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10.5: Take and upload screenshots via Automator

Jun 16, '09 07:30:00AM • Contributed by: Anonymous

Internet

I often take screenshots and upload them for my friends to see -- especially while working on web projects etc. So I created an Automator workflow that does this automagically!

First the workflow snaps the whole screen and saves it to the desktop. Then a bash script is run wich uses ftp to upload the image to the webserver. It then takes the URL of the image and copies it to the clipboard. Lastly it notifies you of the upload via Growl. It has no error handling or anything. This is my first workflow and bash script ever, but it works for me. In Automator, create the following steps in a new blank workflow:

1. Utilities » Take Screenshot. Use these settings:
   - Type: Full Screen, or whatever you prefer.
   - Select Main Monitor Only and/or Timed as you desire.
   - Set the Save To pop-up menu so that it saves to a file named tmpScreen.png on your Desktop.
2. Utilities » Run Shell Script. Set Shell to /bin/bash and Pass Input to *to stdin*. Enter the following code, noting the lines you need to edit:

```
binary
put $LOCALFILE $REMOTEFILE
bye
END_SCRIPT

rm ~/Desktop/tmpScreen.png
echo $URL | pbcopy
```

3. If you have Growl installed, add Utilities » Show Growl Notification. Give it a Title ("Done!") and Description ("Your screenshot has been uploaded") so you'll see a message after the upload is completed.

Alternatively, you could download the script from my server, and then just change the variables in the shell script section of the workflow.

To make this work, you need a web server with FTP access, and note that your username and password are stored in the script. Works for me in 10.5.7; I hope someone can make use of it!

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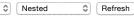
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10.5: Take and upload screenshots via Automator
Authored by: Doc Drang on Jun 16, '09 10:12:37AM

Unless I've read the code wrong, this workflow doesn't allow the user to change the name of the screenshot file, either locally or on the server. That's a pretty serious limitation.
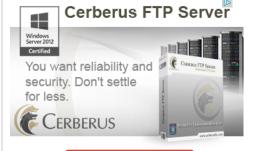
ImageWell is a commercial ($20) application that will upload an image and allow you to edit both the name and the image itself before it goes to the server.

If you just want to upload a screenshot with a name of your choosing, my snapftp, a Python program that uses the Pashua GUI utility, might work for you. The source code and instructions for building and using it are at the link.

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You could also incorporate file renaming into the shell script by using Pashua.

Doc Drang
http://www.leancrew.com/all-this

10.5: Take and upload screenshots via Automator
Authored by: Simme on Jun 16, '09 12:13:13PM

Hi!
I'm the author! Hehe...

Well, no. You can't dynamically change the filename.
The point of this workflow was to quickly upload a screenshot to show something to a friend. It was not meant to upload many screenshots. It was meant to be quick, dirty and simple.

Sure, if you want to pay 20 bucks just to be able to name your screenshots! Go ahead ;) Someone who's profficient with bash-scripting and Automator may be able to add a prompt for a filename.

10.5: Take and upload screenshots via Automator
Authored by: regulus on Jun 16, '09 12:17:21PM

Here's a little applescript to do the same thing without the automator and shell script effort. It has error checking too. Note: if you don't want to store your password in clear text in the script (not very secure!) you can look at post #5 here for a method of using the keychain to store/restore the password: http://macscripter.net/viewtopic.php?id=25536

```
-- variables
set ftpHost to "ftp.site.com"
set ftpUserName to "ftp user name"
set ftpPassword to "ftp password"
set ftpRemotePath to "/tmpScreen.png"
set screencapturePath to (path to desktop folder as text) & "tmpScreen.pn
set webImageURL to "http://www.somewhere.com/tmpScreen.png"
```

robg adds: edited to show code in fixed-width box.
Edited on Feb 19, '10 10:43:21AM by robg

10.5: Take and upload screenshots via Automator
Authored by: Doc Drang on Jun 16, '09 07:56:00PM

Well, I suppose if you repeatedly upload screenshots to show a friend, and if you don't mind overwriting your old files with every new upload, then the workflow is worth it for you. But if you made the workflow for a single screenshot and upload, I don't see how it could be quicker or simpler than just taking the screenshot and uploading the file "by hand."

I don't own ImageWell; as I said, I use my own script for screenshots and uploads. I thought ImageWell (which does more than just rename and upload files) was worth mentioning because some people reading your hint might find it useful. Even for $20.

Doc Drang
http://www.leancrew.com/all-this

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