



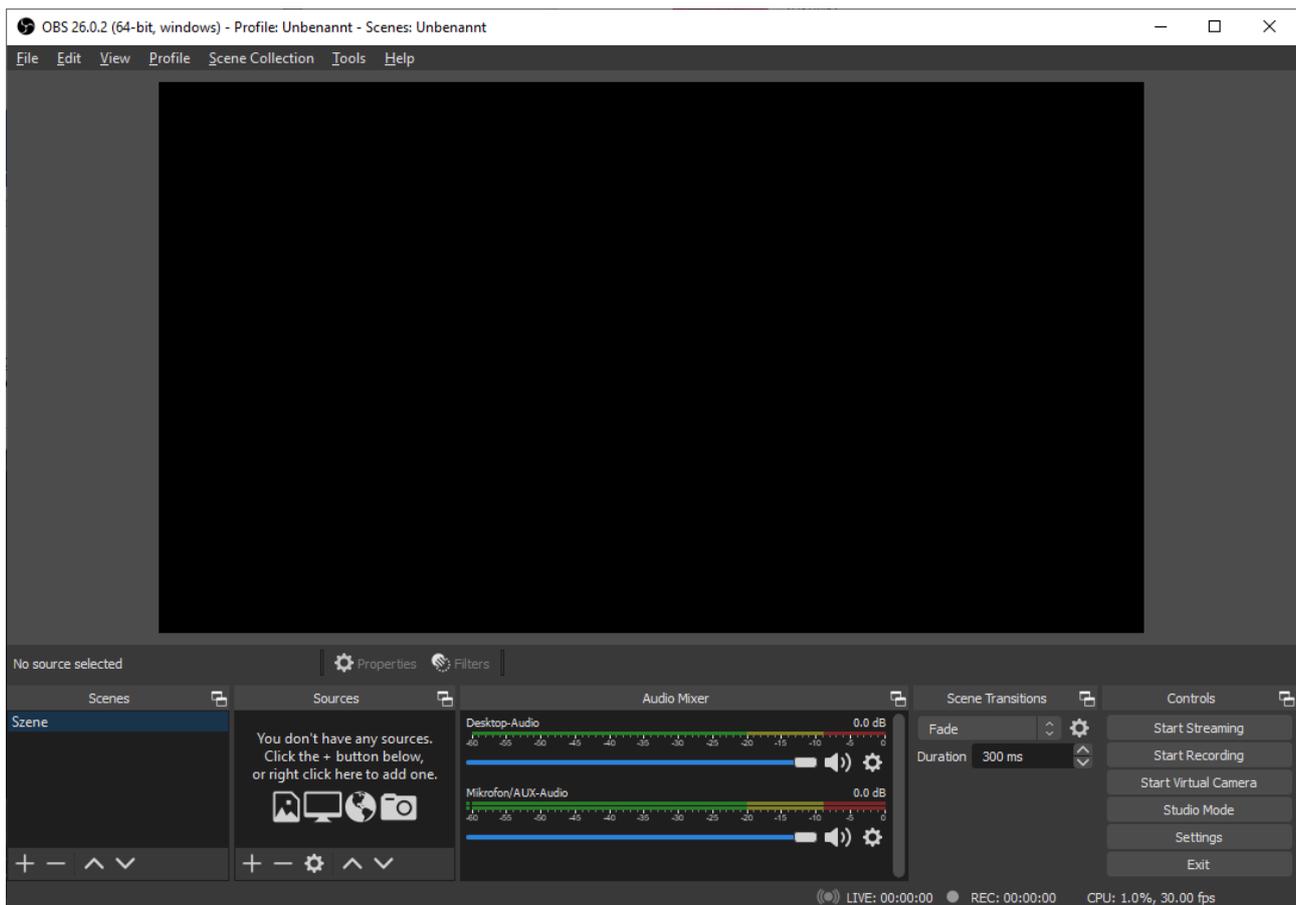
Tips for creating lecture recordings (videos) with OBS

Stand: 7.12.2020; V1.2

Open Broadcaster Software (OBS) is a free-of-charge open source software for recording and streaming of videos. You can record your screen (slides, app windows etc.), add live audio and may integrate your webcam. The software is available for Windows, Mac and Linux. We recommend using a headset to improve audio. This short guide describes the first steps based on Windows version 26.0.2.

Installation

OBS is open source and available via this URL: <https://obsproject.com/> Please choose „Für das Aufnehmen installieren, Streamen ist zweitrangig“ during installation. Devices like headset or webcam should be connected before starting the software.



screenshot: OBS start window after installation on Windows

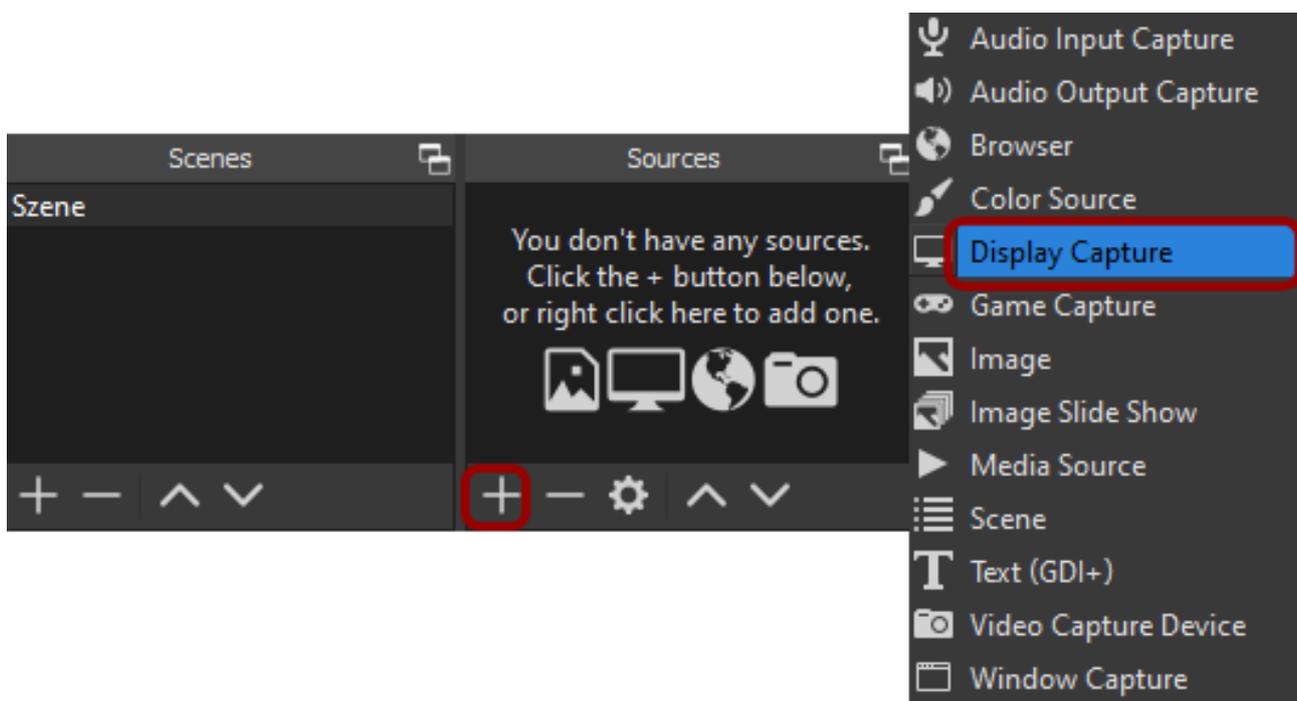
Check and adapt OBS settings

Bevor your first recording you should check and change some settings via click on „**File / Settings**“.

 Output	Menu Output: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change „Recording path“ for local storage – you'll find your recordings later on in this location! • Change „Recording format“ from „mkv“ to „mp4“
 Audio	Menu Audio: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Windows users get the option „Standard“ and you see the detected devices in the OBS windows section „Audio Mixer“. You can mute sources, which you don't want to use, by clicking on the speaker symbol (e.g. your webcam microphone when using a headset as recommended or your Desktop/system audio).
 Video	Menu Video: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Usual settings for „Base (Canvas) Resolution“ and „Output (Scaled) Resolution“ are „1920x1080“ or in case of wishing to reduce file size „1280x720“. • „Common FPS Values“: Usually sufficient is „30“ instead of default „60“.
 Hotkeys	Menu Hotkeys: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For easy use of OBS set hotkeys for „Start Recording“ and „Stop Recording“ (for example F9) and maybe „Pause Recording“ and „Unpause Recording“. This allows use of these functions without having the OBS window in the foreground.

Preliminary considerations

OBS uses scenes. In a scene you define which sources should be recorded and also their position on the canvas. In a simple scenario, you need only one scene. For complex scenarios, you pre-define multiple scenes and switch during recording per click on another scene. As a result, the recording seamlessly uses the other sources. Example: In one scene you could combine PowerPoint and webcam, in another scene you could show a specific software in full screen.



Screenshot „Screen recording without webcam“: Add source „Display Capture“ as first scene. Afterwards click on „OK“ two times. You configure your microphone via OBS section „Audio Mixer“.

Recommended OBS sources for lecture recordings are:

- **Display Capture** = Screen recording including all visible app windows and information. Per default, the cursor movements are captured.
- **Window Capture** = The app window, which was chosen as source, is recorded. If there is enough space on your canvas, you can choose multiple app windows as sources and arrange them on the canvas. By using "Window Capture" you avoid accidental (or distracting) capturing of other apps or messages (e-mails etc.) on your computer.
- **Video Capture Device** = internal webcam or external camera

Automatically detected audio sources are listed in section „**Audio Mixer**“ – if necessary, you can add audio sources via „Audio Input Capture “ or „Audio Output Capture“.

First OBS Recording

1. **Connect all devices (headset, webcam) before starting OBS.**
2. **Check in section „Audio Mixer“ that your headset was detected as source by OBS.**
Deactivate undesired audio sources by clicking on the speaker symbol. The audio level should be in the yellow range while speaking.
3. **Start only the apps which you want to record (close unnecessary ones).**
4. Choose "Add" via right mouse key or "+"-symbol in section "**Sources**" and **decide between "Display Capture" and "Window Capture"** (accept with "ok"; in case of "Window Capture" rename it and select the desired app in the drop-down menu).
5. **If necessary, add your webcam as source** via „Add / Video Capture device“.
6. **Only in case of having chosen multiple sources or „Window Capture“: Check the position of your sources (windows) in OBS;** they have to fit exactly to the canvas (= black area). If necessary, move the red bordered window or zoom in/out in the original application (Office, Browser etc.) to the size suitable for OBS.
If you have chosen one app window and your webcam as sources, place the webcam besides or overlapping the window where the webcam doesn't cover the contents of the app window in important places. In the OBS "Sources" window you can use the arrow keys to change the order of the sources in order to display possible overlaps correctly.
7. **Start recording with pre-defined hot key.** In case of „Window Capture“, don't change the app window size during recording – otherwise this affects the recording!
8. **Stop recording with pre-defined hot key.** The recording is located as MP4 file in the directory previously defined in the OBS configuration settings.

Further tips

PowerPoint lecture as OBS „Window Capture“: If you choose in PowerPoint "Slide Show / Set Up Slide Show / Browsed by an individual (window)", this fits well to the OBS source "Window Capture" - you only need to adapt the position in OBS. Please don't change the PowerPoint window size during your presentation.

Screen recording is black? You may have to change your graphic settings, s.
<https://obsproject.com/forum/threads/laptop-black-screen-when-capturing-read-here-first.5965/>

Adapt app size to OBS „Window Capture“: With a freeware such as "Sizer" you can display your Windows program window in a defined size and thus easily match the canvas size in OBS.

Hotkeys: Make sure that the hotkeys you assign do not have undesired effects for "Window Capture", because they already have a different meaning in the respective program window. In addition: Before a real recording, check if the hotkeys you may have set for "Pause Recording" and "Resume Recording" work as desired (e.g. don't split your recording in different files) – otherwise use the original menu buttons in the OBS software.