Basics of Screen Capturing

PM Capturer is a screen capturing utility. With this program you can capture images from your screen (full screen, window, objects, rectangular areas) into BMP image files or AVI movies.

Workflow of PM Capturer basically consists of few steps:

Set capturing parameters and define HotKey

Press Start button. PM Capturer minimizes and waits for HotKey to initiate capturing

Initiate capture by pressing HotKey

Terminate capturing by pressing HotKey (only necessary when you capture periodical sequences)

Capturing full screen

Select **Full Screen** in Capture Source field.
Set other capturing parameters and press **Start**
When you are ready to initiate capturing press **HotKey**
Note: If you have selected **Periodical Sequence** the program will continue capturing screens until you press HotKey once again.

Capturing rectangular area

Select **Area** in Capture Source field.
Set other capturing parameters and press **Start**
When you are ready to initiate capturing press **HotKey**
The 'Capture Rect' caption will appear near your cursor
Select rectangle area with mouse: Point cursor to starting position, press mouse button, and drag mouse to select rectangle. The size of selected rectangle will be shown in the middle of selection frame.
Release mouse button to capture the selected area.
Note: - If you have selected **Periodical Sequence** the program will continue capturing the selected area on your screen until you press HotKey once again.

Capturing windows and objects

Select **Window** in Capture Source field.
Set other capturing parameters and press **Start**
When you are ready to initiate capturing press **HotKey**
The 'Capture Window' caption will appear near your cursor
Point cursor to window or other object (buttons, scroll bars, toolbars, etc.) you want to capture.
Rectangular frame will appear around the object that is currently selected.
Click to capture the selected window or object.
Note: If you have selected **Periodical Sequence** the program will continue capturing the selected window until you press HotKey once more.

Capturing periodical sequence

Once you have pressed Start button PM Capturer minimizes and will wait for HotKey to initiate capturing.
The **Capture Method** field in PM Capturer dialog lets you choose the most appropriate method for capturing multiple frames in a sequence.
If you have selected **Hot Key Initiated** each successive frame will be captured upon pressing of HotKey
If you have selected **Periodical Sequence** the program will start capturing upon first pressing of HotKey. Successive frames will be captured automatically with periodicity defined in **Every Sec** field. Press HotKey once more to terminate capturing sequence.

Capturing frames or movies
PM Capturer can store captured screenshots to BMP file sequences or directly to AVI movies.
Select output format (BMP or AVI) in **Save As** field of PM Capturer dialog.
Select folder for storing captured images in **Save In** filed
Screenshots will be saved in files with numbered names (CAPXXXX.BMP or CAPXXXX.AVI).
Note: If you have selected **Movie** in Save As field, you can select **Window** or **Area** for capturing only **once** – all successive frames of the movie will be captured from the same area or window you have selected for the first frame.

Creating your own animation film

Select **Window** in Capture Source field
Select **Hot Key Initiated** in Capture Method filed
Select **Movie** in Save As filed
Define HotKey and output folder in other fields of PM Capturer dialog
Press Start

Run drawing application (e.g. PM Painter 1.0) and start new document

Press **HotKey** combination
The 'Capture Window' caption will appear near your cursor
Point cursor to the window of the document you just opened. Rectangular frame will appear around the selected window.
Click to capture the document window. You thus record the first frame of animation movie.

Proceed with drawing using tools of your application.
After any substantial change applied to your drawing (brush stroke, processing, special effect, etc.) press HotKey combination to save the current status of your document as a successive frame in the movie.

To terminate capturing restore PM Capturer dialog by pressing on its icon on the taskbar, and press **Stop** button
The bottom line on the PM Capturer dialog will tell you the name of AVI file where the animation was stored and how many frames were captured.