

Media Capture Pro

User Manual

Application version 1.5.0.0

Media Capture Pro – User Manual

Version: *auto-updates with app build number shown in the title bar*

Platforms: Windows 10/11 (x64)

1. Overview

Media Capture Pro is a desktop application for:

- **Disc Ripping:** Extracting audio from CDs and video from DVDs.
- **URL Downloading:** Saving online videos or audio (e.g., from YouTube) to local files.
- **Screen Recording:** Capturing your screen and audio into MP4 recordings and snapshots.

All three modules can optionally **normalize audio loudness**, so playback volume is consistent across files.

You can:

- Launch modules from the **main menu window**.
 - Get **module-specific quick help** from each tool's Help button.
 - Open this User Manual from the **About** window (**Open User Manual**).
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2. Getting Started

2.1 Launching the App

- Start **Media Capture Pro** from the Start menu or a desktop shortcut.
- The **Main Window** (home screen) appears with:
 - A top **menu bar** for navigation.
 - Large centered buttons for each major tool.
 - A **Help** button in the upper-right corner that opens a **Quick Start** help window.

2.2 Main Window Navigation

You can open each module using either:

- The **menu bar** (Disc Ripper , URL Downloader , Screen Recorder , About , Preferences), or
- The large **buttons** in the center of the main window.

When you open a module:

- The main window is **minimized** to keep the desktop clean.
- When you close the module window, the main window is **restored** automatically.

2.3 Main window



3. Common Concepts

3.1 Output Folders and File Names

Each module gives you control over where files are saved:

- **Disc Ripper:**
 - Choose an **Output Path** folder.
 - Ripped tracks or video files are written into this folder.
- **URL Downloader:**
 - Choose an **Output Folder**.
 - Downloads are written to a temporary subfolder first, then moved into the final folder after completion/normalization.
- **Screen Recorder:**
 - Choose a **Save to** folder.
 - Provide a file name, or leave it blank to use an automatic timestamped name.

3.2 Audio Normalization (All Modules)

All three modules can normalize audio loudness to a target **LUFS** (Loudness Units relative to Full Scale).

- This helps different recordings, downloads, and rips play back at a **consistent perceived volume**.
- Normalization is an **extra processing step** that runs after the main operation finishes (rip, download, or recording).

Per-module behavior:

- **Disc Ripper:**
 - Check **Normalize Audio** and choose a LUFS level.
 - After tracks are ripped, each file is processed for loudness normalization.
- **Screen Recorder:**
 - Check **Normalize volume** and select a target LUFS level.
 - Runs after the recording is saved.
- **URL Downloader:**
 - Check **Normalize Audio**.
 - After download completes, the file is normalized before it is moved to the final output folder.

Normalization can make processing take longer, especially for long files. If you just want a quick capture or download without volume leveling, leave normalization unchecked.

3.3 Status Area and Logs

Each module has a **status area** at the bottom of the window:

- Shows high-level progress (e.g., "Ripping track 3 of 10...", "Download 45%...", "Normalizing audio...").
- Displays **success**, **warning**, or **error** messages.

The **URL Downloader** also provides:

- A **log file** (downloader log) in the output folder or temp folder.
 - A **View Log** button to open the latest log in your default text editor.
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4. Disc Ripper

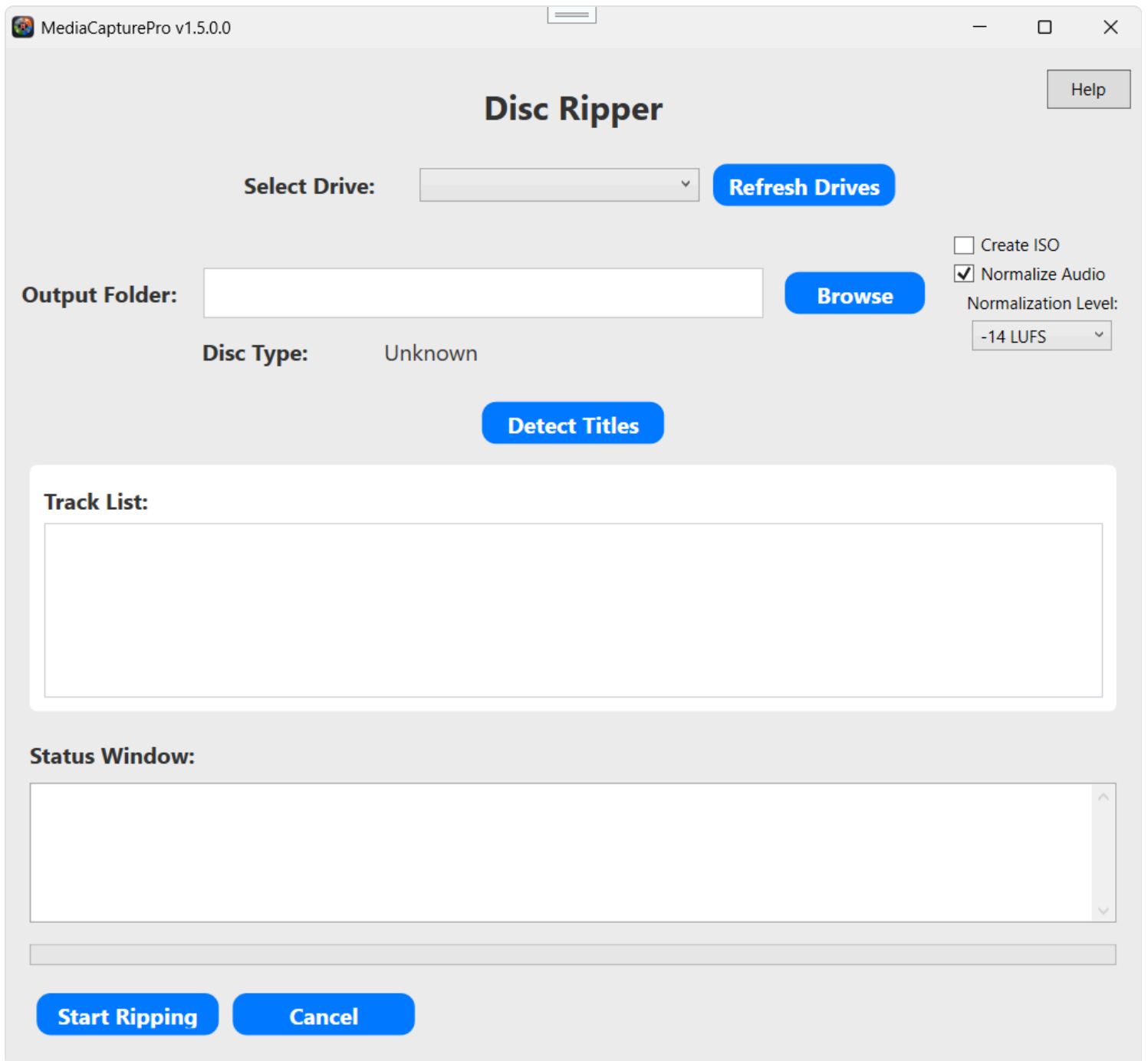
The **Disc Ripper** module lets you extract:

- **Audio CDs** to formats such as MP3 or FLAC.
- **Video DVDs** to video files (typically MP4).

4.1 Opening the Disc Ripper

- From the main window, click **Disc Ripper** (button) *or* choose **Disc Ripper** from the menu.
- The **Disc Ripper** window opens and the main window minimizes.

4.1a Disc Ripper window



4.2 Insert Disc and Select Drive

1. Insert an **audio CD** or **video DVD** into your optical drive.
2. In the Disc Ripper window:
 - Use **Select Drive** to pick the drive that contains your disc.
 - If your drive does not appear, click **Refresh Drives** to scan again.

4.3 Choose Output Settings

- **Output Path:**

- Use the text box and **Browse** button to select the folder where ripped files will be created.
- **Format Selection:**
 - For **audio CDs**:
 - Choose an audio format like MP3, FLAC, etc.
 - For **video DVDs**:
 - The output is typically **MP4** video.

4.4 Audio Normalization (Optional)

- Check **Normalize Audio** (or equivalent checkbox).
- Choose a **Normalization Level** (e.g., -12 , -14 , -16 , -18 LUFS).
 - -14 LUFS is a good general-purpose default.
- After ripping:
 - Each file is processed for loudness normalization.
 - The status area shows progress and success/failure per track or title.

4.5 Ripping Audio CDs

1. Verify:
 - The **drive** is selected.
 - The **output folder** is set.
 - The **audio format** is selected.
 - Optional: **Normalize Audio** is configured.
2. Click **Rip Audio Disc**.
3. The app will:
 - Detect tracks on the CD.
 - Attempt to retrieve **album & track metadata** from online sources.
 - Rip each track into the chosen audio format.
4. Watch the **status area** and **progress bar** for:
 - Current track being processed.
 - Normalization steps (if enabled).
 - Any warnings or errors.

4.6 Ripping Video DVDs

1. Select the DVD drive.
2. Choose an **output folder** and confirm format (usually MP4).
3. Scan the disc to list available titles.
4. Select one or more **titles** to rip.
5. Click **Rip Selected Title**.
6. After ripping:
 - If normalization is enabled (and applicable), the resulting MP4 will be processed.
 - The status area will list success or failure per title.

4.7 Troubleshooting (Disc Ripper)

- **Drive not detected:**
 - Make sure the disc is fully inserted and recognized by Windows.
 - Click **Refresh Drives**.
 - **Ripping fails:**
 - Disc may be scratched, damaged, or protected.
 - Check the status messages for details.
 - **No metadata found:**
 - Online lookups can fail.
 - Ripped files may use generic names; you can rename them manually afterwards.
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5. URL Downloader

The **URL Downloader** module lets you download:

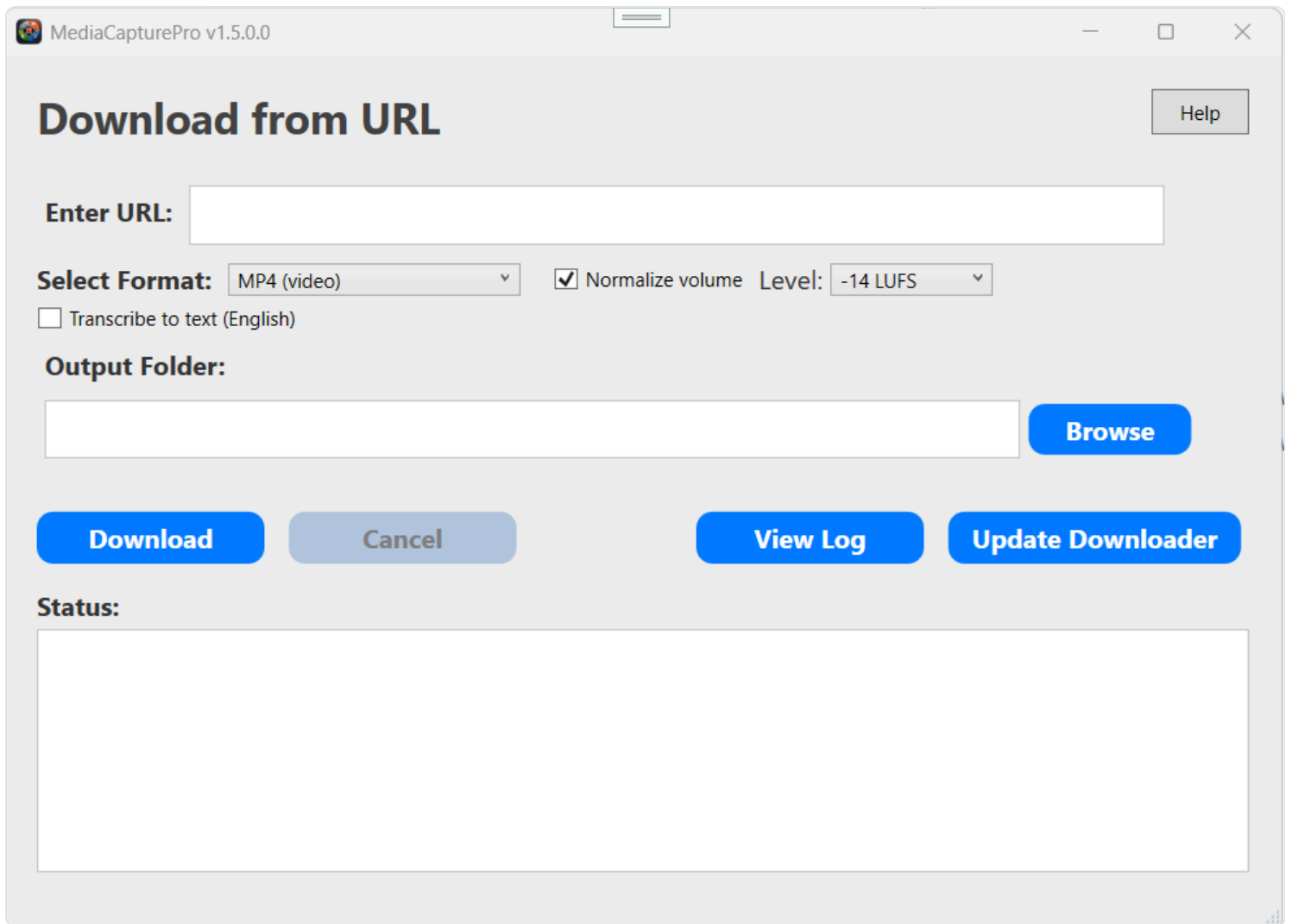
- Online **video** in formats like MP4.
- Online **audio-only** in formats like MP3, FLAC, or others.

The downloader handles conversion and normalization automatically.

5.1 Opening the URL Downloader

- From the main window, click **URL Downloader**
or select **URL Downloader** from the menu.

5.1a URL Downloader window



5.2 Enter the URL

1. Copy the full video or audio **URL** from your browser.
2. Paste it into the **Enter URL** box at the top.
3. Known behavior:
 - Many mainstream sites (YouTube, Vimeo, etc.) are supported.
 - Some DRM-protected or niche sites may not be downloadable.

5.3 Select Format and Normalization

• Select Format:

- Choose an output format such as:
 - MP4 (video + audio)
 - MP3 , FLAC , etc. (audio-only)
- For video formats (e.g., MP4), the app downloads a **video file** and preserves the video.

- For audio-only formats, the app downloads the source and then extracts the audio.
- **Normalize volume (optional):**
 - Check **Normalize Audio** (or **Normalize volume**) to run a loudness normalization step.
 - The app uses a configurable LUFS target (e.g., `-14 LUFS`).
 - This helps downloads match the loudness of your other media.
- **Transcribe to text (English) (optional):**
 - Check **Transcribe to text (English)** to save a `.txt` transcript **next to the final media file** after the download and any normalization finish.
 - Uses an English speech model **included with the app**; processing runs **on your PC only** (nothing is sent to the cloud).

5.4 Choose Output Folder

- Set the **Output Folder** using the text box and **Browse** button.
- During download:
 - Files are written to a **temporary subfolder** (e.g., `_tmp_download`).
 - After download and normalization complete, the final file is moved into your chosen output folder.
 - Logs (such as the downloader log) are also stored in that area.

5.5 Start, Monitor, and Cancel Downloads

- **Start Download:**
 - Click **Download**.
 - The status area and progress bar will show:
 - Download progress percentage.
 - Normalization steps (if enabled).
 - Final file path.
- **Cancel Download:**
 - Click **Cancel** to stop either:
 - The active download, or
 - Post-processing (normalization or transcription).
 - The status window will indicate that the operation was canceled.

5.6 Logs and Updating the Downloader

- **View Log:**

- Click **View Log** to open the latest downloader log.
- Useful for diagnosing:
 - No-file-created issues.
 - Unsupported site/format messages.
 - Network or permission problems.

- **Update Downloader:**

- Click **Update Downloader** to update the downloader to the latest version.
- This is important when sites change their formats or APIs.

5.7 Troubleshooting (URL Downloader)

- **No file downloaded:**

- Check the status area for a note like "No file was created in the temp directory".
- Use **View Log** to inspect the downloader log for details.
- Some URLs or DRM-protected videos cannot be downloaded.

- **Downloads used to work but now fail:**

- Click **Update Downloader** to refresh the downloader.
- Try again after the update completes.

- **Normalization errors:**

- The status/log will show error details.
 - Verify output format and available disk space.
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6. Screen Recorder

The **Screen Recorder** module lets you capture:

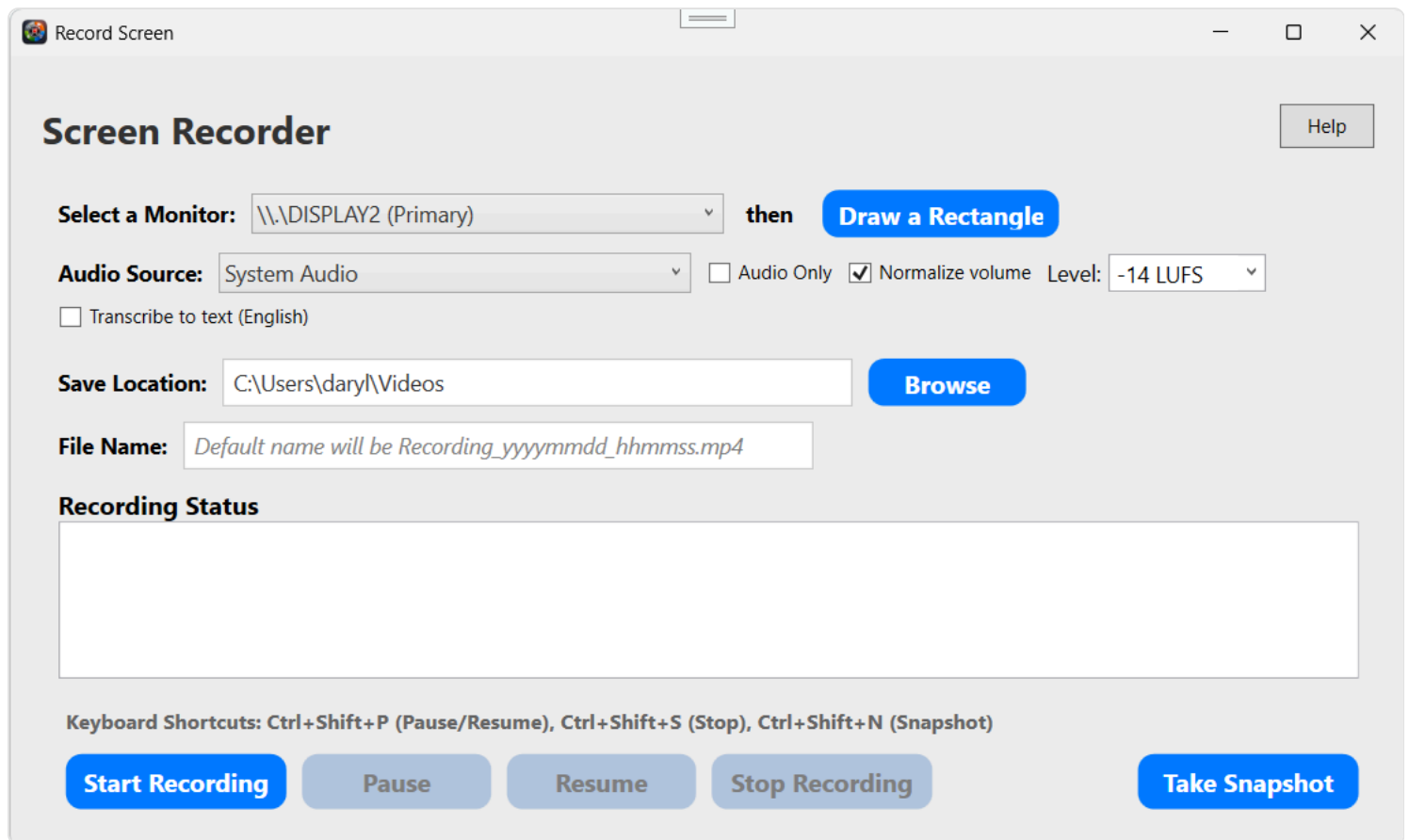
- A specific **monitor** or a **custom rectangle** region.
- **System audio, microphone**, both, or no audio.
- **Snapshots** of the selected screen region.

It provides a floating control panel and global hotkeys to manage recordings.

6.1 Opening the Screen Recorder

- From the main window, click **Screen Recorder** or select **Screen Recorder** from the menu.

6.1a Screen Recorder window



6.2 Choose What to Record

- **Select a Monitor:**
 - Use the **Select a Monitor** dropdown at the top.
 - This determines which display the recorder will target.
- **Draw a Rectangle:**
 - Click **Draw a Rectangle** to open a transparent full-screen overlay on the selected monitor.
 - Click and drag to draw the capture area.
 - Release the mouse to **finalize the selection**.
 - The red rectangle remains visible as a **persistent overlay** while you record, but is inset so it does not appear in the captured video.
- **Audio Only Mode:**
 - Check **Audio Only** to record only sound (no visible screen content).

- When Audio Only is enabled:
 - The **Select a Monitor** and **Draw a Rectangle** controls are disabled.
 - Internally, the app uses a tiny video region just to satisfy the recording engine, then discards the video and keeps only audio.

6.3 Set Audio and Save Location

- **Audio Source:**

- Choose between:
 - **System Audio**
 - **Microphone**
 - **System and Microphone**
 - **None**

- **Save Folder and File Name:**

- Use the **Save to** field and **Browse** button to choose a folder.
- Enter a file name or leave it blank to use a default like `Recording_yyyymmdd_hhmmss.mp4` .

- **Audio Normalization:**

- Check **Normalize volume** (if available) and choose a target LUFS level.
- Runs after the recording finishes to keep loudness consistent with other content.

- **Transcribe to text (English) (optional):**

- Check **Transcribe to text (English)** to save a `.txt` transcript **next to the recording** after capture and any normalization finish.
- Uses an English speech model **included with the app**; processing runs **on your PC only** (nothing is sent to the cloud).

6.4 Starting and Controlling a Recording

- **Start Recording:**

- Confirm region/monitor and audio settings.
- Click **Start Recording**.
- The main window minimizes.
- A **floating control panel** appears on your primary monitor:
 - Shows elapsed time.
 - Provides buttons for **Pause**, **Resume**, **Stop**, **Snapshot**, and **Hide**.

- **Floating Control Panel:**

- Always stays on top but is positioned to avoid the recorded region where possible.
- You can drag it by its background to reposition it.
- **Hide** turns it into a small **green square**:
 - Hover to see a tooltip.
 - Click once on the green square to restore the full panel.

6.5 Keyboard Shortcuts (Global While Recording)

While recording, you can control the recorder using global hotkeys:

- **Ctrl + Shift + P** – **Pause / Resume** recording.
- **Ctrl + Shift + S** – **Stop** recording.
- **Ctrl + Shift + N** – **Take a snapshot** of the selected region.

These work even when the main app window is minimized or another app has focus.

6.6 Stopping the Recording and After-Recording Steps

- **Stop Recording:**

- Click **Stop** on the floating control panel, or press **Ctrl + Shift + S**.
- The recorder finalizes the file.
- If normalization is enabled, an additional processing step runs.
- When the recording fully completes:
 - The floating panel closes.
 - The main window is restored.
 - The status area indicates the final file path and any normalization messages.

6.7 Snapshots

- You can take a **still image** of the selected region:
 - Use the **Snapshot** button on the floating panel, or
 - Press **Ctrl + Shift + N**.
- The screenshot is saved to the selected output folder.

6.8 Troubleshooting (Screen Recorder)

- **Red border visible in recordings:**

- The app insets the capture area slightly to avoid capturing the red outline.
 - If you still see a border, try slightly enlarging the selected region.
 - **Audio-only recording never finishes** (older behavior):
 - The app now uses a minimal internal video region to satisfy the recording engine, so audio-only should complete normally.
 - **Main window appears in the recording at stop:**
 - The recorder is designed to restore the main window **after** the recording fully stops.
 - If you still see this, ensure you are not moving or resizing windows directly inside the capture region at the moment you press Stop.
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7. About and Preferences

7.1 About Window

The **About** window provides:

- Application **name** and **version**.
- Links or buttons for:
 - **Open User Manual** – formatted from this Markdown document in the app; use **Save as PDF** in that window for a portable copy.
 - License information and acknowledgments.
 - Optional support or feedback links.

This is a convenient way to distribute a printable, sharable overview of the app's capabilities.

7.1a About window

MediaCapturePro Version 1.5.0.0

Media Capture Pro is a cutting-edge tool for capturing, ripping, and organizing media files.

For other tools and software visit our website: www.thesoftwarebodega.com .

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Open Source Libraries and Tools Used

Media Capture Pro uses the following open-source components:

"If I have seen further than others, it is by standing upon the shoulders of giants." – Isaac Newton

- [FFmpeg \(LGPL\)](#): audio/video encoding engine
- [yt-dlp \(GPL-3.0 and other licenses\)](#): online video downloader
- [ScreenRecorderLib \(MIT\)](#): screen recording
- [Vosk \(Apache-2.0\)](#): optional on-device transcription

7.2 Preferences

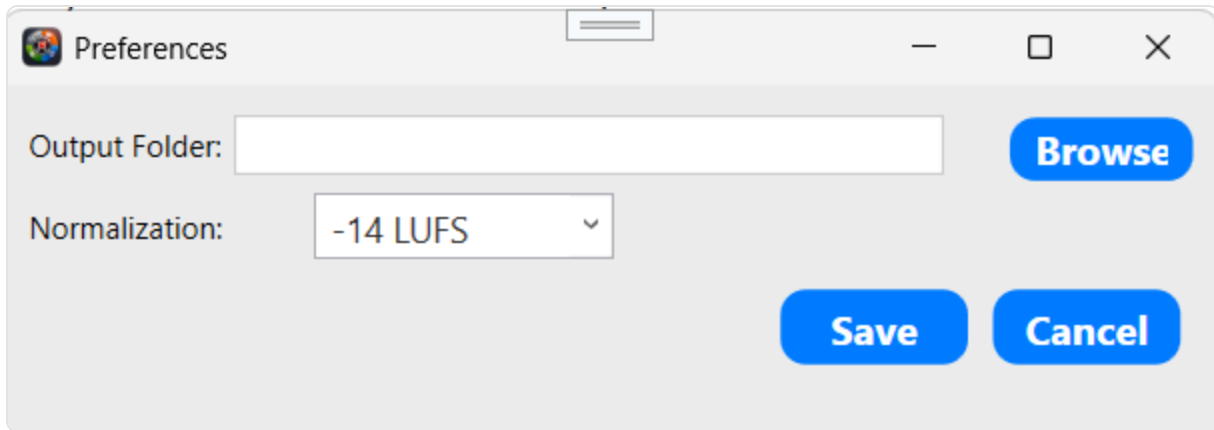
The **Preferences** window (if present in your build) can include:

- Default output folders per module.

- Default normalization settings.
- Advanced options (e.g., whether to show verbose logs by default).

These options are implementation-specific and may evolve over time.

7.2a Preferences window



8. Advanced Notes (Packaging)

This section is a **high-level summary** of the more technical behavior described in `MSIX_Packaging_Notes.md`. It is primarily useful for administrators and power users.

8.1 MSIX Packaging

- Media Capture Pro is shipped as an **MSIX packaged desktop app**.
- Benefits:
 - Clean install/uninstall.
 - Versioned, self-contained package.
 - Capability-based access for required system permissions.

For full implementation details (including CLI arguments, path choices, and virtualization behavior), see the internal developer document `MSIX_Packaging_Notes.md`.

9. Tips and Best Practices

- **Check your output folders:**

- Before large operations, confirm that the output path points to a local drive with enough free space.
 - **Use normalization consistently:**
 - If you produce content that will be mixed together (playlists, training series, etc.), pick a consistent LUFs target across modules.
 - **Keep the downloader up to date:**
 - If URL downloads start failing for sites that used to work, try **Update Downloader** first.
 - **Use global hotkeys for recording:**
 - Memorize `Ctrl + Shift + P / S / N` to manage recordings without switching focus back to the app.
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10. Where to Go Next

- For **quick reminders**, open the in-app Help for:
 - Main window
 - Disc Ripper
 - URL Downloader
 - Screen Recorder
- For **technical deployment notes**, see `MSIX_Packaging_Notes.md` .
- For **end users**, this User Manual (in the app and optional **Save as PDF**) provides the best single document to:
 - Understand module capabilities.
 - Learn standard workflows.
 - Reference troubleshooting tips.