



How to make a video of your mind map

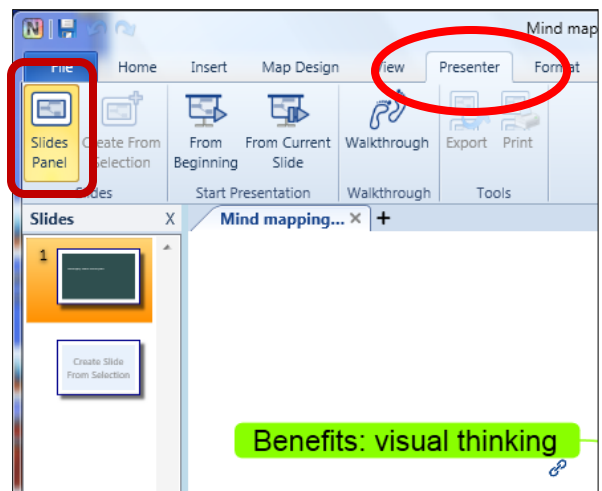
Want to make a self-contained video file of you presenting your mind map, so you can share it with others or publish it to your website? It's easy to do, thanks to three simple video capture tools, Jing and Screenr and Camtasia. In this Mind Mapping Insider tutorial, I will explain how to use each of them to create an effective video demonstration.

Thankfully, you don't need to be an expert at creating online videos to use these programs. They take care of a lot of the technical details for you so you can focus on creating an engaging presentation using your favorite mind mapping software. So let's get started!

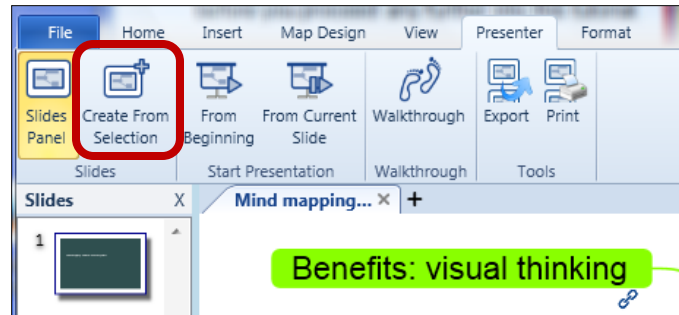
Prepare your mind map

The first step in this process is to convert your mind map into a presentation – to define the “slides” or screens that will make it up when you put your mind mapping program into presentation mode and “play” it. For the purposes of this report, I'm using a simple mind map I created in NovaMind 5 that describes the 6 “How-to Guides” I recently added to the Mind Mapping Software Blog. I will be describing the process for NovaMind – if you're using a different program, you should get familiar with its process for creating presentation slides before you proceed any further with this tutorial.

First, click on the “presenter” tab in NovaMind's ribbon toolbar and then on the “slides panel” icon. This will open a vertical pane on the right side of the workspace that is the functional equivalent of PowerPoint's slide sorter (see the screenshot at right). This is where you manage your slides in NovaMind.



Next, select the map elements you want to display in each slide. You do this by either right-clicking the topic and selecting the “create presentation slide” command or by clicking the “create from selection” icon in the presenter toolbar. When you do so, a slide is added to the sorter pane containing the topic you have selected. I recommend you start by selecting the map’s central topic and creating a first slide that displays your entire mind map. This will give the people viewing your presentation a sense of the “bigger picture” before you dive down into individual map topics.



Repeat this process for all of the slides you want to create. In the case of my mind map, I’ve created 7 slides: One of the overall map, plus one of each of my individual map topics.

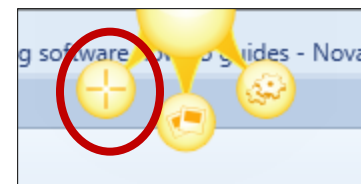
Finally, test your presentation to ensure that it plays the way you want it to. If not, make any necessary adjustments until you’re happy with it. When you are, it’s time to capture a video of it.

Capture your presentation with Jing

[Jing](#) is a popular, free video screen capture tool from TechSmith, the makers of Camtasia. It’s designed to help you create simple videos of 5 minutes or less quickly and easily. [You can download and install it here](#). When it’s properly installed and running, you will see a yellow half-circle at the center top of your computer screen that looks like a half-sun. Mouse over it, and several arms pop up. The one with the “plus” sign embedded in it is the capture tool.



First, make sure your presentation is ready to go, sitting at the first screen of it. Click the “+” icon in Jing to tell it you want to record the screen. Select how much of the screen you want to record by



dragging and dropping the yellow box on screen to the dimensions you want. Since the presentation modes of most mind mapping programs display full screen, select the entire screen as your recording area.

A toolbar at left bottom corner of your screen will ask what kind of capture you want to make. Choose the filmstrip icon to select video. If this is your first time using Jing, the program will ask which audio input device you want to use to record audio. Once you have selected it, Jing does a 3-2-1 countdown and then begins recording the screen and your audio input. Narrate your presentation as you navigate your mind map.



When you're done, click on the stop button (it's the one farthest to the left that looks like a yellow square). Jing will now give you an opportunity to preview the video you created. Check to make sure the audio sounds right and you recorded everything you meant to. Then click on the "save" button to save the resulting SWF (Flash) file to your computer. That's all there is to it. SWF files can be embedded into web pages and converted to many other video formats.



TechSmith also offers a service called Screencast.com, where you can store all of the videos you have created in Jing. It provides up to 2 GB of storage and 2 GB of monthly bandwidth for free; if you need more than that, paid plans are available. To upload your video to Screencast.com in one click, simply click on the toolbar icon that looks like 3 upward-pointing arrows.



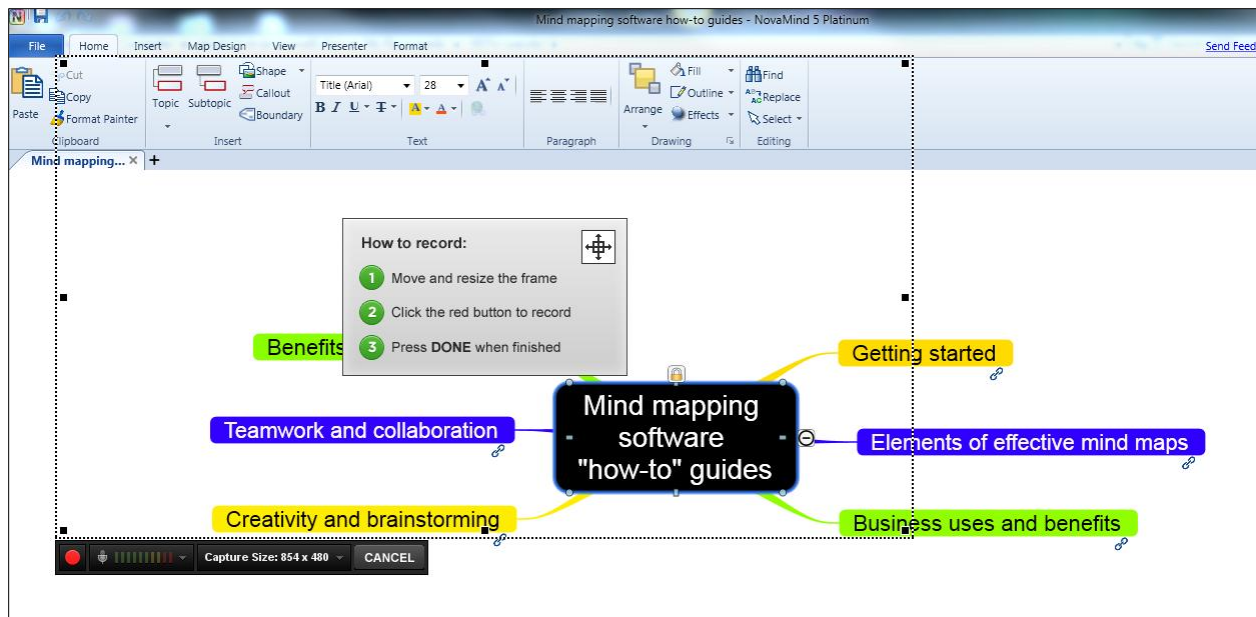
For more Jing tutorials, [please click here](#).

Capture your mind map presentation with Screenr

[Screenr](#) is sort of like Jing, except it's completely web-based – there is no software to install. To utilize it, simply

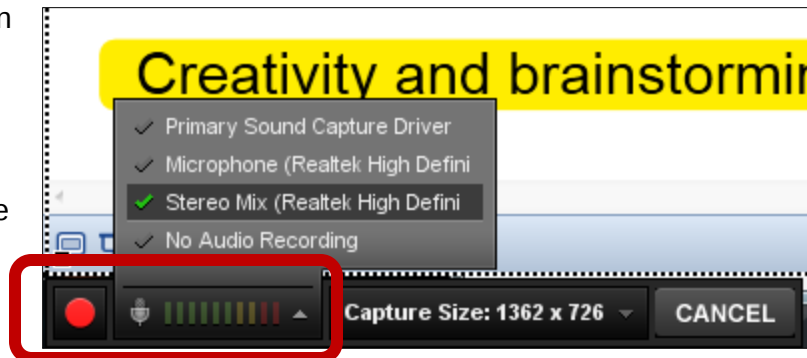


click on the "launch screen recorder" button on the Screenr home page. To make this work, your browser must have Java installed. I found that I had to reboot my computer after I installed Java before I could get Screenr to work correctly. But once I did so, it worked perfectly.

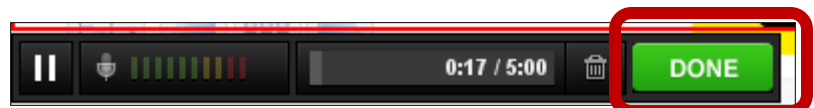


When you click on the “launch screen recorder button,” a box pops up on your screen, asking you to select the size of the area you want to record. Even though Screenr is launched from within your browser, its screen capture capabilities aren’t limited to it. I expanded the box to the full size of my screen, since that’s how large the presentation view of my mind map will be.

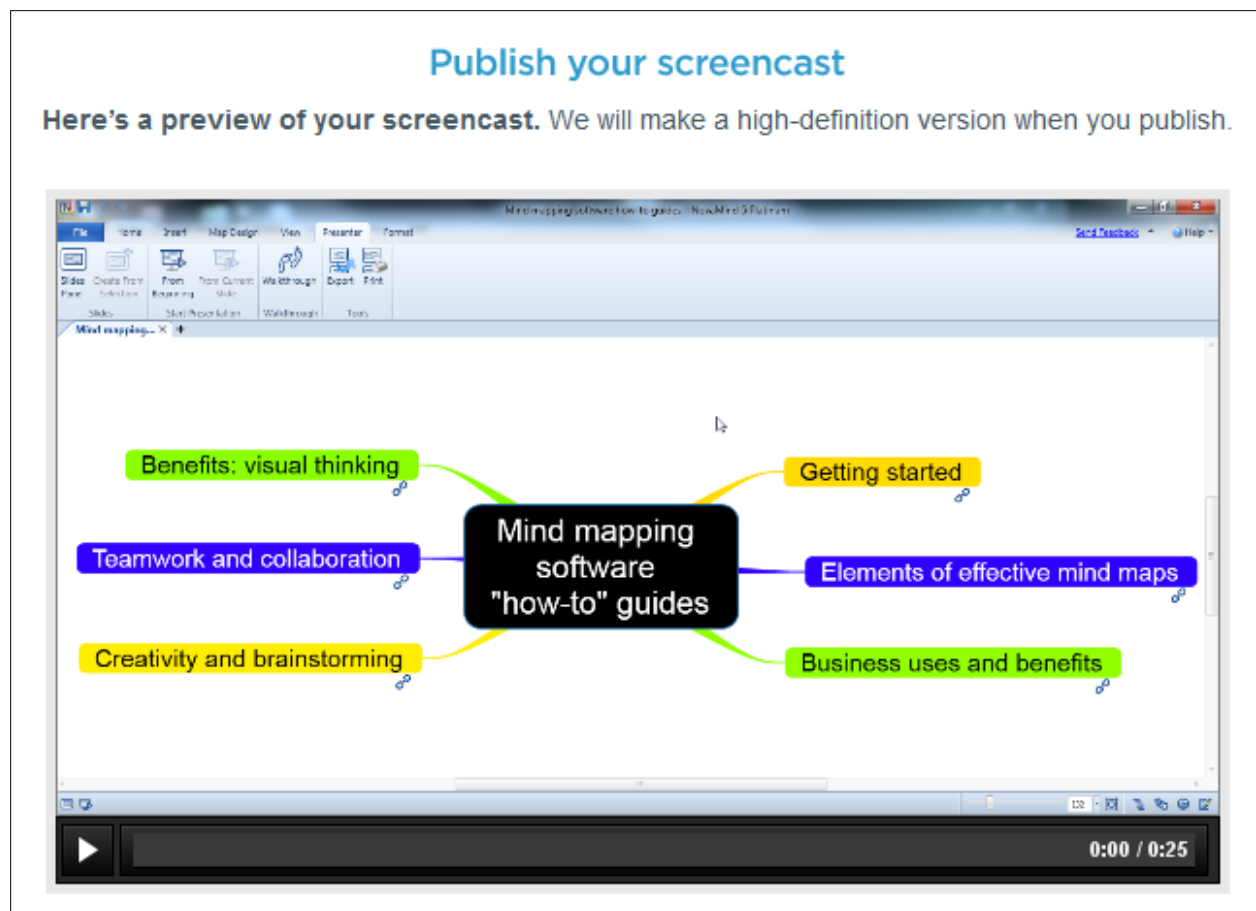
After you size the box, Click on the arrow next to the volume control and select the input source for the audio of your presentation. Then click on the “record” button in the lower right corner. The application counts down from 3 to 1 and recording begins.



Click through your presentation, narrating as you go. When you’re done, click on



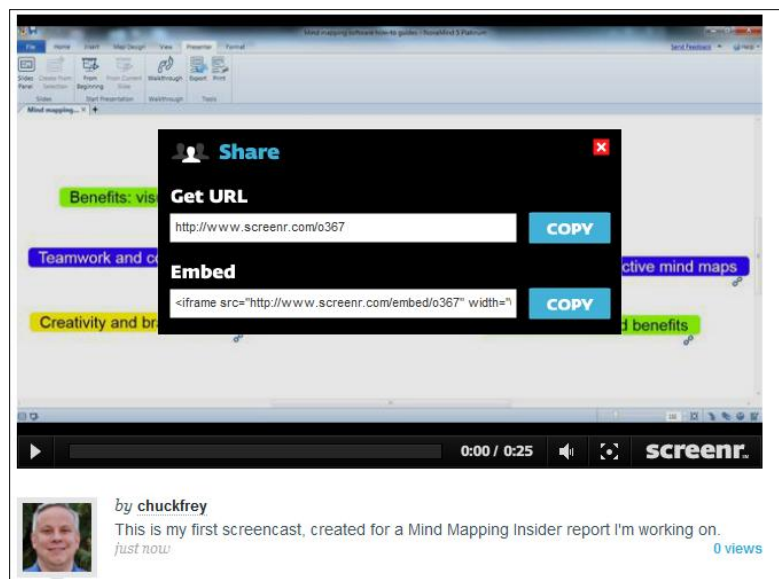
the large green “done” button in the recording toolbar. Screenr closes its screen recording mode and displays a low-resolution version of your presentation in the browser window from which you first launched it.



As you would expect, because Screenr is a fairly new, web-based app, it can publish your screencasts to multiple social media channels, including Twitter, Facebook and YouTube.

You can also copy and paste the URL of your presentation into an e-mail to share it with others, or embed it into a web page or blog post using the embed code (displayed at right).

Screenr is an excellent way to quickly publish videos of your mind map presentations. Its intuitive design makes it very easy to understand and use.

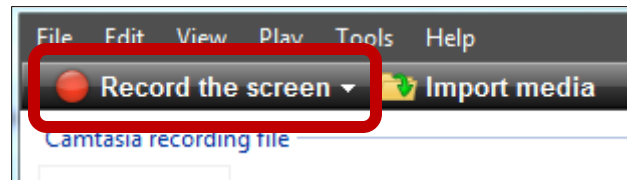


Capture your mind map presentation with Camtasia

[Camtasia](#) is a popular tool for creating and editing video screencasts. Its power and flexibility makes it a tool of choice for this task, but its price (approximately US\$150) may be a turn-off to some. But it does offer many features that the others don't, including independent timelines for the video and audio of your screencasts, the ability to zoom in and out on sections of your screen during the presentation (useful for highlighting actions you're about to demonstrate), the ability to create screencasts directly from PowerPoint and much more.

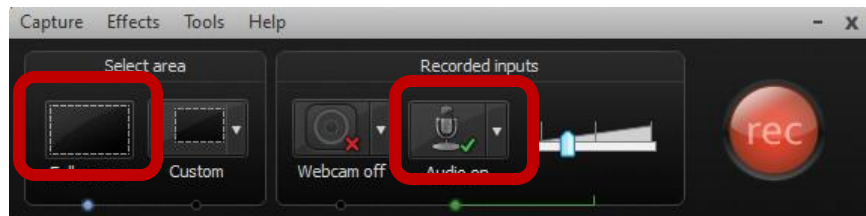
Unlike Jing and Screenr, Camtasia doesn't place any restrictions on the length of your screencasts (the two free applications limit you to 5 minutes). Finally, Camtasia offers a wealth of output options, based upon how and where your presentation will be used. In short, it's the Swiss Army Knife of screencasts, and it's my tool of choice for producing videos for the Mind Mapping Software Blog and the Insider program.

To create a screencast of your mind map presentation in Camtasia, first click on the "record the screen" button in the upper left corner of the program's task list pane.



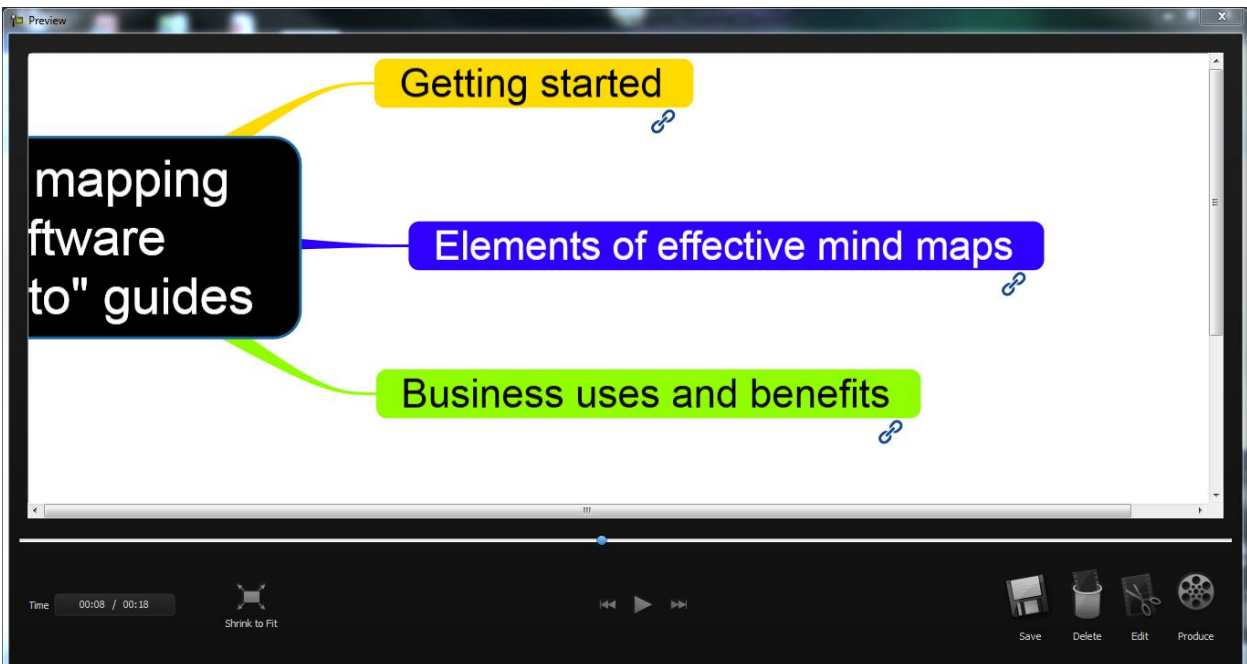
The program window is replaced by a black recording toolbar and a green dashed box that is used to define the size of the screen area to be recorded. Each corner of this bounding box contains a drag handle where you can manually resize it. You can also select "full screen" on the toolbar to have Camtasia automatically maximize the recording area. Since our mind map will be displayed full screen, that's the option we want to select.

Click on the down arrow next to the microphone



icon to select the audio input source for your presentation. Once you've done so, speak a few words into your microphone. You should be able to see a green input level indicator that will tell you that Camtasia can hear the input from your microphone. If it's in the red zone, move the slider below it to the left to reduce the input volume.

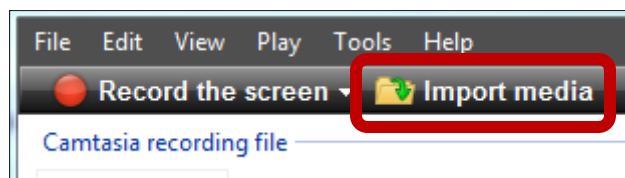
When you're ready to begin your screencast, click on the big red "REC" button to begin your recording. As the other applications do, Camtasia will give you a 3-2-1 countdown and then will begin recording. When you're done with your mind map presentation, use the F10 key on your computer to end it.



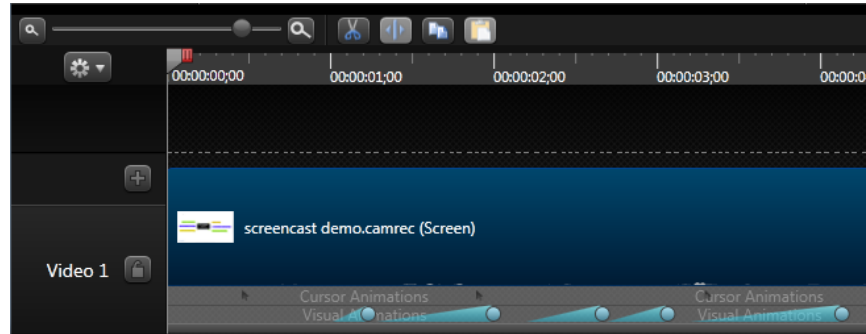
Camtasia now displays a preview of your presentation (see screen shot above), which enables you save, delete, edit or produce your video. I usually select "save." The program prompts you to save your video recording as a "camrec" file.

You now need to import your camrec file as an asset into Camtasia. Click on the import media toolbar icon, browse to the folder where you stored your camrec file and select it. Camtasia loads it into the program's "clip bin," an area

on screen where you can collect all of the images, video clips and audio files you intend to use in producing your video by dragging and dropping them onto the timeline below.



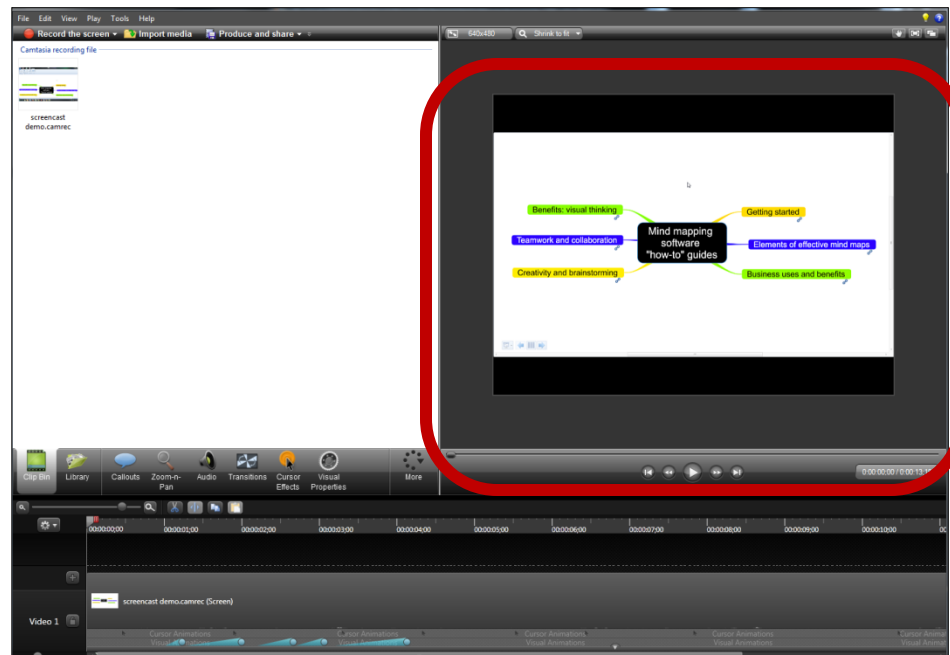
In the case of our screencast, everything we need (video and audio) is contained in our camrec file. Drag and drop it onto the program's timeline, which should look something like this when you're done.



This program has a lot of power and flexibility that I can't really get into in this report, but it's well worth exploring. Just to give you an example of how this works: Two years ago, I gave a speech at a mining conference. The conference organizer recorded the audio of all of the presentations, and sent me a link to download my speech several weeks later. I took my PowerPoint presentation and exported each slide as a set of PNG files. Using a free audio editor, I divided the audio of my presentation into small files that corresponded to each of my slides, numbering them to coincide with the PNG image numbers. I then imported all of these assets into Camtasia's clip bin and was able to create a cool multimedia presentation that narrated my slides with the audio of me speaking at the event!

Another example of what's possible with Camtasia: You can easily create a black screen with a white title and insert it into your timeline to serve as an introduction to your video. You can also add a sound clip to the clip bin – either a bit of a song or your voice narrating the title of your presentation, and add it to the timeline to spice up your intro slide. Like I said, this is powerful stuff!

In the upper right quadrant of Camtasia's workspace is a large preview window. You can use the controls here to preview your presentation. As it plays, you can see a pointer in the timeline also move, corresponding to the current position of the



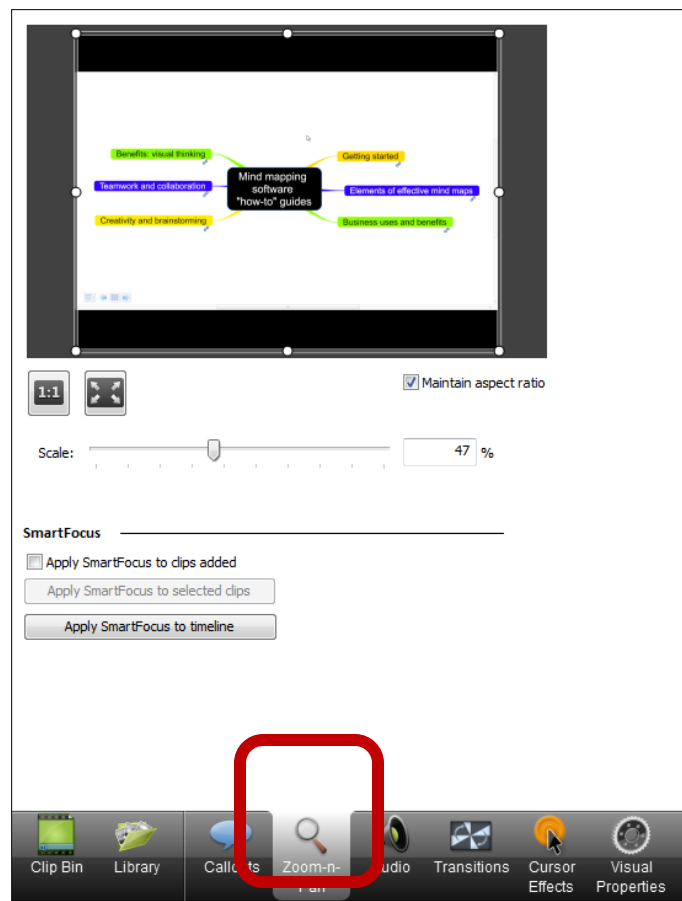
player along the timeline.

By the way, before we proceed any further with this project, we should really save our work file. Click on the disc icon in the toolbar or File/Save in the text menu and give your project a name. Camtasia saves its production work files as “camproj” files – short for Camtasia project.

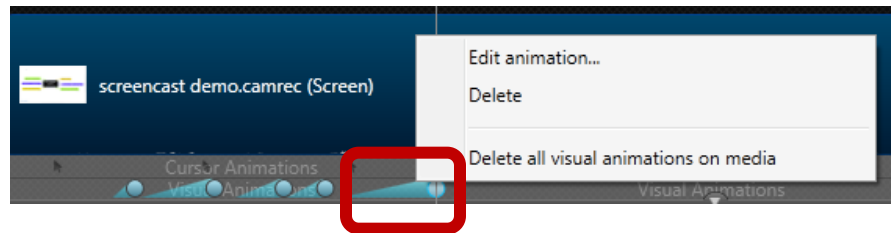
Jing and Screenr don’t give you much in the way of video editing tools. That’s not their job – their reason for existence is to enable anyone to produce simple videos, quickly and easily. Camtasia, as you would expect, gives you many tools to help you enhance your video. In this case, I started to record it before I changed NovaMind over to its presentation mode. I don’t really want to show this. I just want to start my presentation with NovaMind already in this view, displaying the full map. So I simply dragged one handle of the player head in the timeline to select the unwanted part of my video and right clicked to delete it. I then played the video from the beginning to make sure it sounded and looked the way I wanted it. If you make a mistake and don’t quite get the result you want in Camtasia, simply “undo” the change and try again.

One of the cool capabilities of Camtasia is the ability to zoom and pan within your presentation. How is this useful? Consider for a moment that the default size of a web presentation produced by this program is 640x480 – that’s not very big. If you’re trying to show something on screen that is fairly small in proportion to the video player window, it will be hard for viewers to see. The solution is to zoom in on that element of your video as you explain it, and then zoom back out to show the entire frame you recorded. It’s easy to set up, too. Here’s how it works.

In the toolbar tabs above the timeline, click on “zoom-n-pan” tab. The clip bin disappears, and in its place, the zoom-n-pan tool appears.



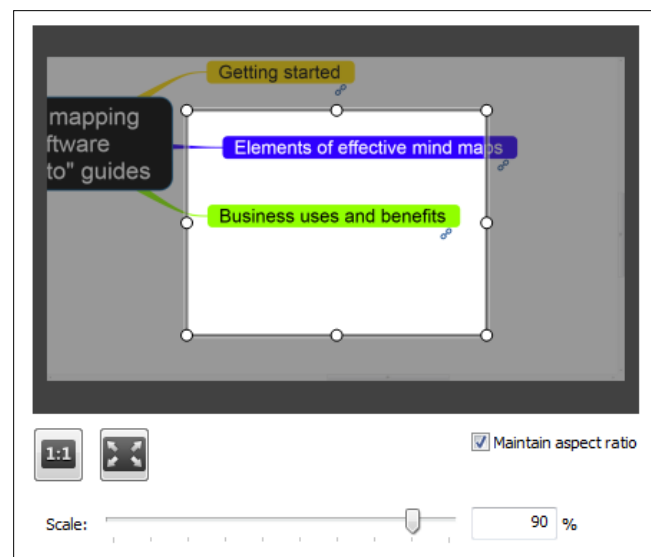
I usually start by deleting any zoom and pan settings that Camtasia automatically creates for you. I'm not quite sure



what criteria the program uses to do this, but I prefer to "roll my own." Select any of the existing zooms and pans in the timeline (in the screen shot above they look like little comets with tails) and then right click to delete them.

I really wanted NovaMind to zoom in closer on each of the topics of my simple mind map. Here is how to do that, using the zoom-n-pan tool. In the preview pane, play your video to the point where you want to insert a zoom or pan setting, and click the pause button. Note how the preview in the zoom-n-pan tool shows you the exact same view, with a selection box that includes the entire video frame. We'll be using that box to size our zooms and pans.

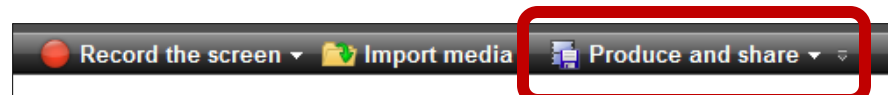
To focus in one section of your screen recording, simply resize the selector box in the zoom and pan window or drag it to change its location. Camtasia will remain at this zoom setting until you tell it otherwise. If you create a mind map video like this, I recommend staying zoomed in on the current topic until the audio finishes talking about it, and then zoom back out to display the full frame.



The final step in our video production process is to output our presentation to a format that you can upload to YouTube. Camtasia has a number of pre-sets that enable you to optimize your presentation for different uses. But for the purposes of this tutorial, we're going to focus on YouTube.

As you would expect,

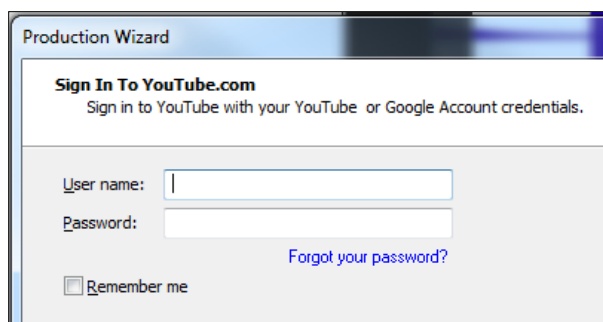
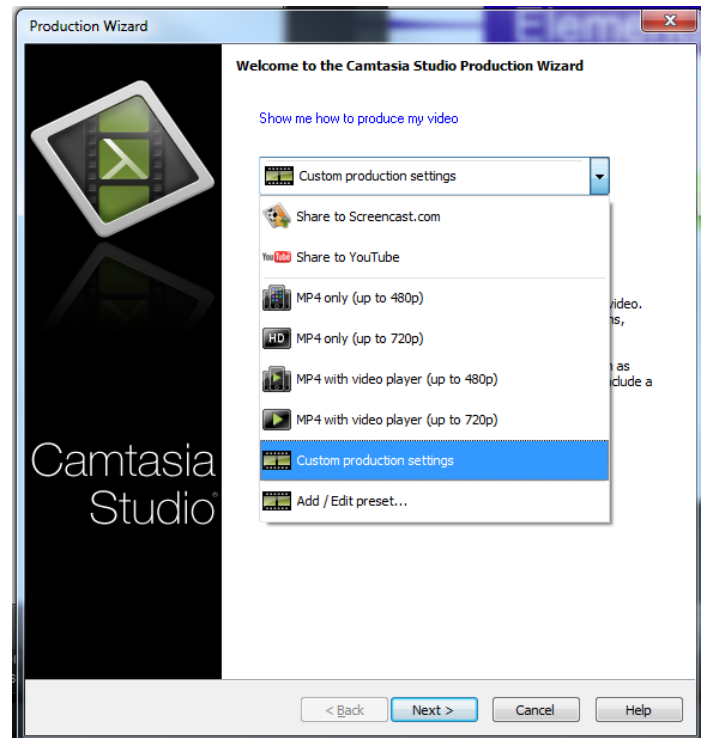
Camtasia can produce your



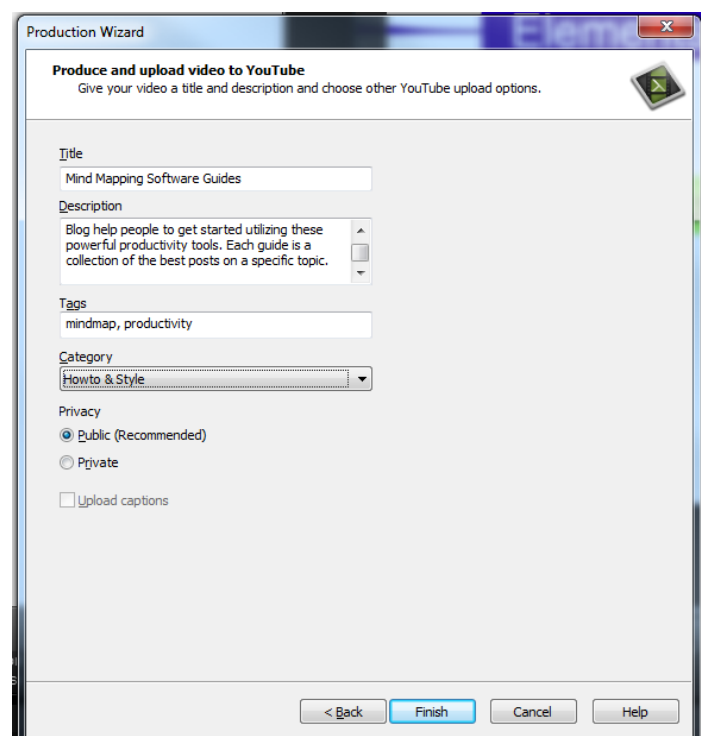
video and upload it directly to YouTube, using your credentials. To produce your video, click on "produce and share" button in the toolbar.

This displays Camtasia's production wizard tool. It enables you to quickly and easily produce a video using optimized settings. Or, if you want to get under the hood and customize its output settings, you can definitely do that if you're so inclined. But that's something you can explore on your own by experimenting with the program – or you can learn more on the TechSmith website.

Accept Camtasia's default settings for YouTube and then click "next" to move to the next step in the production wizard. At this step, you need to input your YouTube login, so the program can upload your video file after it's done producing it.



Next, it prompts you to fill in the title, description and other information about your video – just like you would see if you were uploading one directly from the YouTube website. When you're done inputting this information, Camtasia produces your video and uploads it. That's all there is to it!



Questions?

Please contact Chuck Frey at chuck@chuckfrey.com.

Please [visit the Mind Mapping Software Blog](#) for all of the latest news, trends and resources related to visual mapping.

You can also [follow Chuck Frey on Twitter](#) for even more insights and ideas.

Published 4/5/13