then on:

Keys	What happens
Win+Shift+S	opens the capture overlay
PrtScn	opens the capture overlay (or captures the whole screen at once, if you set that up)
Alt+PrtScn	unchanged — still Windows' own "copy the active window"

The Windows Snipping Tool stays installed. While Nitshot is running it takes over these keys; quit it, and the shortcuts go straight back to Windows. Nothing is changed permanently.

To have it start with Windows, tick **Start with Windows** in the tray menu or in the settings.

Taking a snip

Press **Win+Shift+S**. The screen freezes, dims, and a toolbar appears at the top centre:

Button	Key	Mode
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Button	Key	Mode
Rectangle	1	drag a rectangle; the snip is taken when you let go
Freeform	2	draw any shape; everything outside the outline becomes transparent
Window	3	point at a window — it is highlighted — and click to take it
Fullscreen	4	takes all screens immediately
Record		drag an area to record a video instead — see Recording
×	Esc	cancel

A **right-click** also cancels.

The overlay remembers the mode you used last and opens in it next time. Fullscreen is the exception: it is a one-off action, so the next snip opens in your previous mode again.

Because the screen is frozen the moment you press the key, you can snip menus, tooltips and anything else that would disappear once you start moving the mouse.

With several monitors, the overlay covers all of them, and you can drag a selection across monitor boundaries.

Where your snips go

By default every snip is

- **copied to the clipboard** — paste it straight into a mail, chat or document;
- **saved as a PNG** in Pictures\Nitshot, named Screenshot 2026-09-21 143012.png (date and time of the snip).

A notification in the corner tells you where the file went. Clicking **Open screenshots folder** in the tray menu takes you there.

Freeform snips keep their transparent surroundings in the PNG file. Programs that cannot handle transparency get the shape on a white background instead of a black one.

You can switch off either destination, choose a different folder, and turn off the notification in the settings.

HDR screenshots

If a display has **HDR** (Windows calls it “advanced colour”) switched on, Nitshot notices this by itself and captures in full HDR:

- the snip is saved as a **.jxr** file (JPEG XR — the same format the Xbox Game Bar uses; the Windows Photos app opens it) with all highlights intact;
- next to it goes a normal **.png** copy for everything that does not understand HDR;

- the **clipboard** always gets a normal (SDR) picture, because Windows has no HDR clipboard format.

The regular 8-bit copy has to make a choice: bright highlights either become plain white (the default — normal content looks exactly as on screen), or they are compressed so that some detail stays visible, at the cost of white becoming very slightly grey. That is the **Keep highlight details in the 8-bit copy** option.

Without an HDR display none of this applies, and snips are ordinary PNG files.

Recording the screen

1. Press **Win+Shift+S** and click the **Record** button in the toolbar.
2. Drag the area you want to record. Recording starts immediately.
3. A red frame marks the recorded area; a small bar shows the running time and a **Stop** button. Both sit just outside the recorded area, so they are not in the video, and you can keep working inside the area as usual.
4. Stop with the **Stop** button, or press **Win+Shift+S** or **PrtScn** again — while a recording runs, the hotkey means “stop”.

The video is saved as **MP4** in Videos\Nitshot, named Recording 2026-09-21 143012.mp4, and a notification says so.

Sound: either what your PC is playing (*System sound*), the *Microphone*, or nothing. One source at a time.

HDR: on an HDR display, recordings are made in 10-bit HDR as well, so colours and highlights come out as they looked on screen. Your graphics card must be able to encode HEVC (H.265) 10-bit; almost every current card can. If yours cannot, or you switch the option off, the recording is made in normal SDR — correctly converted, not washed out.

Better sound: the MP4’s sound is compressed (AAC). If you need the exact original, switch on the lossless **.wav** option: a .wav with the untouched sound is saved beside the video. See Recording settings.

The tray icon

Double-click the icon to start a new snip. **Right-click** it for the menu:

Entry

New snip	same as Win+Shift+S
Capture whole screen	takes all screens at once, without the overlay
Open screenshots folder	opens the folder in Explorer
Start with Windows	start automatically when you sign in
Settings...	opens the settings

Entry

About	version and short help
Exit	quits the program; Win+Shift+S goes back to Windows

Settings

Open them with **tray icon** → **Settings....** The window has five tabs. Switch with the mouse, or with **Ctrl+Tab** / **Ctrl+Shift+Tab** from anywhere in the window.

The three buttons at the bottom:

- **OK** saves everything and closes the window.
- **Cancel** closes without saving the changes you made since the window opened — or since you last pressed Apply.
- **Apply** saves and activates your changes straight away but keeps the window open. It is only clickable when something has changed.

Options that only make sense together with another one are greyed out while that other one is off.

General

Option

Copy every snip to the clipboard	puts every snip on the clipboard
Save files	also saves every snip as a file
Pictures	folder for snips. Browse... lets you pick one. Empty means Pictures\Nitshot
Videos	folder for recordings. Empty means Videos\Nitshot. Recordings are always saved, even with <i>Save files</i> off
Dim the desktop by ... percent	how dark the screen gets behind the overlay (0 = not at all)
Show a notification when a snip is saved	the message in the corner after each snip
Language	<i>Automatic</i> follows the Windows display language. A new choice switches the window at once, so you can read what you are choosing
Start with Windows	start automatically when you sign in

HDR

The top line tells you whether any display is currently in HDR and how bright Windows shows normal (SDR) white on it.

Option

Save HDR snips as .jxr	save HDR snips as real HDR files
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Option

...and a tone-mapped .png beside it	also save a normal PNG copy
Keep highlight details in the 8-bit copy	compress bright areas in the normal copy instead of cutting them off at white
Quality	JPEG XR quality, 1–100. 90 is visually identical and fast. 100 is truly lossless but can take around 20 seconds and three times the space for a full 4K screen
Record in HDR when the display is in HDR	record 10-bit HDR video on an HDR display
Ignore HDR, capture 8-bit	treat every display as a normal one, for snips and recordings

Recording

Option

Sound	<i>None</i> , <i>System sound</i> (what the PC plays) or <i>Microphone</i>
Frames per second	5 to 60; 30 is a good default
Encoder	which video encoder to use. <i>Automatic</i> picks the best one your graphics card offers. Only encoders that were tested successfully on your PC are listed; if the chosen one fails, the next best is used
Save the sound as a lossless .wav beside the .mp4	keeps an exact copy of the sound as a .wav file
...and build the .mp4's sound from it, keeping only the .mp4	the MP4's sound is made from the .wav after recording, and the .wav is then deleted. Leaves you with one file

Hotkeys

Option

Take over Win+Shift+S	Win+Shift+S opens Nitshot instead of the Windows Snipping Tool
Take over PrtScn	the same for the PrtScn key
PrtScn takes the whole screen without the overlay	PrtScn saves all screens immediately, no selection

Advanced

Option

Always use GDI capture	an older, slower capture method. Only useful if snips come out black or wrong on unusual display setups
Diagnostic log	writes a log file for troubleshooting (see below)

The settings window opens in the middle of the screen. If you move it, it opens in that place next time.

Languages

English and German are included. By default the program uses the Windows display language, and English where no translation exists.

Adding your own language needs no programming:

1. Open the langs folder next to Nitshot.exe.
2. Copy en.ini and name the copy after the language code, e.g. fr.ini.
3. Translate the text after each = and save the file as UTF-8 (Notepad's default).
4. Open the settings — the new language is already in the list.

Lines you have not translated yet simply stay English, so a half-finished translation already works. Placeholders such as %1 and %2 must be kept, but may be moved around in the sentence. Words like *snip*, *HDR*, *PrtScn* and file extensions stay as they are in every language.

If the program folder is write-protected, put the file in %APPDATA%\Nitshot\langs\ instead.

Troubleshooting

Win+Shift+S opens the Windows Snipping Tool. Check that Nitshot is running (tray icon) and that *Take over Win+Shift+S* is ticked. While a program that runs **as administrator** has the focus, Windows does not let ordinary programs see the keyboard — click on a normal window first, or use the tray icon.

Nothing happens on the lock screen or during the screensaver. That is intended: Windows keeps those screens separate from the desktop.

An HDR video looks pale or greyish in the player. The file is fine; the player is converting it badly. In MPC-HC / MPC-BE with the MPC Video Renderer, turn off *Convert HDR to SDR* or set the display brightness to your monitor's real peak brightness.

A recording sounds a little different from the original. With *System sound*, the recording contains what Windows sends to your speakers — including any sound effects or equaliser the audio driver applies. Playing that recording through the same effects applies them twice. Switch off “audio enhancements” for your playback device in the Windows sound settings if you want a neutral recording.

A snip comes out black. Try *Always use GDI capture* under Advanced. This mainly matters on remote desktops, virtual displays and unusual adapters.

“Nothing was saved – check the settings.” Both *Copy every snip to the clipboard* and *Save files* are switched off.

Reporting a problem. Switch on *Diagnostic log* under Advanced, reproduce the problem, and send the file %APPDATA%\Nitshot\Nitshot.log. It contains technical details only, no pictures.

Where are the settings stored? In %APPDATA%\Nitshot\settings.ini. Deleting it resets everything to the defaults.