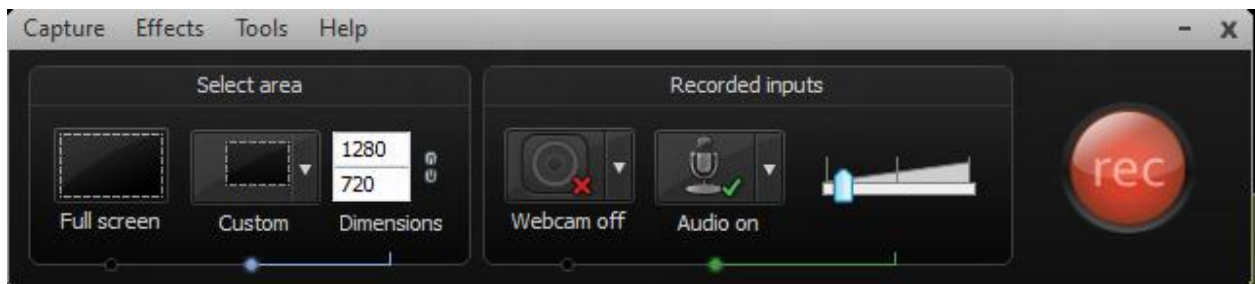# How to create a video of your presentation mind map

Creating a narrated video of your mind map and placing it on YouTube or on your corporate website is an excellent way to draw attention to your ideas, and isn't as hard as you think. In this brief, illustrated tutorial, I will show you how to quickly and easily produce a professional looking video. You don't have to be a video production expert to do it, either.
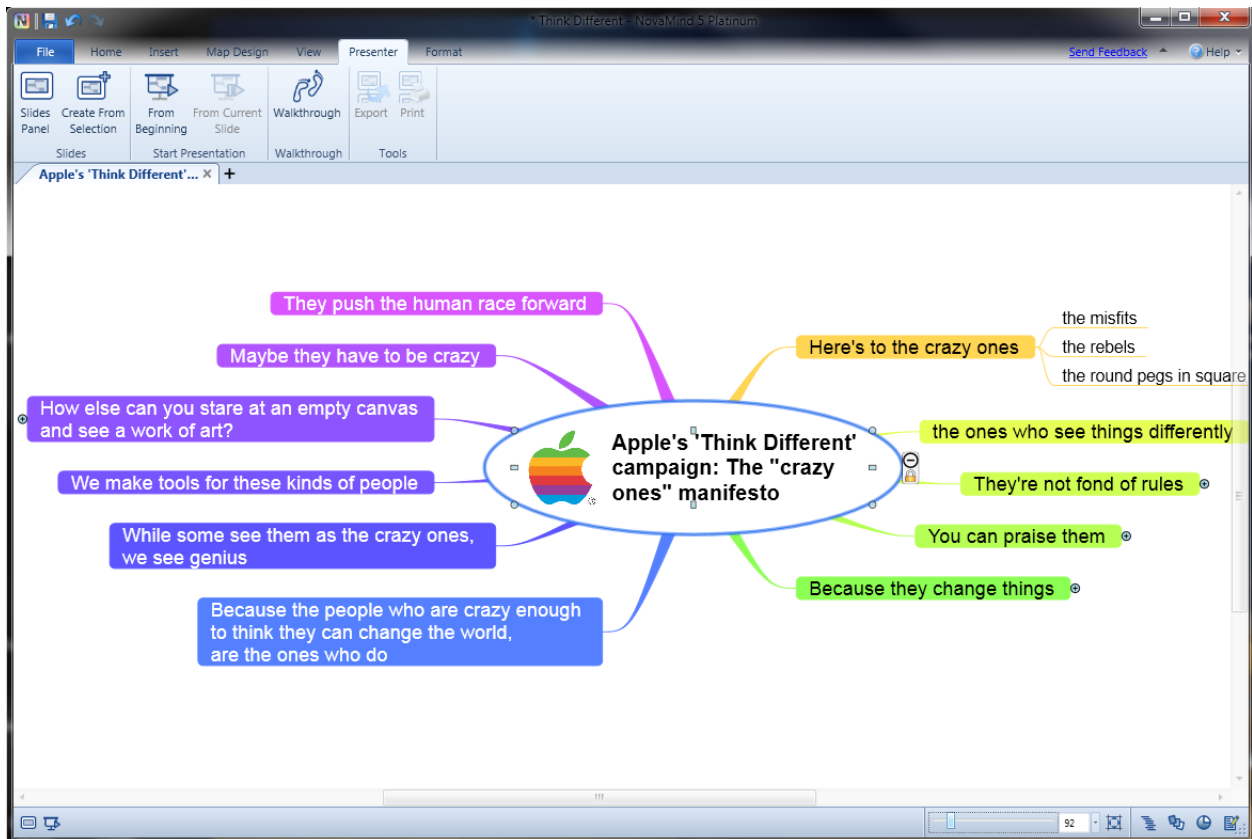
The tools you'll need

- **Camtasia Studio** – [This program](#), produced by TechSmith, is a popular choice for video screen capture and video production. It isn't inexpensive (US$299), but I think it's worth the investment. If budget is a problem, there are plenty of free and low-cost options you can use. One of them, in fact, is made by TechSmith, and it's called [Jing](#).

- **Mind mapping software** – I selected [NovaMind 5](#) because it enables you to display your presentation at less than a full screen. In contrast, most mind mapping software programs display presentations full screen. If you hold down the CTRL button when starting your presentation in NovaMind 5, it will display your presentation in the dimensions of the program window, but no larger. This capability was specifically designed for applications like web conferencing and Skype, where you want to be able to show a presentation but still show your desktop. That's perfect for our needs. Other programs will work, too, because Camtasia Studio can record full screen or at any custom screen size.

- **Somewhere to host the video after you've produced it.** For the purposes of this demonstration, we'll use YouTube. So make sure you have the login for your YouTube channel handy before we get started.

The recording process

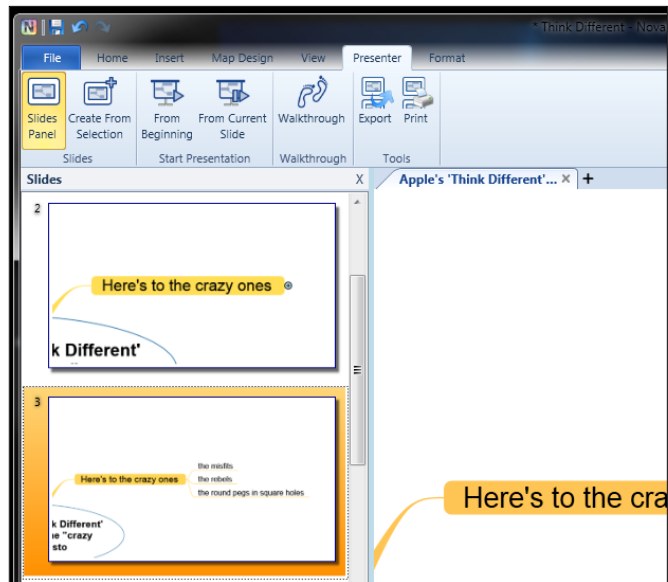**Step 1: Produce your mind map**

I selected a mind map that I produced earlier this year in NovaMind 5 that summarizes the Apple Computer's famous 1997 manifesto, entitled "Here's to the Crazy Ones." It appeared in television commercials and print ads, and created quite a buzz for the company and its innovative Macintosh computer back then.

This mind map, pictured above, is a simple but colorful and well-organized map that will make a great example for our tutorial.

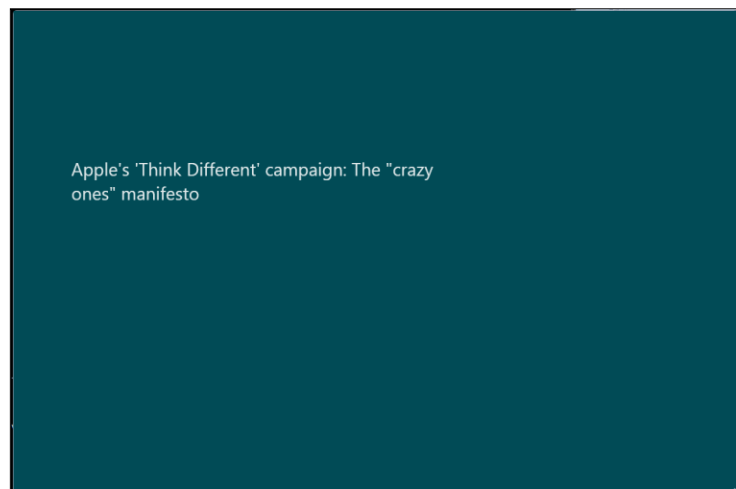## Step 2: Set up slide views in NovaMind

NovaMind's presentation view enables you to select map branches for inclusion in slides, which are displayed in a vertical pane on the left side of the workspace, much like PowerPoint. As you can see from the screen shot at right, I have already created a number of slides. When it comes time to play them back in a presentation, NovaMind will pan and zoom the screen to transition from one slide view to the next, for a visually stunning experience for your audience.
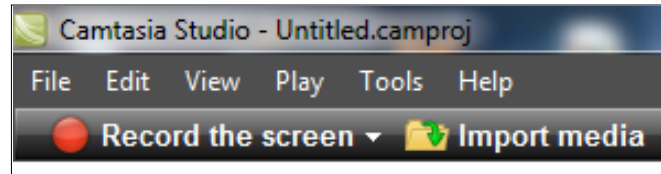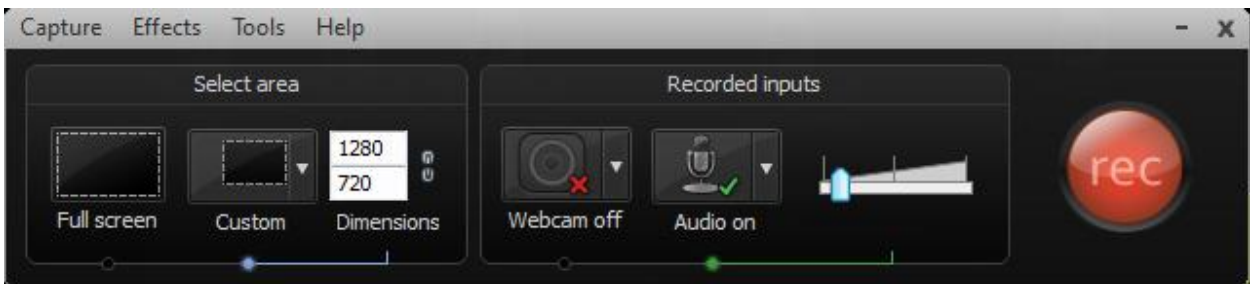

Step 3: Start your slide show in NovaMind

When you're done creating your slides in NovaMind 5, start your presentation. It will automatically display an introductory screen like the one shown at right. The program will "wait" for you until you provide it with input to advance to the next screen.

You can customize the content of this intro page extensively. See the documentation and video tutorials for NovaMind for more details on how to

do this. If you're using a different mind mapping program, then just pause the presentation at the first slide.
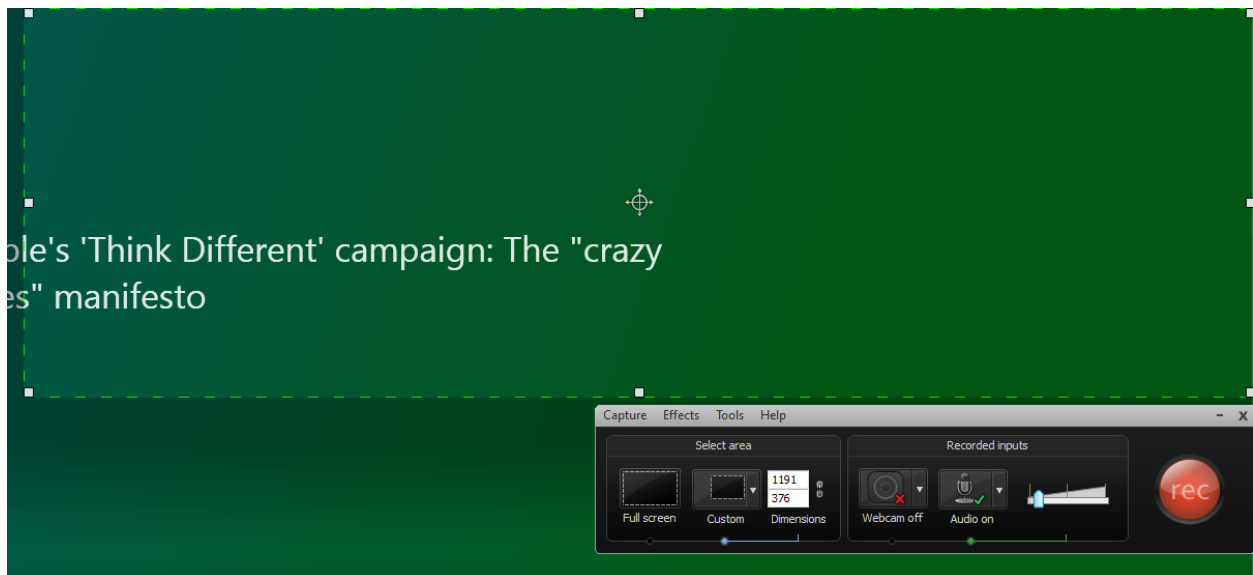
Step 4: Tell Camtasia to record the screen

Look for the "record the screen" button in the upper left area of the Camtasia Studio interface. It looks like a big red ball.
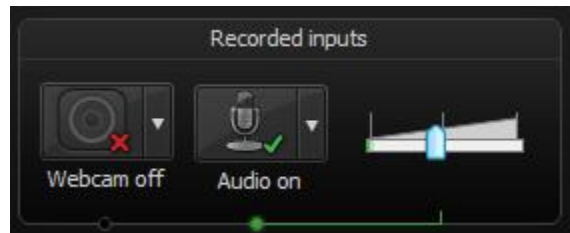

Step 5: Select the screen size to record

Camtasia Studio's screen recorder lets you either select full screen or custom. You're going to want to select the second option. A dotted bounding box will appear on screen, like the one in the screen shot below. Drag its handles until it exactly covers the NovaMind screen. This is how you define the custom area that Camtasia Studio will record.
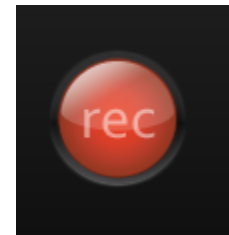
Step 6: Test your audio

Test your audio to make sure it's working. Speak into the microphone and watch for the sound level bar on the right of the "recorded inputs" area to light up. If that doesn't happen, you don't have the right device selected. Click the drop-down arrow to the right of the mic icon to select your audio input. Then test it again until it works. For best results, use an external microphone.

Step 7: Start the recording

Push the record button. The screen recorder will count down from 3 to 0 (so you have a few seconds to get ready) and it will then begin recording. The screen recorder dialog box will disappear from the screen, replaced by four flashing green brackets, one at each corner of the area you selected. That's how you can tell that Camtasia Studio is recording your screen.
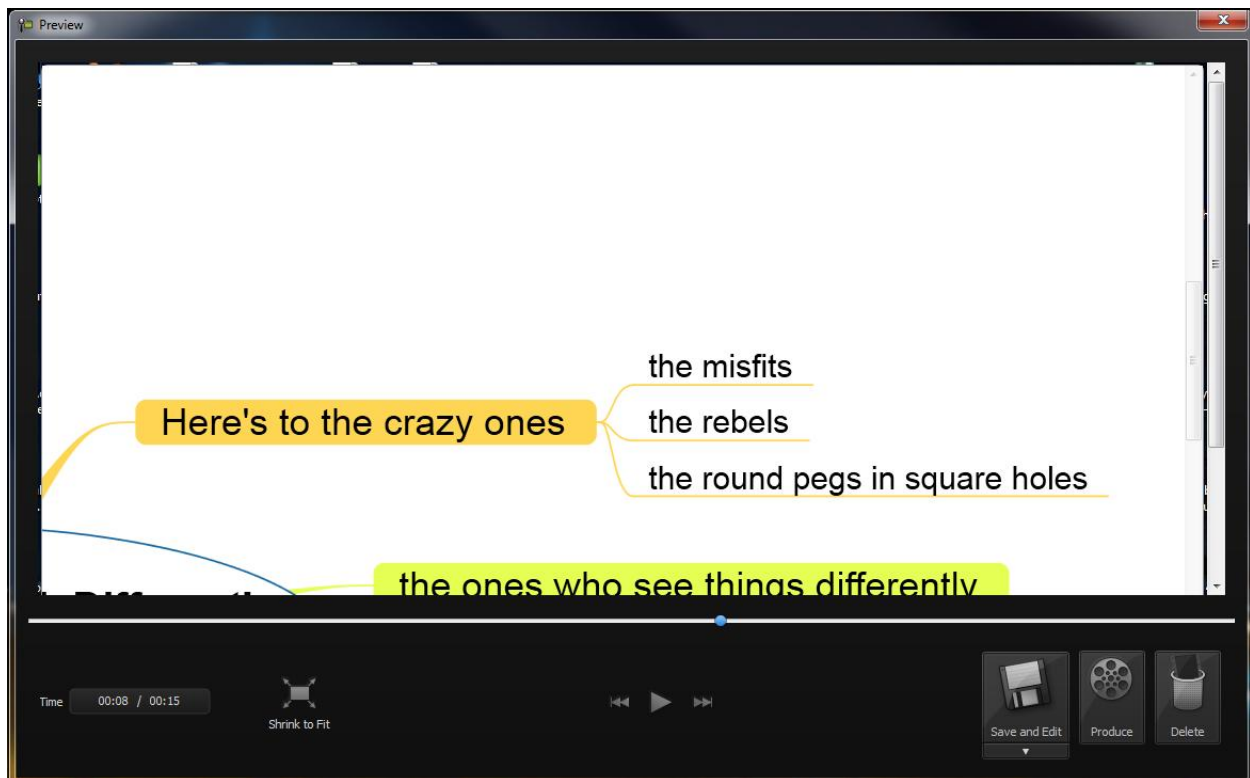
Step 8: "Give" your presentation

Have talking points handy so you can speak clearly, without rambling and a lot of "um's," "ah's" and awkward pauses. Advance the slides as you would if you were presenting before an audience. Camtasia will simultaneously record your actions on the screen and your audio narration. You can also enhance the video recording so that a yellow circle highlight follows your cursor on screen to make it easier to see, and it can automatically display a "ripple" effect when

you click the mouse. In addition, in post-production, you can zoom in on specific parts of your screen, and zoom out as needed. See the Camtasia Studio documentation for details on how to do this.
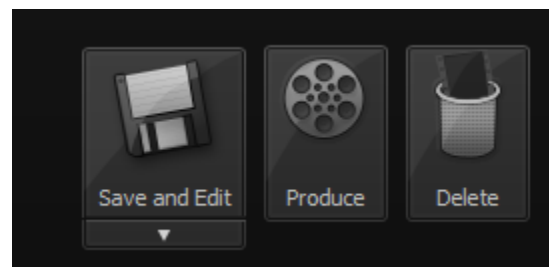
Step 9: Stop recording

When you're done recording, push the F10 key to end the recording. A preview screen will appear (like the screen shot below), which enables you to play back your presentation. Make sure the audio is clear and that the video part of the presentation looks the way you want it to. If not, click the "delete" button and re-record your presentation.

Step 10: Save your recording

If your recording is satisfactory, save it using the "save and edit" button, as shown at right. This saves the video as an asset that you can then "produce" to create a finished video.
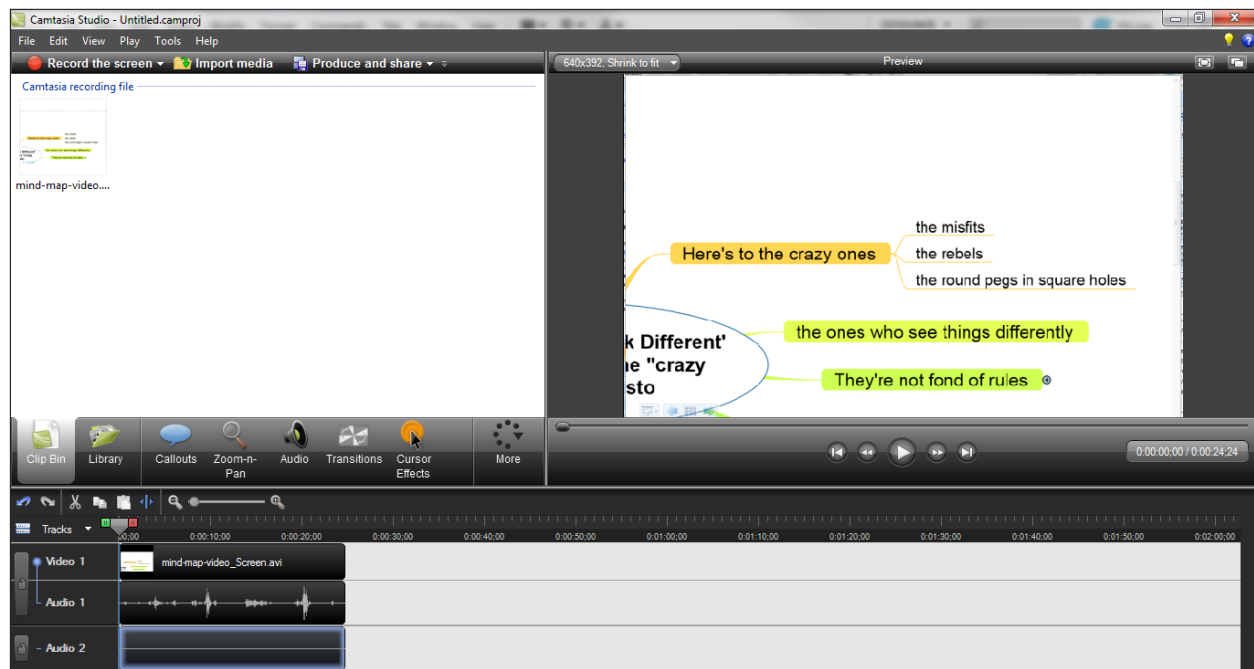
Keep track of where you put it, because you'll need it in the next step. I recommend setting up a project folder. This is what Camtasia calls a "camrec" file.
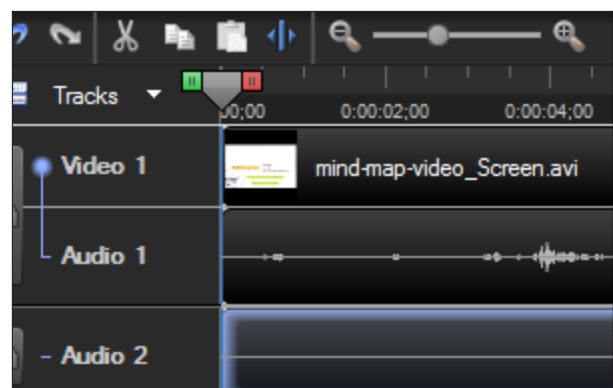
Producing your video

Step 11: Get ready to edit your video

After you save your video clip, Camtasia will return you to the main screen of the Studio application, where you build and edit videos (see the screen shot below for a view of the Studio interface). Your video clip should be pre-loaded into it. Note the video asset you just created – the video clip in the assets tray in the upper left corner of the screen. It's also represented on the timeline, which runs across the bottom of the screen and has tracks for video and audio. And the upper right section of the screen displays a preview of what's on the timeline, based on the location of the "playhead" (the downward pointing gray arrow with the green and blue squares on either side of it). This is also the selector, for editing your video (see the screen shot below).

Here's a close-up of the timeline, showing the video and audio tracks and the selector (the downward pointing arrow with the green and red drag handles). This is where you will edit your video.
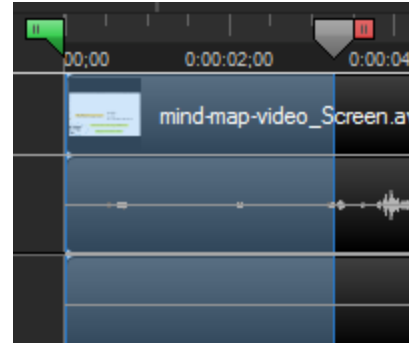
Step 12: Save your file as a Camtasia project

At this point in time, your work in the main studio application isn't saved. You should do so now, before you begin editing your presentation. Click on the File/Save Project command. Camtasia saves projects in a proprietary .camproj format.

Step 13: Edit your video, if needed

Review your video and do any necessary trimming at the beginning and end. You do this by dragging the playhead/selector to define a block of audio/video that you want to delete from the timeline. Drag one or both of the handles to select the segment you want to remove, as shown below. Use the preview screen as a guide for when the clip to be deleted starts and ends. Then use the scissors icon to "cut" it out of your presentation.
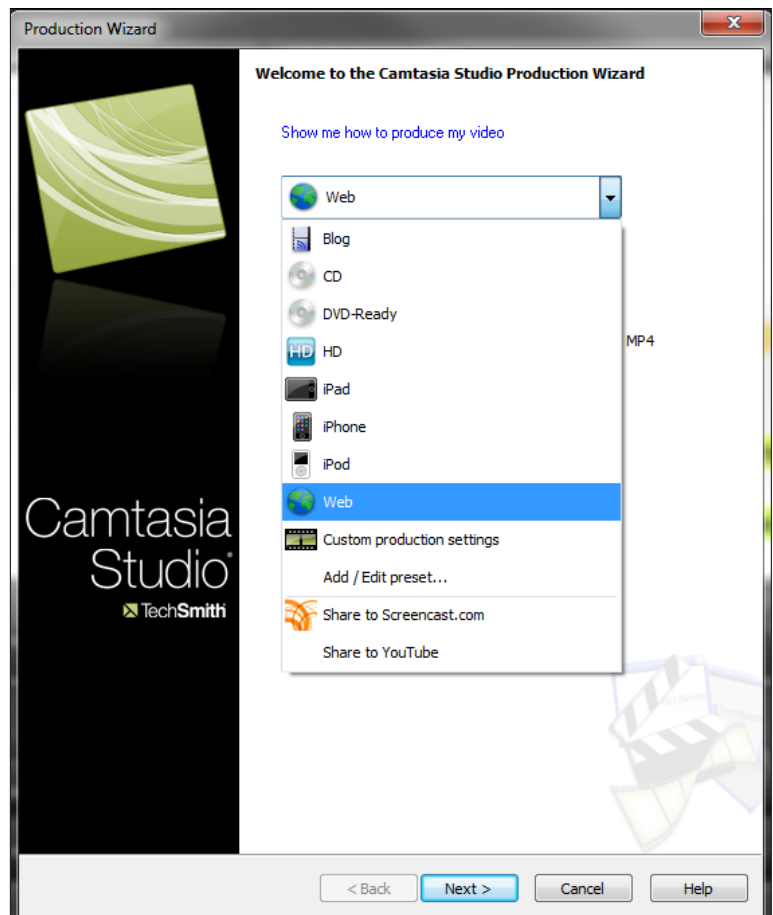

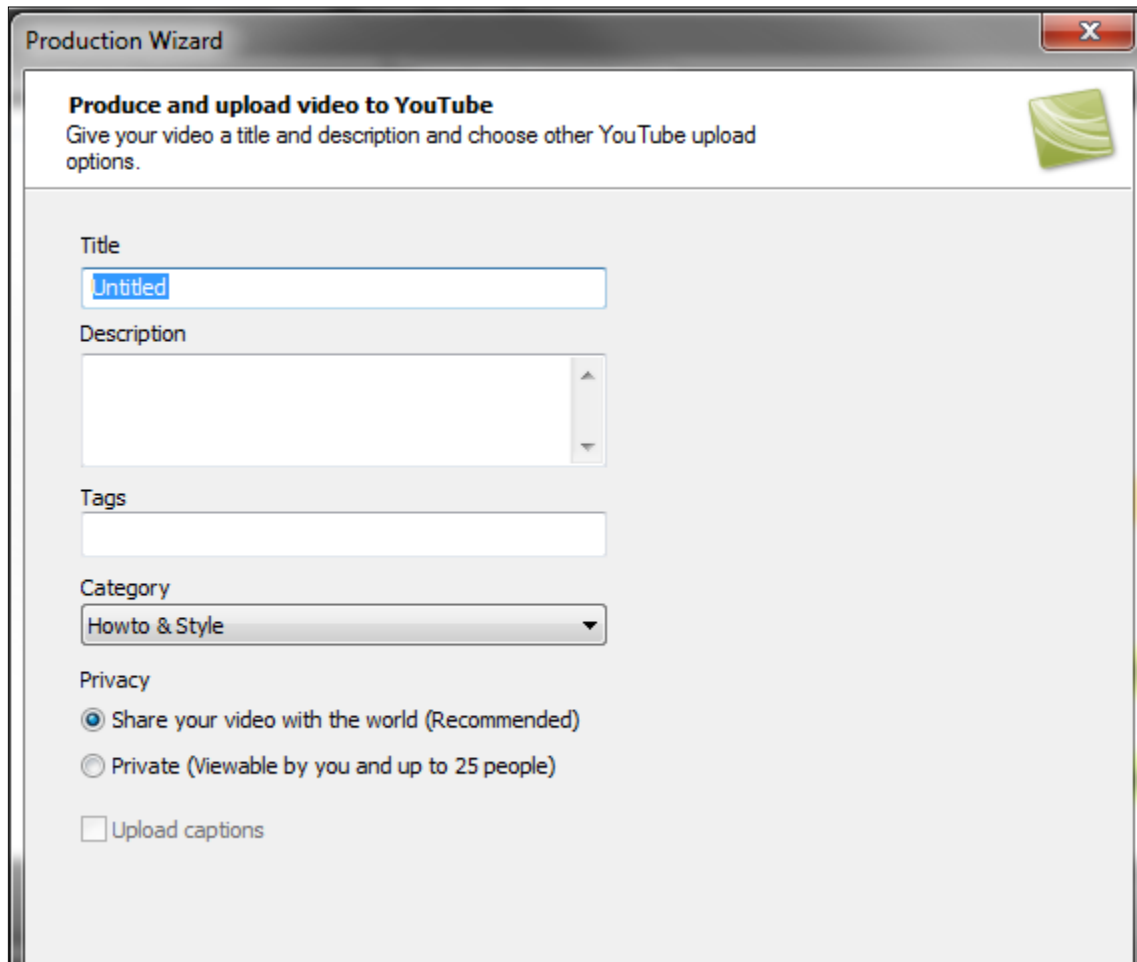**Step 14: Produce your video**

Save your work and then produce your video by clicking on the "Produce and share" button above the asset tray.

This opens the "production wizard" (right) which enables you to output your video in numerous formats, or to override its default settings and roll your own.

Note that you can share your video directly to YouTube. Let's select that. Camtasia asks me to login to my YouTube account.

It then asks me for information about my video (below).

Just fill this information out and submit it. Camtasia Studio will render the video in a format that is compatible with YouTube, and will upload it with the title, description, tags and category you specified.

If you want to save your presentation to a website or blog, Camtasia Studio has settings specifically for that, too. See the Camtasia Studio documentation for more details.

If you need a website to host your video, TechSmith (developer of Camtasia) operates a service called Screencast.com, where you can store your videos for free (2 GB storage, 2 GB monthly bandwidth and 4 privacy options) or for a low monthly price (the Pro package is US$9.95 per month, which gives you 25 GB storage, 200 GB monthly bandwidth, add/edit video captions and personalize your page with your color and logo). I'd definitely recommend the Pro version, because your videos will quickly exceed the limits of the free package if you have a bunch of people view it in a short period of time.

Good luck with your project!

Questions?

Please contact Chuck Frey at chuck@innovationtools.com.

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