

by Greg Steen

## POWERFUL SCREEN CAPTURING

## ScreenHunter 5 Pro

[wisdom-soft.com/products/screenhunter\\_pro.htm](http://wisdom-soft.com/products/screenhunter_pro.htm)

Screen captures offer a great way to document step-by-step user instructions, illustrate error messages that occur in applications, or put together a quick feature presentation. Of course, Windows has its own built-in screen capture functionality (PrtScr for a full screen capture, Alt-PrtScr for just the active window). However, the capabilities built into the OS are limited. If you want more granular control over what gets captured and when it gets captured, or if you want to capture a screen from movie playback, you'll need to check out one of the many third-party screen capture utilities available to help you do so. One such tool is ScreenHunter Pro from Wisdom Software. This inexpensive

utility has a number of useful features that let you tailor your screen captures to meet your specific needs better.

The UI is straightforward. You simply pick where your screen capture should come from and then direct it to where the capture should go using the aptly named From and To tabs. In terms of what you can capture, the application lets you grab an adjustable or fixed rectangular area, a specific object or window, the active window, a specific portion of the active window, the whole screen, a DirectX\* or screensaver source, movie playback, or a more complex shape (a freehand, elliptical, or polygon area that you define). You can also capture multiple window objects or

message boxes at the same time (which is great for snagging only the active application along with its dialog or other windows interfaces). You can then dump the screen capture to the clipboard, a specified viewer or editor, a printer, or a file. You can even choose to have it sent to an e-mail address.

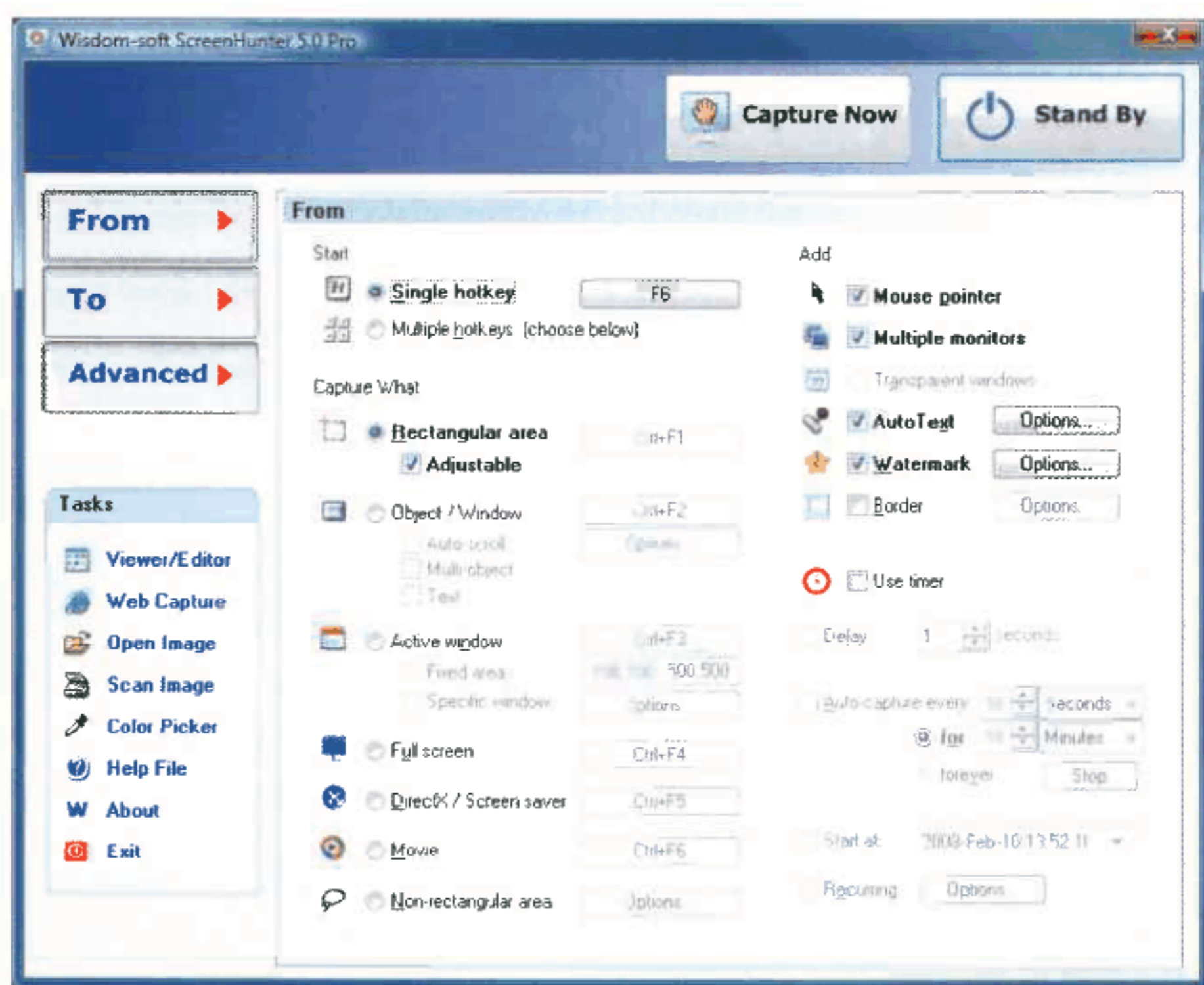
Captured images can be saved as BMP, GIF, PNG, JPEG, or TIFF files of various image qualities. In addition, you can have the application auto-scale your capture to a specific size, add a border, or add a watermark on the capture, reducing the amount of "post-production" work you need to do to the image. You can even set the application to automatically capture the screen at a specified interval, in effect recording activities on the machine.

Another nice feature is how ScreenHunter Pro supports auto-scroll functionality, allowing you to capture, for example, a long Web page with a viewable region that extends beyond the viewable area on your screen. Like many IT pros, I have multiple monitors, and therefore I like the multiple-monitor capture support, which allows you to grab all the information on your screens with one capture.

This utility even includes a built-in image editor, letting you tailor your images within the same application context. If you don't need some of the more advanced functionality—such as automatic e-mailing, scheduled capture, watermarks, and multi-monitor captures—you might be interested in the slightly cheaper ScreenHunter Plus version. A stripped-down version is also available for free.

**Price: \$29.95 for ScreenHunter Pro.**

**GREG STEEN** is a technology professional, entrepreneur, and enthusiast. He is always on the hunt for new tools to help make operations, QA, and development easier for the IT professional.



ScreenHunter Pro lets you specify when and what you capture