



Using Camtasia Studio to create software demos & tutorials

Product: Camtasia Studio

Product url: <http://www.techsmith.com/products/studio/default.asp>

Cost: \$299.00

I had been troubled with the problem of how to give prospective clients a demo or a way for them to see our product on their time. As our products are low cost and have a hardware element we do not have the option of a drop dead date.

While attending and exhibiting at a recent QuickBooks related conference I over heard some fellow developers discussing Camtasia. I started to ask questions and when I learned of the low price I thought I would give it a try.

I was thoroughly amazed at the robustness and ease of use that the product had. I never saw a manual I purchased on line and downloaded the installer. Within minutes of installing it I was playing and getting acquainted with the interface. It was just so simple all you do is tell it how much of the screen you want to capture. Then you just start using your application. You can have it automatically add keyboard clicks and make special red circles appear every time the mouse clicks. When you are finished you just push an f-key and it stops recording and asks you to name the clip.

Now you can see the clip run, cut/edit any portions that are not necessary and even add a segment if you would like. You can then add voice over just by connecting a microphone and speaking while you watch the clip you made. If you like the voice but it is not loud enough you can adjust the volume in sections of your choosing or all at once. Now you can save the clip as is or even make it into a Flash file.

The best part is once you have all of your clips together all you have to do is go to the section called Produce. Now you have choices like do you want to make a CD production a Web Production or a Batch production. In any of the cases the wizard walks you through the steps. In a matter of minutes you have what ever you need.

It is such a great product with such an intuitive interface if I did not know better I would have thought that my company made it.

This article has been provided by Neal Katz, a chair of the IDNAC, and Vice President of Count Me In, LLC, makers of the IDN product Time Clock Monitor/Fingerprint Time & Attendance Solution.

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