

# Review

## SnagIt 8.2

By Gary M. &  
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We have been long-time users of *SnagIt*, but with an older version that performed the capture tasks we needed beautifully. The old adage “if it ain’t broke, why fix it” seemed pertinent, so we hadn’t bothered to look at the features of any of the new releases. Wow, had we been missing a lot!

When we took a look at *SnagIt* 8.2, we found that it still performs our old capture tasks, but there are now so many more features that we had no idea were available. We’ll talk a little here about the basics for those who are unfamiliar with the program at all, as well some of the new features introduced in 8.2. For the most part, we are very impressed.

In addition to the expected graphics and text capture features, *SnagIt* also has the tools of a powerful image editor and file management utility, with a well-designed and user-friendly interface.

### Features in SnagIt 8.2

- The latest version provides compatibility with *Windows* Vista and Office 2007. Our XP and *Windows* 2000 computers ran *SnagIt* 8.2 with no issues. TechSmith notes that it provides a version that will continue to support *Windows* 95.
- You can now send captures directly to your favorite applications including *Word*, *PowerPoint*, *Excel*, *MindManager*, and *Flickr*. From the preview window, the capture can be sent to Microsoft Office applications and other programs using icons on the toolbar—these are small free downloads from the TechSmith Web site, that automatically download on installation of the *SnagIt* program, unless you request they not load. After cropping and editing using *SnagIt*’s graphics editing features, a click on the *PowerPoint* icon sent the image to a new *PowerPoint* presentation. Or we could select a presentation already open to add the image to. It was simple and worked very well.
- *SnagIt* also can be installed in the toolbar of your favorite applications and will bring captures directly into the application. This can be a real timesaver. For example, when creating a *PowerPoint* presentation, toggling between a browser window and *PowerPoint*—activate *SnagIt* from within *PowerPoint* and it will take you to your browser when you have the capture, it will be brought into the presentation. Again, this is a great time-saver.
- If the capture is sent directly to the printer from the capture, it retains its original appearance; previous versions printed just thumbnails.
- New callout styles—there are twelve balloon styles and six arrow styles; each can be selected in “plain,” “shaded,” or “glassy.” With the ability to rotate, resize, and move the callout, this provides a wide variety of options.
- Save and organize custom callouts. If you use the same callouts frequently, there is an option to save a callout, which then makes two new categories of callouts available—My Callouts and Document Callouts. Frequently used shapes and colors can be saved for re-use in these categories and inserted as needed, saving time and adding consistency in presentation styles.

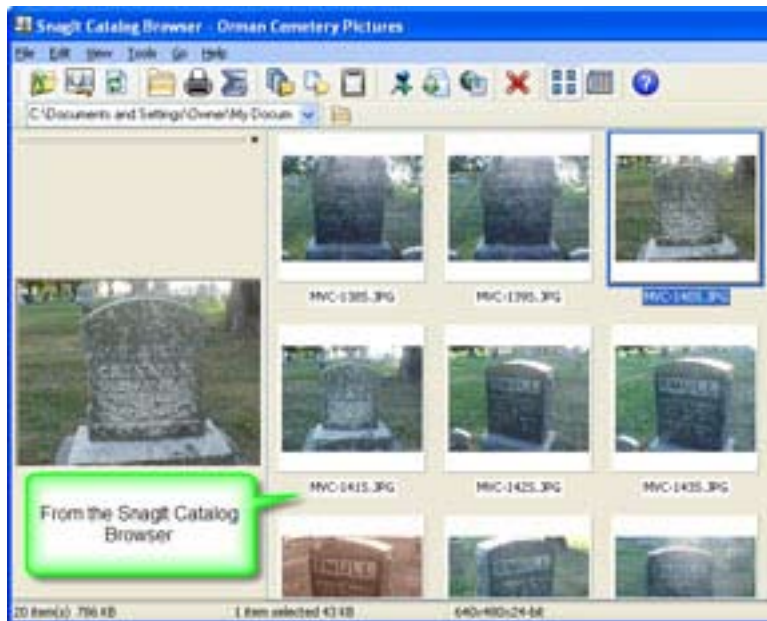
## Taking Your First Capture

Taking a capture with Snagit is simple. Follow these steps to complete and view your capture:

1. Make sure what you want to capture is open on your computer desktop.
2. Without minimizing what you want to capture, open Snagit.



- “Creative, interactive presentation graphics—use *Snagit Editor* to add clickable links or pop-up text graphics to a screen capture, then paste the interactive screen capture into a *PowerPoint* slide.” This was easy to do, and presents a whole new range of possibilities! We found the screens for adding the text or pop-up to be intuitive and simple to follow. However, once we had added the pop-up to our screen capture, it somehow got lost in the translation to *PowerPoint*. We followed the instructions, and tried several times, but the Advanced Flash hotspot didn’t carry over to *PowerPoint*. It worked in the *Snagit Editor*. We copied to the clipboard and pasted in *PowerPoint* (as per the instructions in the online help); the capture was pasted to the *PowerPoint* slide, but there was no interactive hotspot. We tried several times, but could not find what we were doing wrong. It is not something we expect to use often, but it would be nice to see it work. This is the only function we found that we couldn’t get to work as described.
- Bring your flash videos into *PowerPoint* (use *Camtasia Studio* screen add-on). The *Camtasia Studio* product is a separate video-capture product from TechSmith that is available bundled with *Snagit*—together they retail for \$319. For those who do extensive training, this product may be worth investigating.
- *Snagit*’s new design uses icons to take a visual approach to the screen capture process. The old interface was not difficult to use, but the new graphic use of icons makes it even easier. To begin using *Snagit* is as simple as opening the program and using one of the standard profiles provided. If you have a special need, you can define a custom profile for your unique situation, but with the basic profiles, it will probably not be necessary right away. When you do need to create a profile of your own that isn’t in the list, taking an option from the inputs, one from the outputs, and any desired from the special options will allow dozens of combinations to meet any need. The only thing to note with *Snagit* is that by default the hotkey (CTL-SHFT-R) for a capture will use the last profile selected. If that doesn’t capture what you want, just adjust to a different set of options and do it again. You can also create your own hotkey combination for each profile if you wish.
- Smarter editing of objects and text. There’s no longer any need for a separate image-editing program. The *Snagit Editor* allows you to add arrows, text, callouts, and other special effects to any image file. You can also edit text files and view videos. It is simple to use and the commands are intuitive. There are the usual photo-editing tools (paintbrush, eyedropper, highlighter, arrow, fill, airbrush, and eraser). There is also a rather unique feature in the “stamps,” which are graphics (such as checkmarks) that can be added to the image. With the *Snagit Editor* there are features such as color





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### Minimum requirements

- Microsoft *Windows* 2000/XP/XP x64/Vista
- 90 MHz processor (400 MHz recommended)
- 16MB of RAM (64MB recommended)
- 20MB of free hard disk space (30MB for CD-ROM installations for video tutorials)

Price: \$39.95; multi-user bundles and [upgrades](#) may also be available.

[Download](#) a free, unregistered trial version

editing and correcting, resizing, special effects such as edge feathering, and saving in any one of more than two dozen of the most popular graphic formats.

- Capture Web pages with links—Web pages remain clickable. This requires *Active Accessibility* 2.0, which is a free download from Microsoft. Check for compatibility with your system—we saw it listed as available for *Windows* 98, 2000, ME, and NT—but no mention of XP, 2007, or Vista.

### Other features of SnagIt

Installation was a simple download that took only a few minutes. We did not use the upgrade path, but it did recognize that we already had *SnagIt* profiles defined in an earlier version, and added them to our home page for us.

The *SnagIt* Catalog Browser feature allows you to browse graphic images and move or copy them to other directories, rename them, or select groups of files to convert from one format to another. This can be an extremely handy feature! Having all of these utilities available from one function is also very useful. There are more than twenty formats available to save the files as, including BMP, GIF, JPG, TIF, and PDF. When using the interactive features, Adobe *Flash* is also available.

We liked the Catalog Browser, since it showed thumbnails without having to open each of the files. This may be just the tool we need to get some of our graphic files sorted, renamed, moved, and annotated.

We will need to spend more time reading the instructions on certain features before they become second nature. The basics are intuitive and we were able to pick them up by following the icons and occasionally opening the online help file. There are also help tutorials on many subjects that are nicely done (using *Camtasia* videos). When in doubt, going to the toolbar for Help got us through all of our questions, with very little searching required—what were logical search terms for us seemed to be successful in almost all cases. The help file is also downloadable as a full manual in PDF format.

The more we played with the program, the more we know we will use it for a wide variety of tasks. *SnagIt* is still one of the staples in our toolbox. **DG**



[Gary M. Smith](#) is central district director and webmaster of the International Society of Family History Writers and Editors (ISFHWE), secretary/treasurer of the Great Lakes Chapter of the Association of Professional Genealogists (APG), and conference coordinator of the Genealogical Speakers Guild (GSG); [Diana Crisman Smith](#) is District 4 director of APG, APG Great Lakes Chapter representative, and on the membership committee of the Federation of Genealogical Societies (FGS). They have both been interested in family history since childhood and have been speaking and writing on genealogical topics for more than fifteen years, both individually and as a couple. They currently have a regular column for beginners in the NGS NewsMagazine. In her spare (“non-genealogy” time), Diana has a full-time job as a consultant for a major software company.