

## Screen Shots

Have you ever wondered how the illustrations for various Mac articles books , and even this Nitty-Gritty series were obtained? It is not that hard. Your Mac's OS has the built -in ability to take screenshots or screen captures.

From the very earliest Mac OS if you pressed ⌘-Shift-3 you'd hear a satisfying camera click sound. This sound meant your Mac had captured the entire screen as a PICT file. On your hard disk a file would appear labeled Picture 1. If you take additional screen shots they'll be named Picture 2, Picture 3, and so on.

This feature was okay but had it's limitations because it captured the entire screen. If you wanted to use only a portion of your screen picture, you'd have to edit or crop it with another application.

In System 7.6 and later, additional screen grabbing keystrokes have been made available.

⌘-Shift-4 Turns the cursor in to a tiny crosshair [↷]. Now by dragging across any rectangular area of the screen, you will capture only that portion into your PICT file.

Caps Lock-⌘-Shift-4 This turns the cursor into a little bullseye [🎯] Now you can click on any window, dialog box or error message and capture a neat picture of it, pre-cropped.

After taking your screen shot you can rename it from "Picture 1" to whatever title you'd like.

Opening the screen shot with SimpleText you can "Select All," "Copy," and then "Paste" into a Paint application to add arrows, highlight areas or manipulate as you desire. Then copy/paste or insert your edited screen shot into your word processing document.

There is a way, using ResEdit, that you can change the "creator" of the screen shot to something more convenient for editing, say for instance PhotoShop. But that's another Nitty-Gritty.