

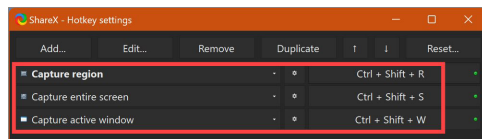


## When the Windows Snipping Tool is Insufficient

THE WINDOWS SNIPPING TOOL IS ADEQUATE FOR BASIC SCREEN CAPTURES, BUT SNAGIT IS MUCH MORE POWERFUL. IF SNAGIT'S COST IS PROHIBITIVE, THERE'S SHAREX.

ShareX is a highly customizable screen capture utility that's free (donations requested). The first version was released in 2008, so it's been in development long enough for features to be added and bugs to be removed. The options and power may surprise you.

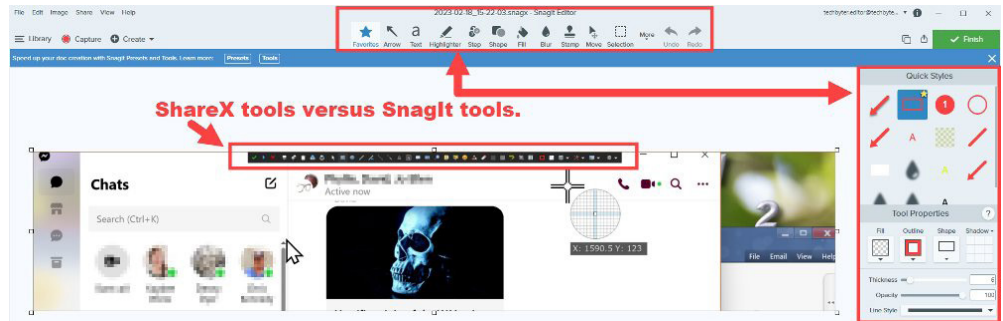
For testing, I installed ShareX on a Surface 6 Pro tablet, which has an extremely high resolution screen that's also quite small. On this screen, some apps have trouble displaying readable menus. ShareX is one of those apps. That doesn't make it unusable, but it does mean that I spent a lot of time squinting at setup screens.



I DELETED THE DEFAULT HOTKEYS AND DEFINED ONES TO CAPTURE THE FULL SCREEN, THE CURRENT WINDOW, AND A REGION.

I didn't care for ShareX's default hotkeys: The PrintScreen key captures the entire screen or, if you have multiple monitors, everything on all screens; and there's an option for limiting the capture to a single screen. Alt-PrintScreen captures the active window, Shift-PrintScreen starts or stops a screen recording, and Ctrl-Shift-PrintScreen starts or stops recording a GIF animation.

Some ShareX default hotkeys conflict with other applications and others are for features I use so infrequently that



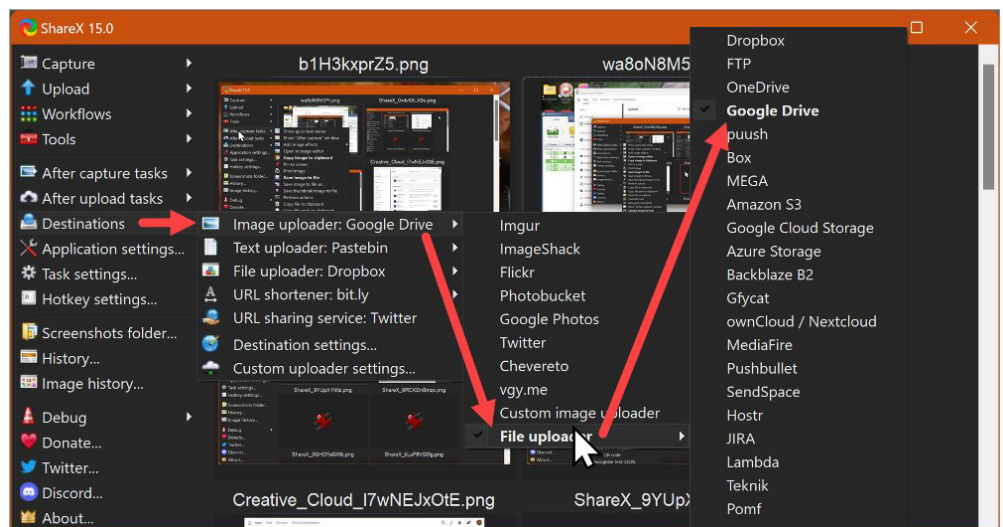
APPLICATIONS SUCH AS THE COMMERCIAL SNAGIT FROM TECHSMITH ADJUST MENU SIZES TO BE READABLE ON SMALL, HIGH-RESOLUTION SCREENS SUCH AS THOSE FOUND ON MANY TABLETS. SHAREX HASN'T YET ACHIEVED THIS.

a hotkey isn't essential. I usually want to capture either a region, the active application, or the entire screen, so I deleted the default hotkeys and defined my own: Ctrl-Shift-R for a region, Ctrl-Shift-W for the active window, and Ctrl-Shift-S for the entire screen.

Users of computers that have small, high-resolution screens may have problems with the editor's

toolbar. The Microsoft Surface 6 Pro has a 2736x1824 pixel screen that measures just 12 inches diagonally. When comparing the ShareX interface to Snagit, a commercial application, the difference is clear even with the screen set to 200% scaling. The

AFTER CAPTURING AN IMAGE, SHAREX CAN SAVE IT LOCALLY OR ON ONE OR MORE REMOTE LOCATIONS.



## SHAREX INCLUDES A SURPRISINGLY ROBUST COLLECTION OF ADDITIONAL TOOLS.

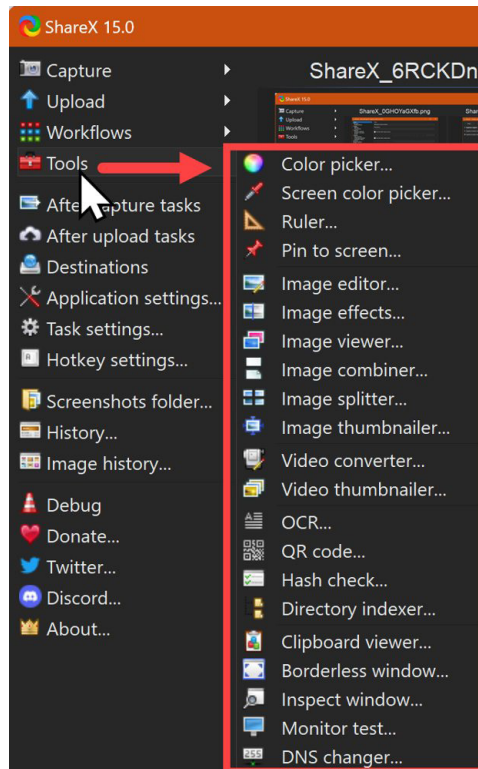
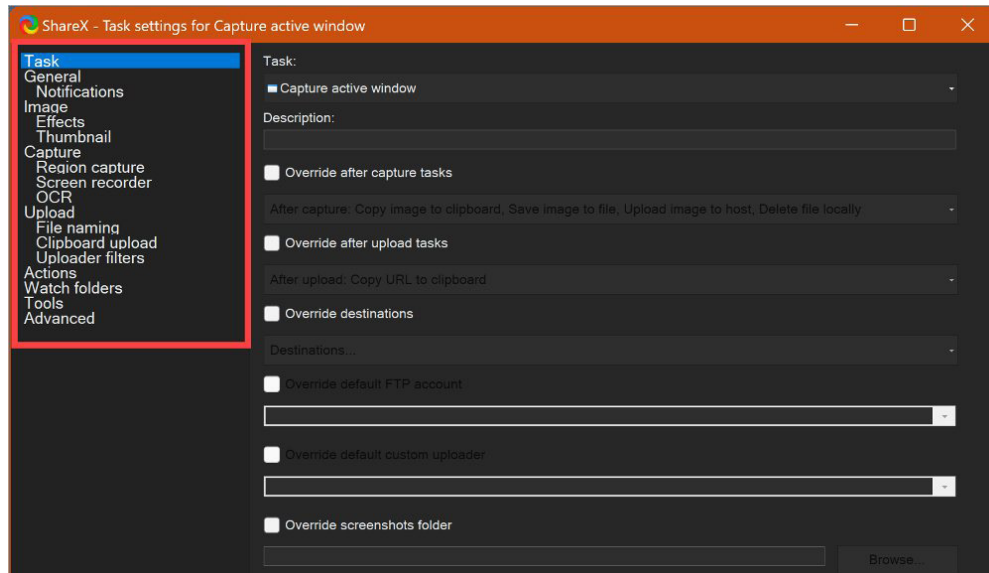
developers will probably address this problem eventually and even now it's not a deal killer.

ShareX's versatility is surprising, but that means users will be more successful if they dig through the many settings. Captured images may be stored locally, uploaded to various sharing services, or placed on Google Drive or Microsoft's OneDrive. After deciding where the images should be stored, the user needs to link ShareX to any remote destinations. This is easy, but those who run ShareX on the same computer where the images will be used can just create a local directory for them.

Because I use ShareX to capture images on a tablet computer, but use them on my primary computer, I have ShareX store them on Google Drive.

Although I rarely need to use the image on the tablet computer, I have ShareX place the image on the clipboard and save it to a file in addition to uploading it to Google Drive. These post-capture actions apply to all images, but users can also define processes, linked to hotkeys, that

## EACH CAPTURE METHOD THE USER DEFINES CAN APPLY EFFECTS, PERFORM OTHER ACTIONS SUCH AS OCR TO EXTRACT TEXT, APPLY RULES FOR NAMING THE FILE, AND SAVE THE IMAGE LOCALLY OR ON ONE OR MORE REMOTE LOCATIONS.



perform one or more additional actions with the images.

ShareX includes specialized tools such as a color picker and ruler, an image editor and an annotator, optical character recognition, the ability to create a QR code for an uploaded image, and even a video converter.

TechGumbo has a quick beginner's guide to ShareX on [YouTube](#) and ShareX documentation is on [GitBooks](#).

## Some Limitations

AS POWERFUL AS SHAREX IS, IT'S NOT THE PERFECT SCREEN CAPTURE UTILITY FOR EVERY USER.

ShareX is a Windows-only application unlike Snagit, which is available for both Windows and MacOS computers, but it's a low-cost alternative that performs well. Users can customize their sharing options and save files to hosting services such as Imgur, Dropbox, and Google Drive in addition to the more traditional options of sharing files through email or social media.

To get the most out of ShareX, it's essential to spend some time with online resources. There's a lot to learn and support is severely limited.

Commercial applications such as Snagit offer customer support, but ShareX users will have to find information about how to perform tasks by searching for online discussion groups and YouTube videos.

Those who need to make animated images for documentation will be disappointed by ShareX even though it can record limited video captures and even more limited GIF captures.

Those who require video documentation will need Snagit or TechSmith's much more capable and expensive Camtasia.

Anyone who needs a screen capture utility for Windows, requires more than the built-in Snipping Tool, and doesn't have the budget for a commercial application, should consider ShareX.

There are other screen capture apps that are easier to use because they're less configurable and less capable; TechSmith's Snagit has features that are missing from ShareX, but at a price. ShareX may be exactly what you need and you can download it from the [developer's website](#). [Ω](#)