

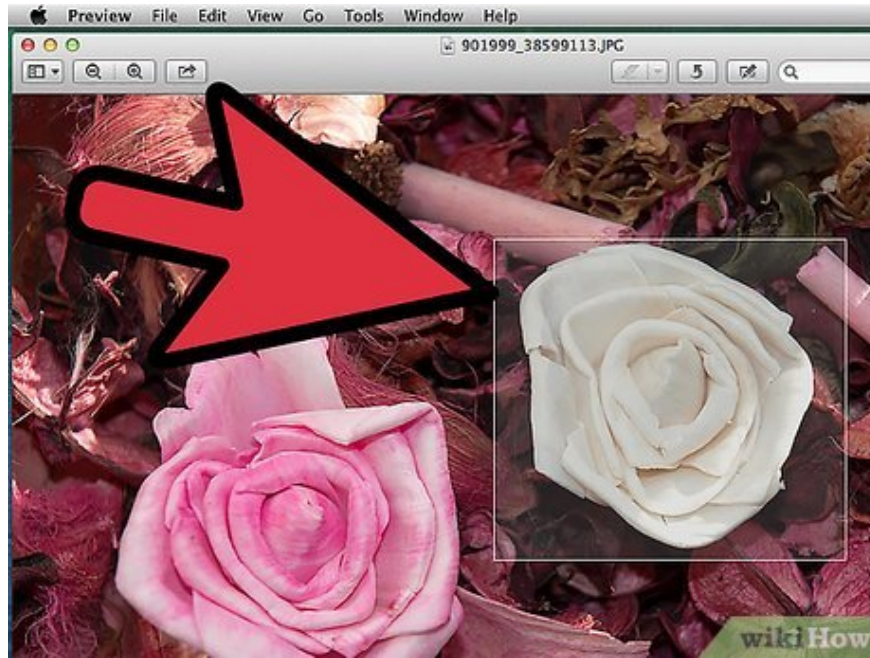
How to Take a Screenshot on Mac OS X

If you need to take a screenshot because of an interesting conversation, need to show an expert an error message on your system, write instructions on how to perform a task, or even contribute an article to TipsMakew, then a screenshot is a good idea so someone can see exactly what appears on your screen. Taking screenshots on Mac OS X is very simple, here are a few ways you can easily do it.

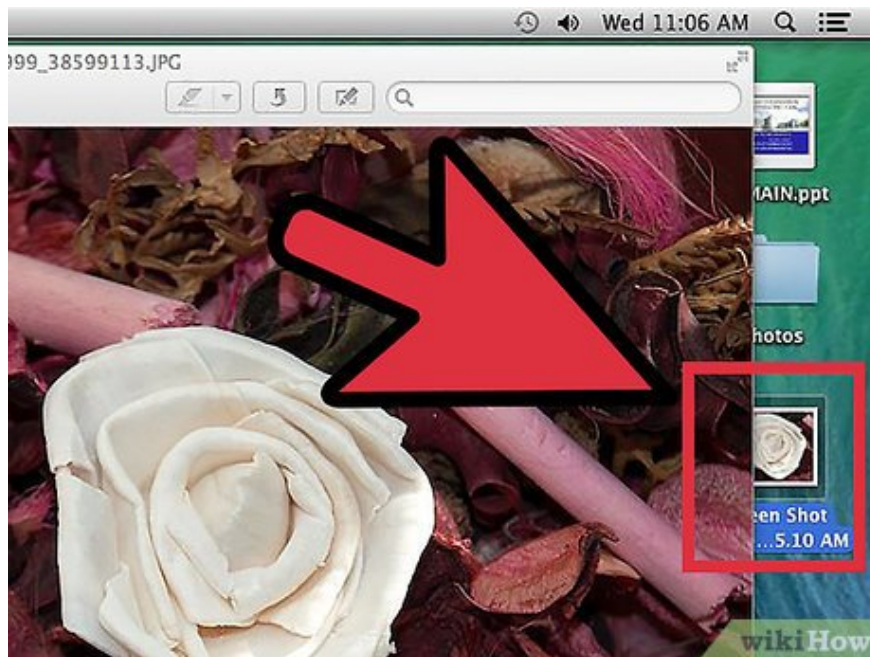
Capture Part of Screen



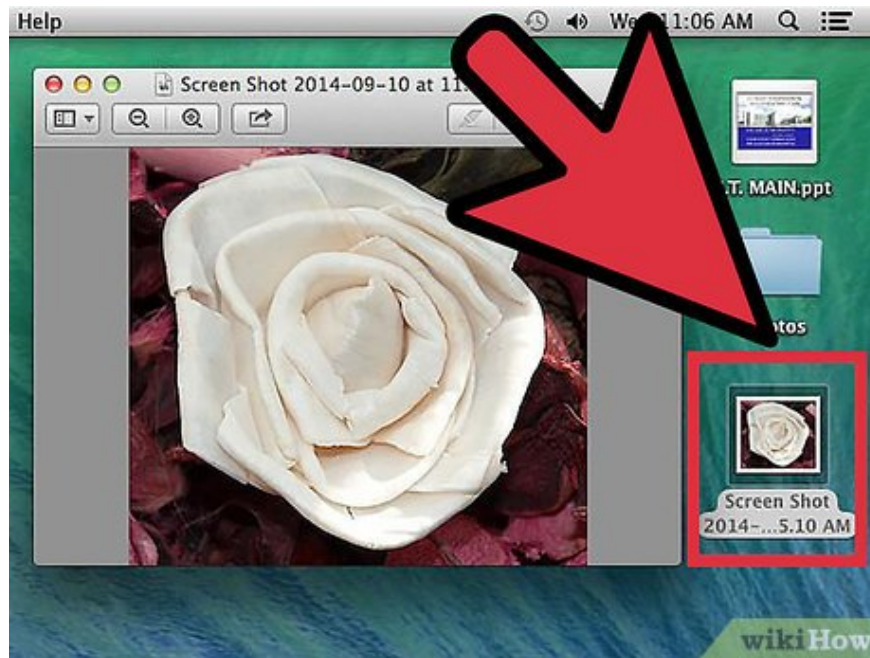
Press the key combination Command + Shift + 4. Your cursor will turn into a square with a cross.



Click and drag the cursor to select the area you want to capture. A rectangle will appear where you dragged the cursor. If you need to adjust the entire window, press Escape to return the cursor to its original shape.

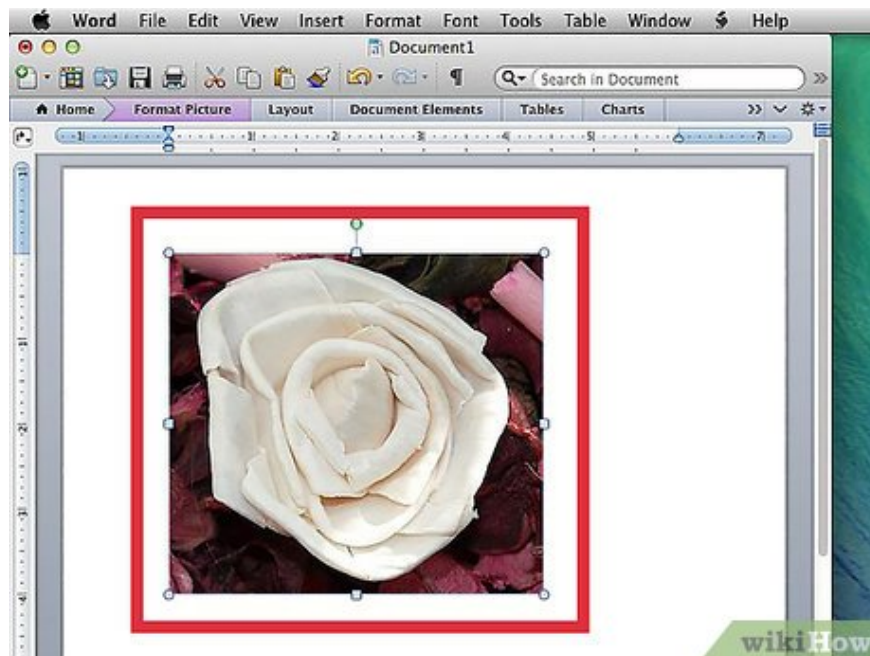


Release the mouse. You will hear the camera shutter very quickly if you turn on the sound on your computer. This sign indicates that your screen has been captured.



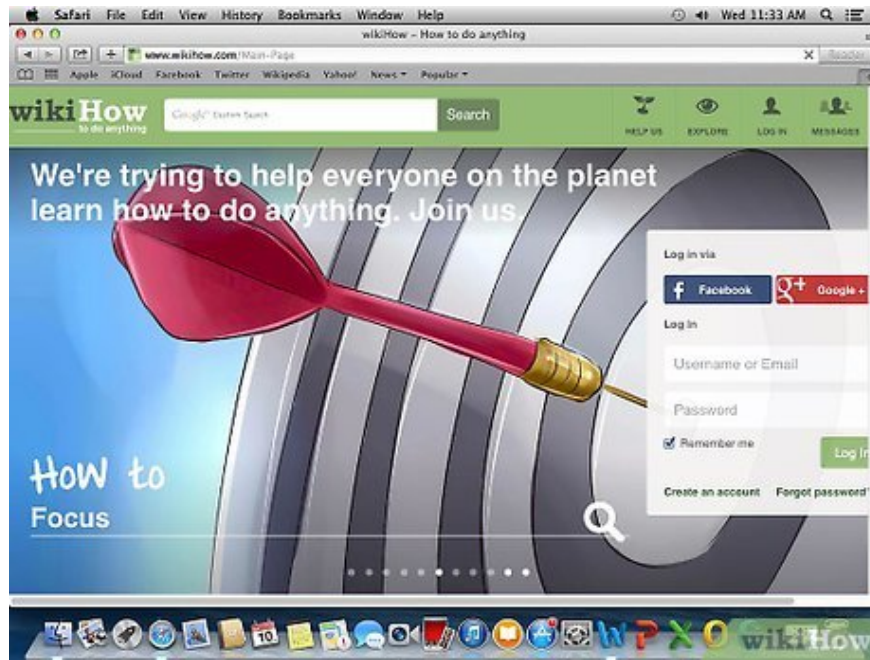
Find the screenshot on the desktop. The image will be saved in .png format and named "screenshot" with date and time.

Previous versions of OS



Use screenshots. Once you've taken a screenshot, the image is now ready to be used when needed. You can attach it to an email, upload it to a website, or even drag it into your text reader.

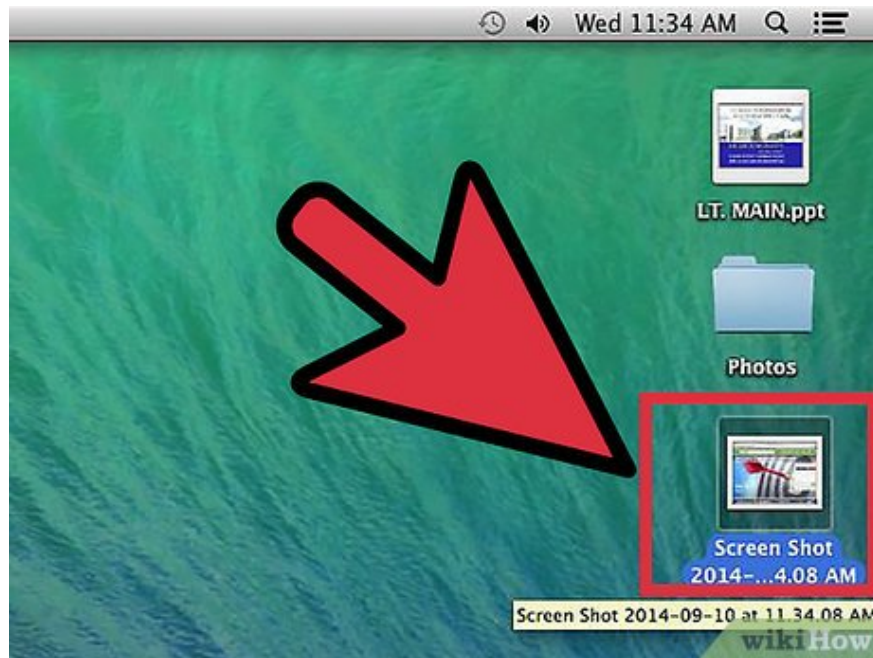
Capture Entire Screen



Make sure the screen shows exactly what you want to capture. Don't forget to open relevant windows.



Press Command + Shift + 3. If audio is turned on, your computer will make a camera shutter sound.



Find screenshots at desktop. The photo will be saved as "screenshot" with date and time.

Previous versions of OS

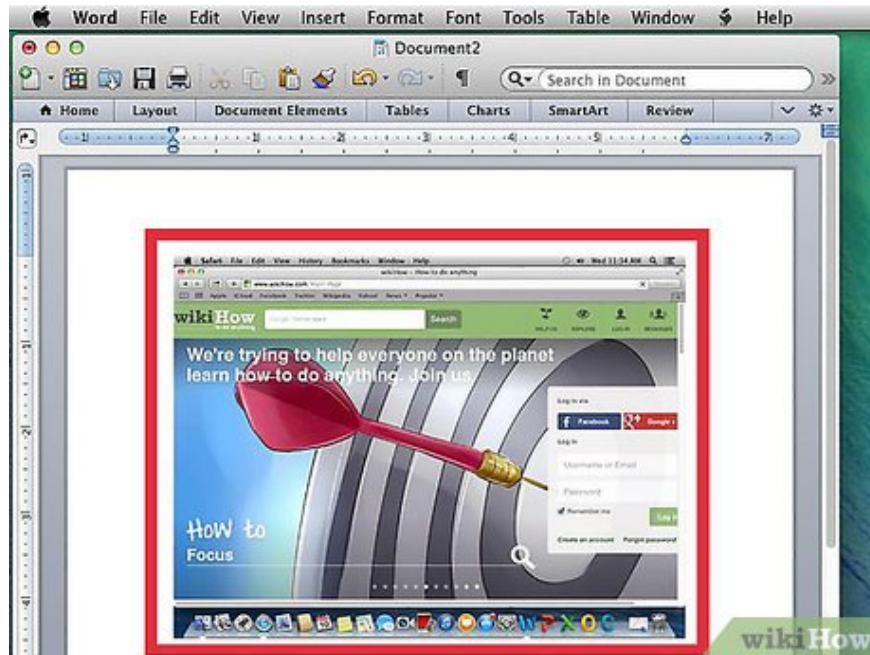
Save Screenshot to Clipboard



Press the key combination Command + Control + Shift + 3. This method is similar to the above method, except that the image file will not be exported immediately. Instead, the photo will be saved to the clipboard, a temporary storage area where you remember the text you copied.

You can also capture part of the screen by pressing the key combination Command + Control + Shift + 4 and dragging the cursor around the part of the screen to capture, just like how to capture a part of the screen

instructed above.

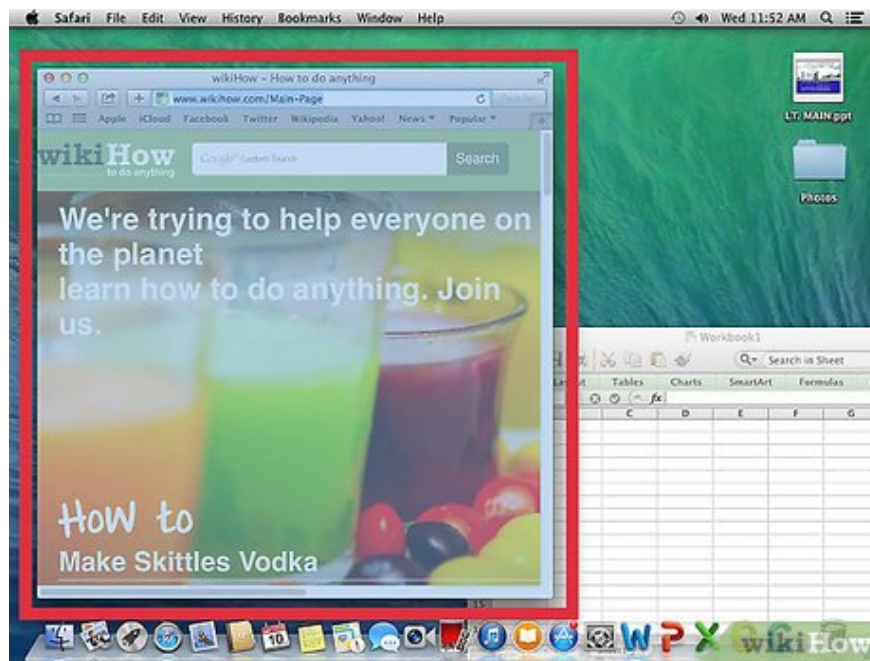


Use **Command + V** or **Edit > Paste** to paste your photo. Screenshots can be pasted directly into any compatible application, such as a Word document, a photo editing program, or other email services.

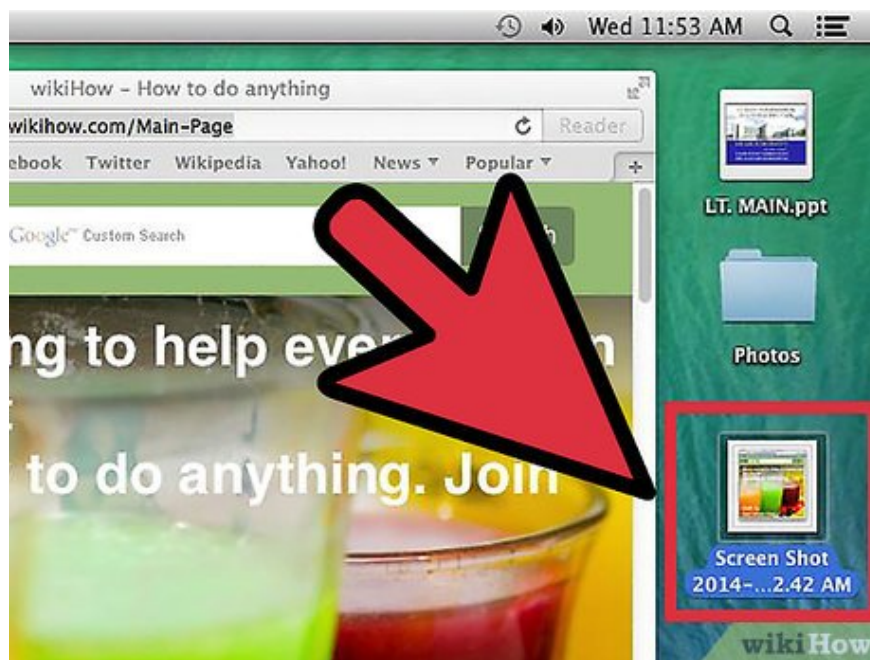
Screenshot An Open Window



Press the key combination **Command+Shift+4** simultaneously with *the spacebar* . The rectangular cursor will turn into a small camera. You can use the spacebar to return the cursor to its original shape.

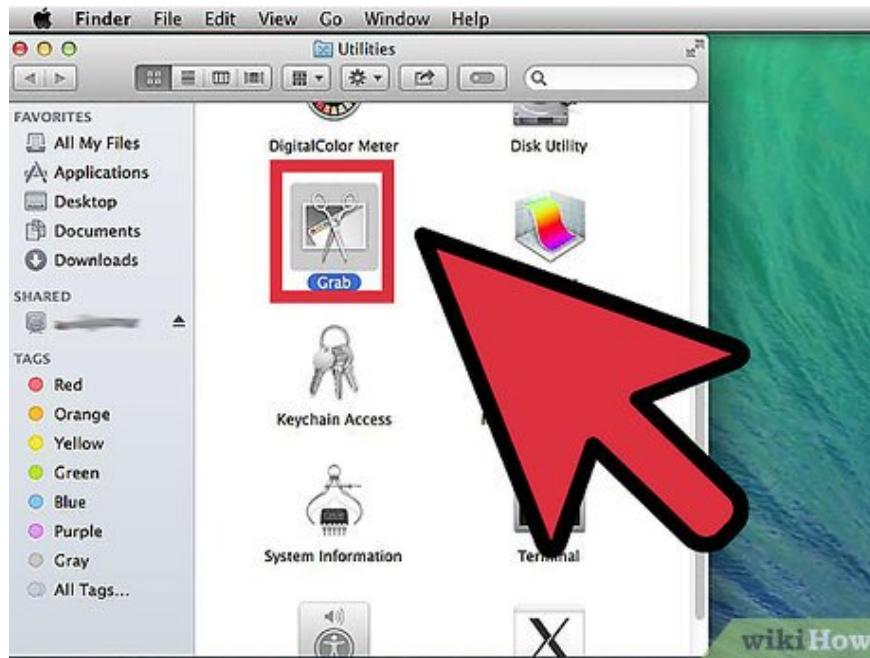


Move the cursor to the window you need to capture. The camera will highlight those windows in blue when you hover over them. You can use the *Command+Tab* keyboard to switch to the window you want to capture while still in this mode.



Click on the window. The image of the window you select will be saved on the desktop by default, just like the other methods.

Grab Utilities method



Click to select *Applications > Utilities > Grab* . It will open the Grab app and a menu will appear in the bottom left corner of the screen, but no window will appear.

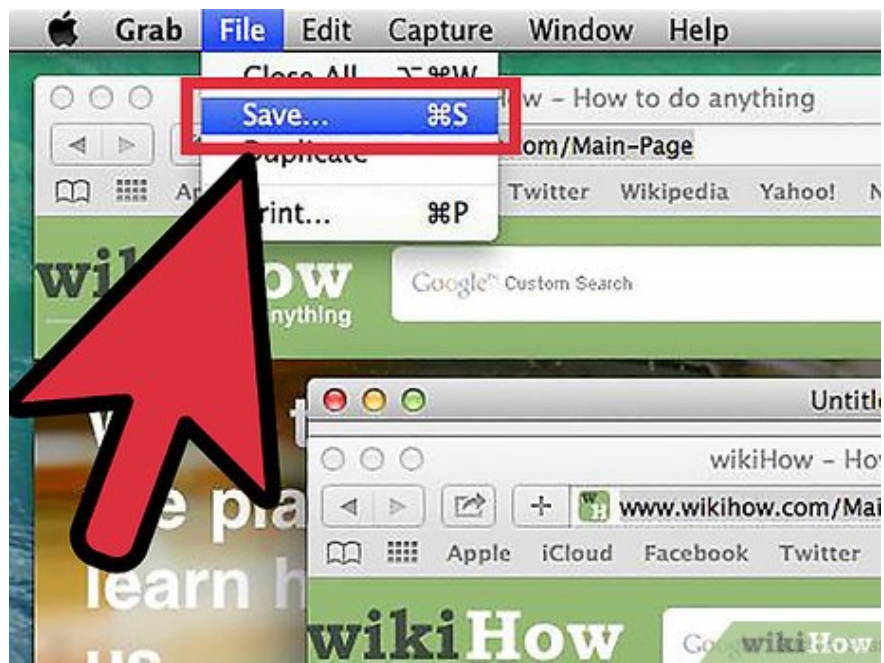


Click on the *Capture* panel and choose one of four different items.

To capture the entire screen, select *Screen* (or use the *Apple Key + Z* key combination). A window will appear asking you to click and indicating that the window will not disappear from the photo.

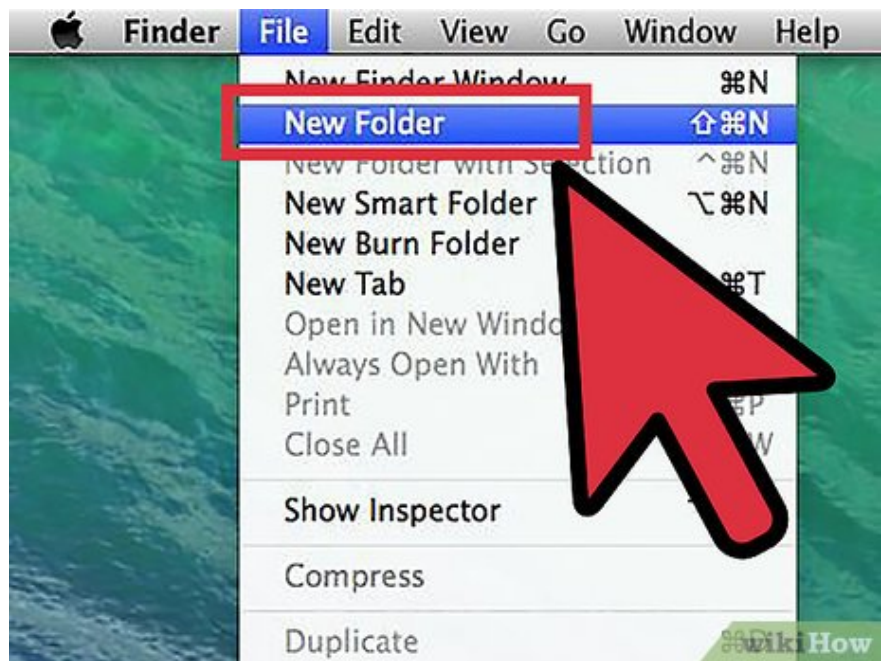
To capture part of the screen, select *Selection* . A window will appear instructing you to move your mouse to select the area to capture.

To capture a certain window, select *Window* . Then, click on the window you want to capture.

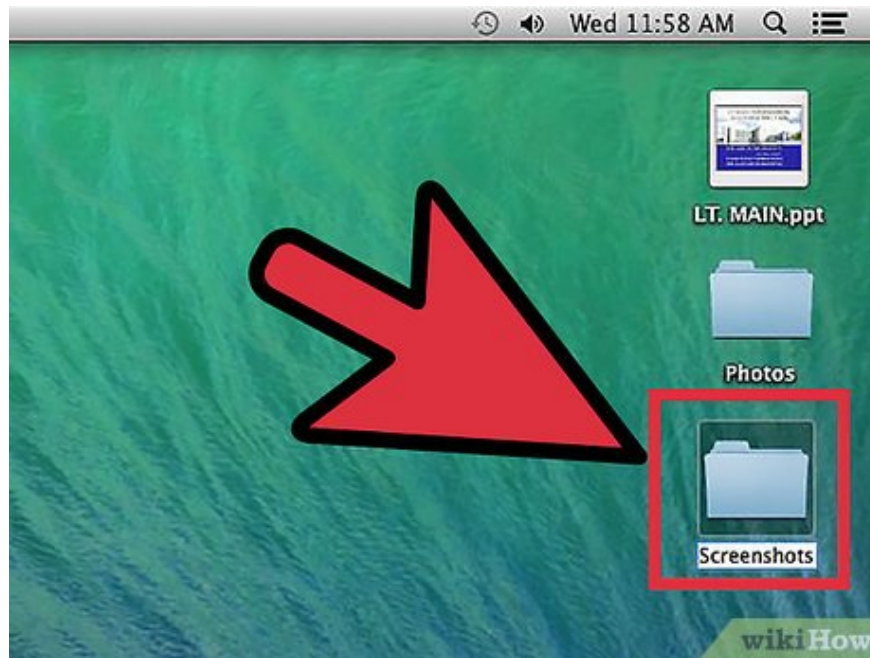


When the new window appears, select *Save* . You can also select *Save As* to give a different name or choose a location to save the image, please note that the image is only saved in .tiff format. Note that the file will not be saved automatically.

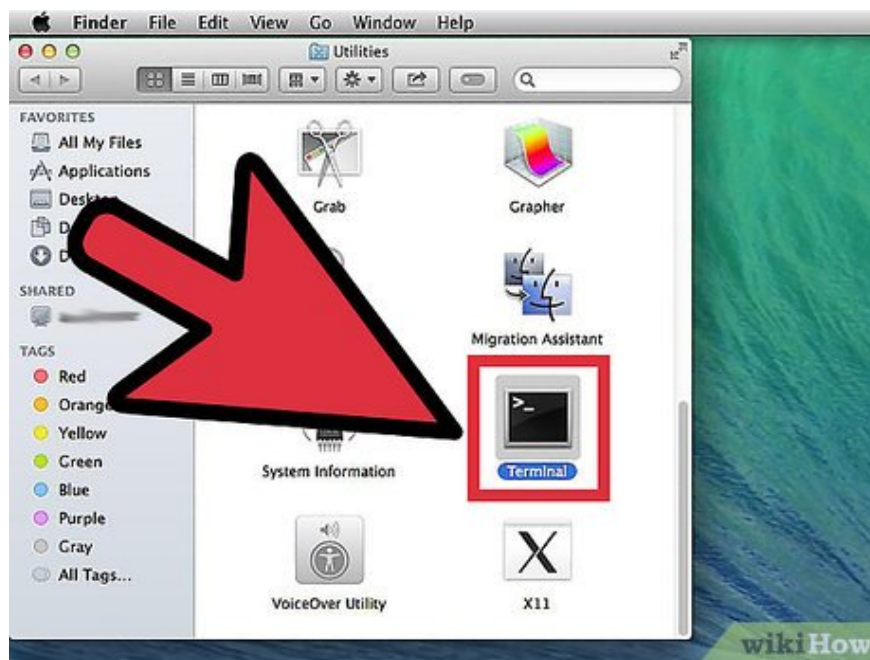
Change Default File Storage Location



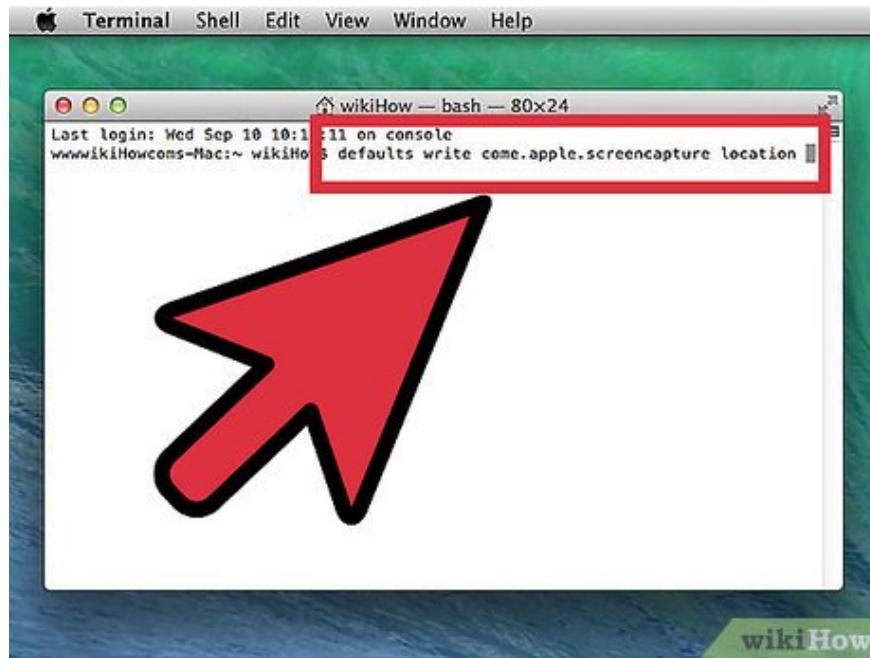
Create a new folder. In Finder by selecting *File > New Folder* .



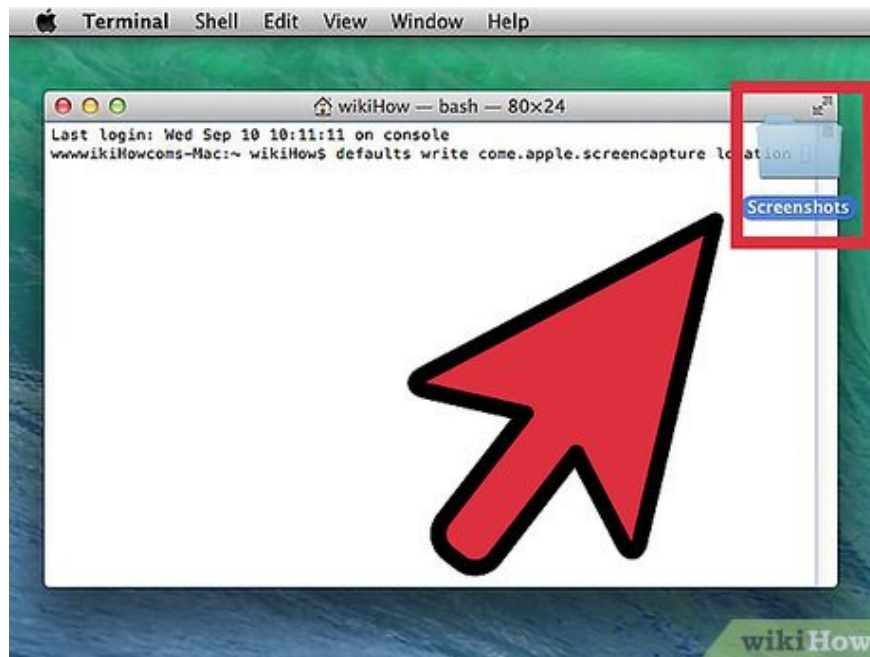
Name the folder by clicking on it. Type in the name you want, for example "Screenshot".



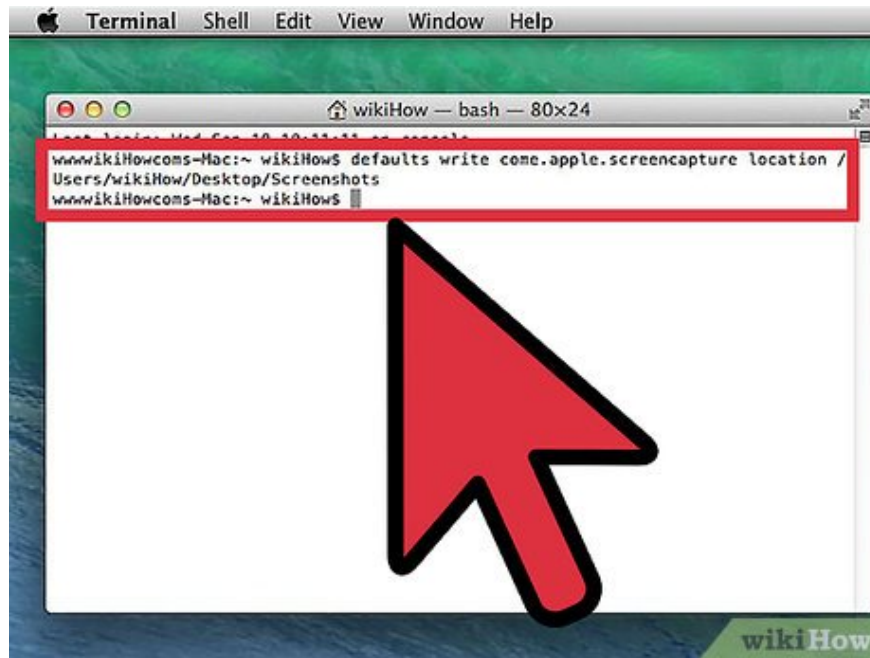
Open a terminal screen. You can find it in the "finder" folder, under "utilities".



In the command line, copy the line *defaults write com.apple.screencapture location* , making sure there is a space after the word *location* . Don't press (Return) Return .



Drag the folder you want to the terminal screen. It will add the screenshot destination to the command line.



Select *Return* . A new command line will appear.

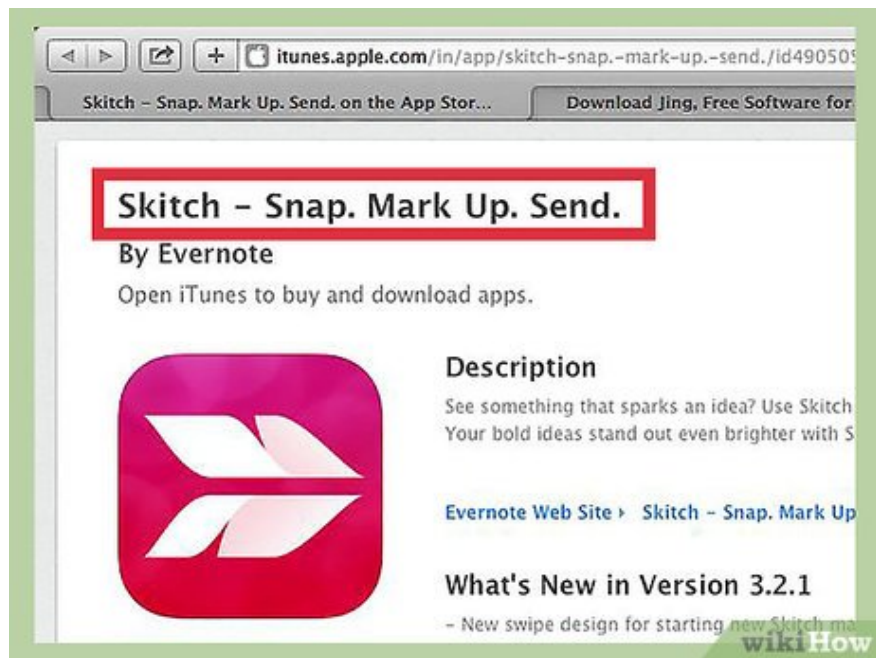


Copy the line *killall SystemUIServer* to the command line and press *Return* . It will restart the terminal and immediately apply the above changes.



Be careful not to delete the folder. Otherwise, you will have to initiate and redo the above process to specify a new default location for screenshots.

Other methods



Use Skitch. Skitch will help you make basic edits on screenshots and upload them to the web.



Monosnap is a useful tool for taking screenshots. Take screenshots, annotate and upload to cloud storage, save or open in other editing utilities.



Use Jing. Similar to Skitch, Jing will help you take screenshots and upload them directly to the website. You can also record videos on your screen.

You finished reading the article "**How to Take a Screenshot on Mac OS X**" edited by the [TipsMake](#) team. We hope this article has provided you with many useful tech tips and tricks. You can search for similar articles on tips and guides. Thank you for reading and for following us regularly.