

Panopto Capture vs. Panopto for Windows/Mac

Panopto offers three options for recording. Panopto Capture is the browser recorder. Panopto for Windows and Panopto for Mac are desktop apps. Panopto for Windows can be downloaded from the Tri-C Software Center. If you are wondering which recording option to use, below are some things about both options that may help you decide.

Features

Here is a table that allows you to see quickly the main features.

Considerations	Panopto Capture (Browser)	Panopto for Windows/Mac (App)
Install required	No	Yes
Ease of use	Very easy	Moderate
Pause recording	✗ No	✓ Yes
Multi-camera	✓	✓ (more control)
Slide indexing	✓ (screen detected)	✓ (slide integrated)
Reliability	Medium	High
Best for	Quick recordings	Full lectures

Other Key Considerations for choosing which option to record with

The Simple Recording Rule

Use Panopto Capture when:

- You need something fast
- You're nervous about technology
- You're making short videos
- You're recording from an unfamiliar computer

Use Panopto for Windows/Mac when:

- It's a lecture
- Slides matter
- Students need navigation/search
- The video impacts learning outcomes

Ease of Use

Panopto Capture

- Launch from LMS or Panopto website
- Works immediately – no permissions beyond browser prompts
- Ideal for first-time or reluctant tech users
- Great for office hours, quick feedback videos, announcements



Panopto for Windows/Mac

- Requires installation
- More buttons and configuration
- Takes longer to learn – but pays off later

Recording Capabilities

Slides & Presentation Recording

Panopto Capture

- Records slides as a screen recording only
- No slide indexing/searchable slides

Panopto for Windows/Mac

- Dedicated PowerPoint integration
- Creates searchable slide thumbnails
- Students can jump to specific slides

Audio & Video Control

Panopto Capture

- Webcam + mic + screen
- Limited source control
- Fewer quality options

Panopto for Windows/Mac

- Multiple cameras
- Multiple monitors
- System audio capture
- Better audio reliability

Reliability & Performance

Panopto Capture

- Depends on browser performance
- More likely to fail with large presentations
- Uploading happens after recording

Panopto for Windows/Mac

- Handles long lectures better
- Better encoding & streaming stability
- Designed for teaching environments



Panopto Recorder Decision Tree

Start Here

1. Is this a full lecture or class session?

- YES → Use Panopto for Windows/Mac (Desktop App)
 - NO → Go to Question 2
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2. Do you need to pause while recording? (mistakes, interruptions, students talking)

- YES → Use Panopto for Windows/Mac
 - NO → Go to Question 3
-

3. Are you recording on a shared / unfamiliar / public computer?

- YES → Use Panopto Capture (Browser)
 - NO → Go to Question 4
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4. Is the video under 10 minutes?

- YES → Use Panopto Capture
- NO → Use Panopto for Windows/Mac

Need Help?

If you need help with Panopto, email helpdesk@tri-c.edu to get assistance from the Help Desk. If you would like to set up an appointment with a member of the Instructional Design team, visit the [Schedule an Appointment](#) page.