



# Screen Grabs (Macintosh)

## Setting the resolution on your monitor for the highest quality screen grabs

The resolution of a “screen grab” image is determined by the display resolution setting on your computer. So before capturing screens to use as illustrations, you should set the display resolution on your monitor as high as you can. This way the screen capture will be of the highest possible resolution and more appealing in print.

### Setting the monitor resolution

1. Open the Apple menu and choose Control Panels > Monitors.
2. Click the Monitor button.
3. On the right side, change the Color Depth to Millions.
4. On the left side, select the highest possible resolution.\*
5. Close the Control Panel window.

\* Answer to a trick question: The highest resolution is not necessarily the last choice in the list. You need to multiply the height and the width to determine the total number of pixels. In this example, 1,856 x 1,392 (2,583,552) yields more pixels than 1,920 x 1,080 (2,073,600).



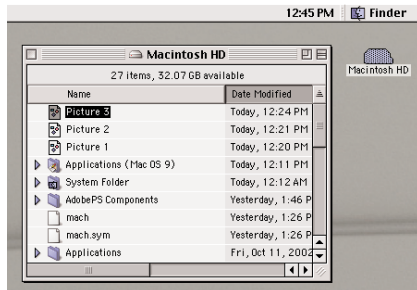
### Taking the screen capture

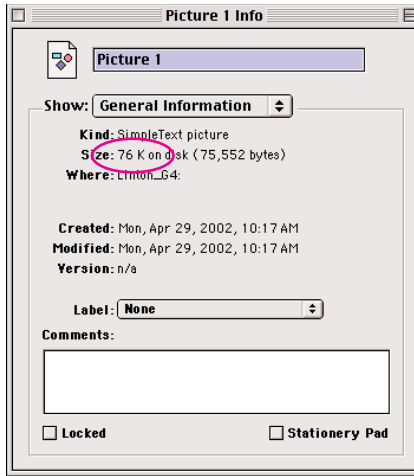
The MacOS has built-in functionality for capturing screen images.

- To capture the entire screen, press Command-Shift-3.
- To capture a portion of the screen, press Command-Shift-4 and drag a marquee around the area you want to capture.
- To capture only a window or dialog box, press Command-Shift-CapsLock-4 and then click on the window or dialog box you want to capture.

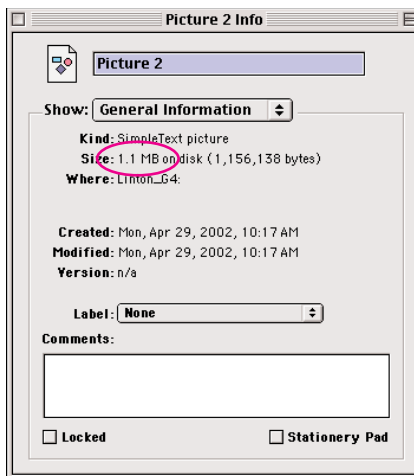
After completing one of the methods above, you should hear a shutter sound indicating that the screen capture is complete. You will find the resulting image on the root level of your hard drive. Image will be named “Picture 1.” Subsequent captures will be named consecutively thereafter.

All screen grabs originate in the RGB color space and in the PICT file format. If you plan to include your screen grabs in a printed document, you need to convert them to CMYK or grayscale depending on how your book will be printed. You will also need to save them in a print-worthy file format such as TIFF or EPS.





*Captured at 640 x 480 pixels*



*Captured at 1,856 x 1,392 pixels*

## Screen grabs with open menus

The three methods built in to the MacOS cannot capture open menus. If you need to capture a screen grab with a pop-up or drop-down menu open, you will need a third party utility such as MenuCapture. This utility is available on the Internet as shareware.

## Using the screen grab in your page layout

When you place the screen grab in your page layout, reducing the size of the image will increase its effective resolution even further. This enables you to hold higher line screens with greater detail.

## The method behind the madness

The illustration to the right demonstrates the file size for the same screen grab. The first one was captured at a resolution of 640 x 480 pixels. The second one was captured at a resolution of 1,856 x 1,392 pixels. Notice that the file size of the second screen grab is much larger than the first. (So size really does matter!)