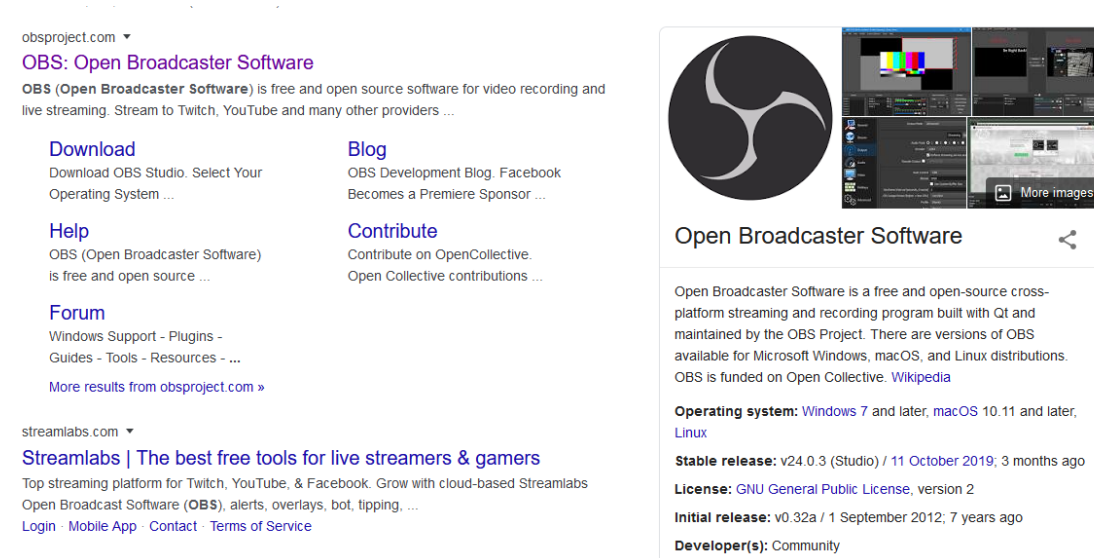So—you're interested in using OBS (Open Broadcast Software) as a way to record your lectures as we make this intrepid journey into online learning. Cool! Let's take a deep breath, square our shoulders, and repeat to ourselves: "This is not as hard as the program looks." We are going to be using only a small portion of what OBS is capable of doing.

The link to the software can be found here: https://obsproject.com/

From the link above, you can choose which operating system you need:

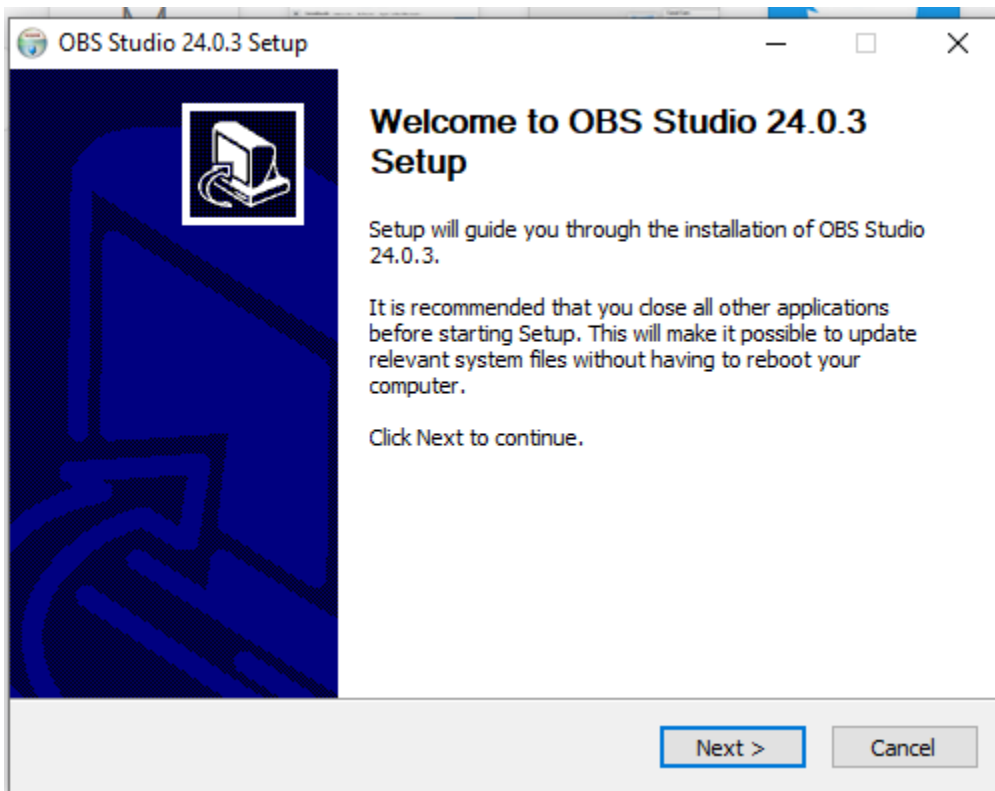Note that OBS won't work with older versions of macOS. All versions of Windows supported by Centre should be able to run OBS, though.
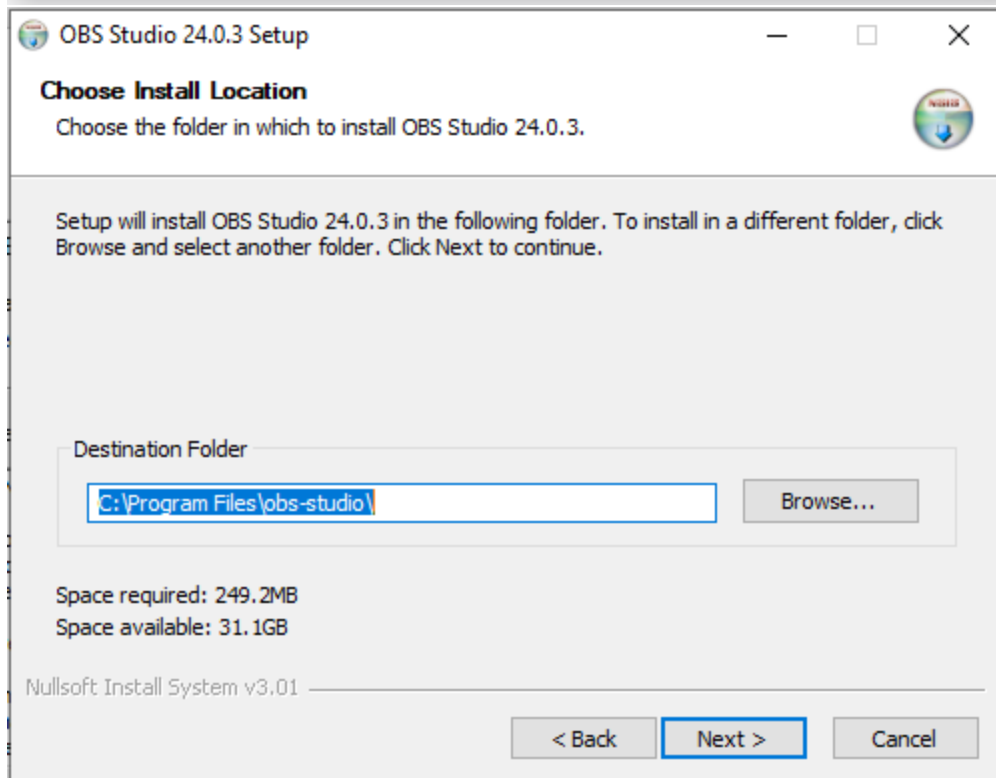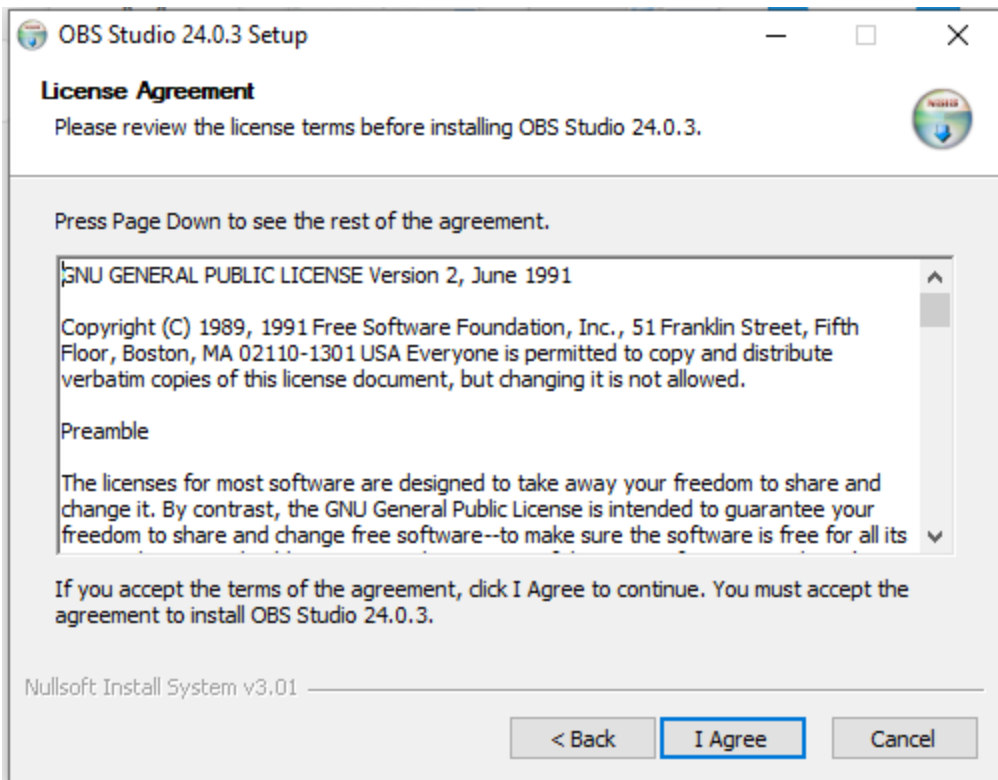
Go ahead and download the file. Once it downloads, you can run the installer right from Firefox or Chrome.
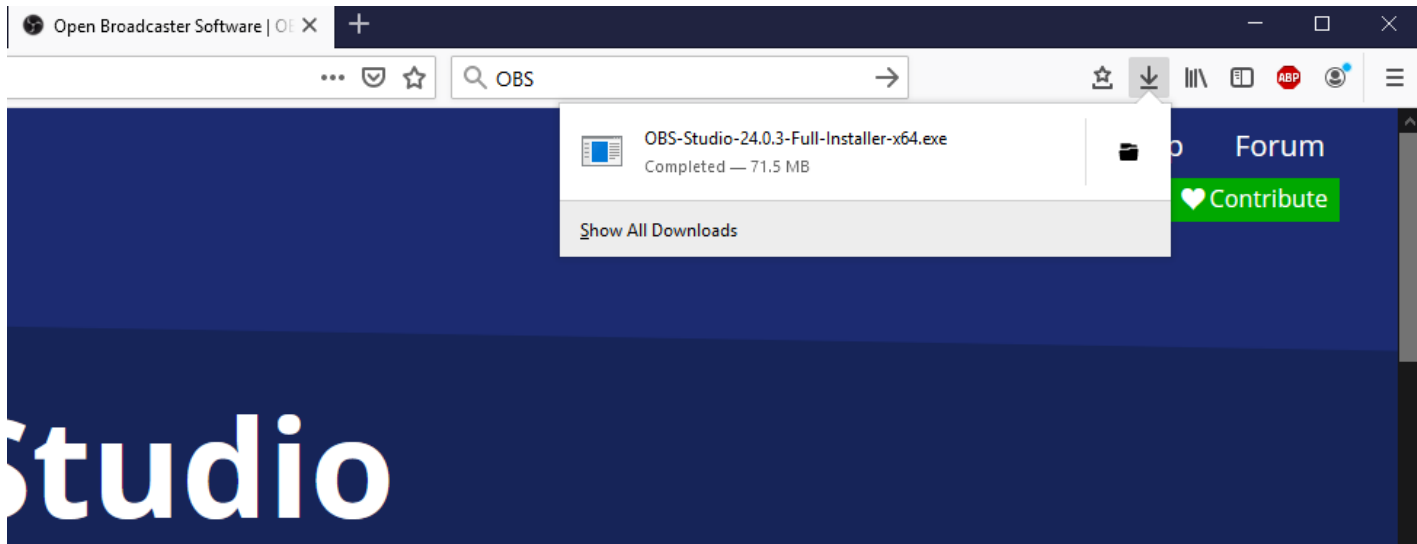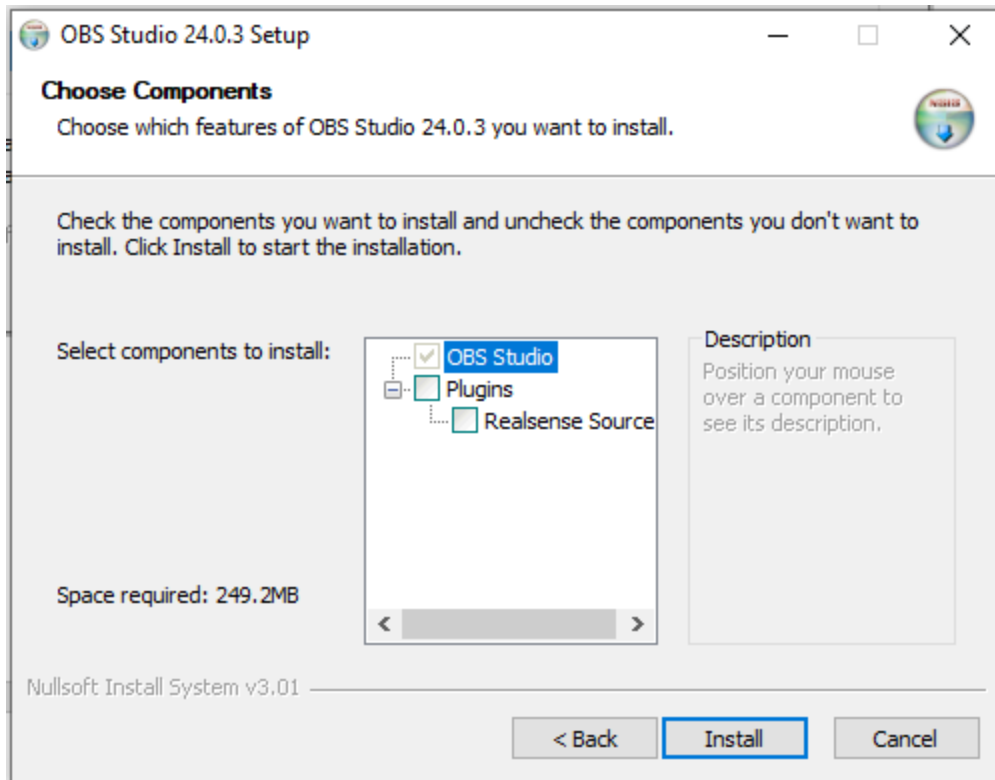
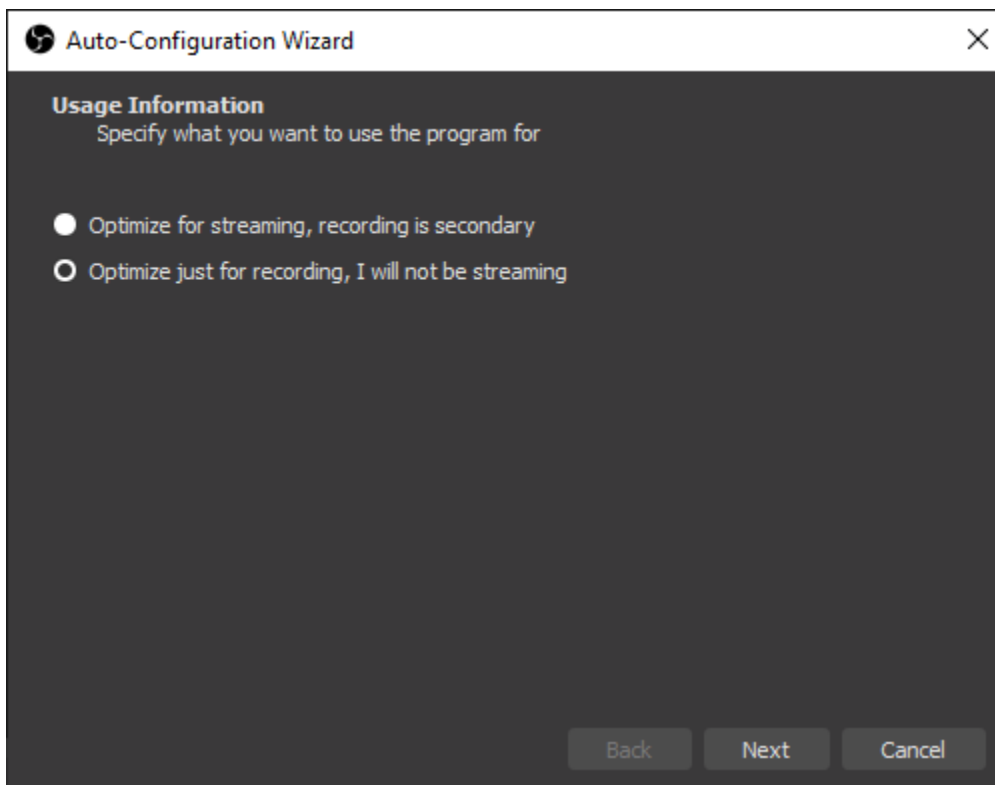Once you've downloaded and installed the file, you can open up OBS.

I strongly recommend just running the default installer—just keep clicking "Next" until it's done.

OBS Studio 24.0.3 Setup

License Agreement

Please review the license terms before installing OBS Studio 24.0.3.

Press Page Down to see the rest of the agreement.

> GNU GENERAL PUBLIC LICENSE Version 2, June 1991
>
> Copyright (C) 1989, 1991 Free Software Foundation, Inc., 51 Franklin Street, Fifth Floor, Boston, MA 02110-1301 USA Everyone is permitted to copy and distribute verbatim copies of this license document, but changing it is not allowed.
>
> Preamble
>
> The licenses for most software are designed to take away your freedom to share and change it. By contrast, the GNU General Public License is intended to guarantee your freedom to share and change free software--to make sure the software is free for all its

If you accept the terms of the agreement, click I Agree to continue. You must accept the agreement to install OBS Studio 24.0.3.

[< Back] [I Agree] [Cancel]

OBS Studio 24.0.3 Setup

Choose Install Location

Choose the folder in which to install OBS Studio 24.0.3.

Setup will install OBS Studio 24.0.3 in the following folder. To install in a different folder, click Browse and select another folder. Click Next to continue.

Destination Folder

[C:\Program Files\obs-studio\ ] [Browse...]

Space required: 249.2MB
Space available: 31.1GB

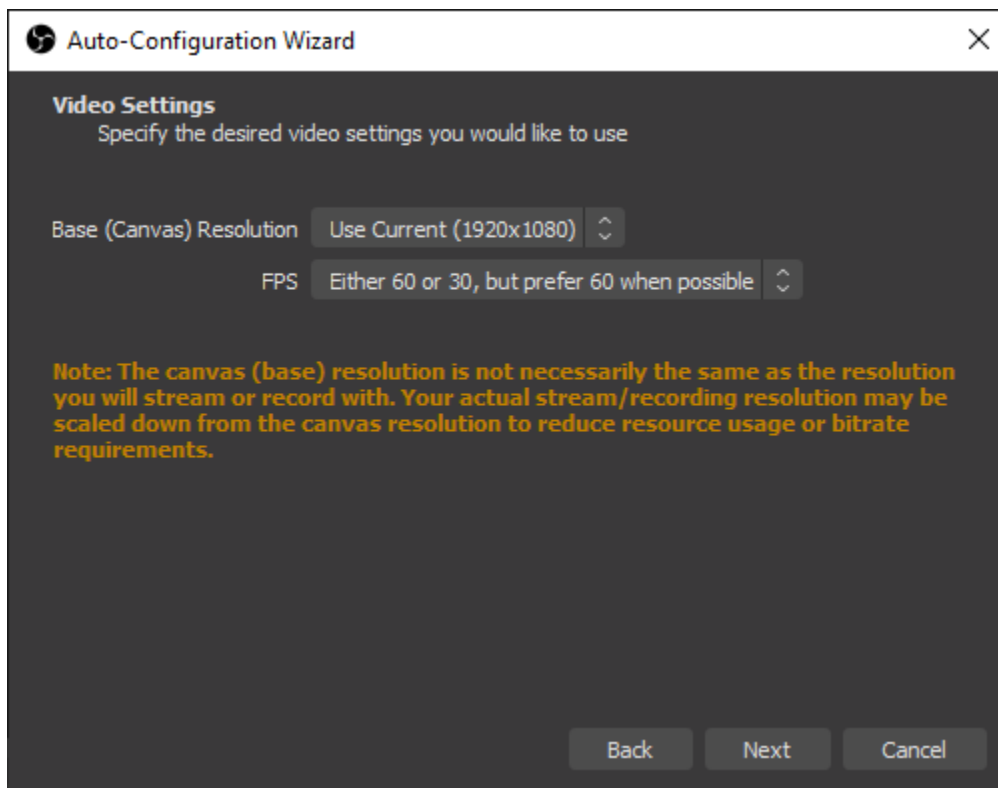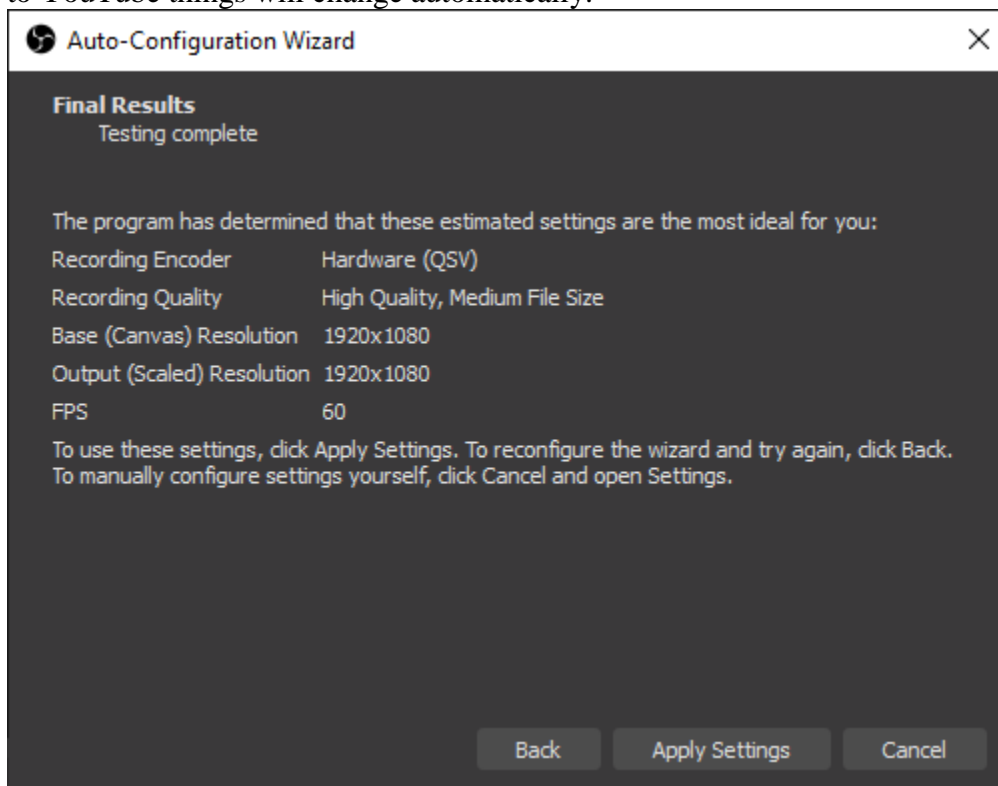[< Back] [Next >] [Cancel]

Click "Install" and you're done!

This is what OBS looks like when you open it for the first time. You want to optimize for recording; you will <u>not</u> be streaming. (Unless you want to stream! We can talk about that later.)
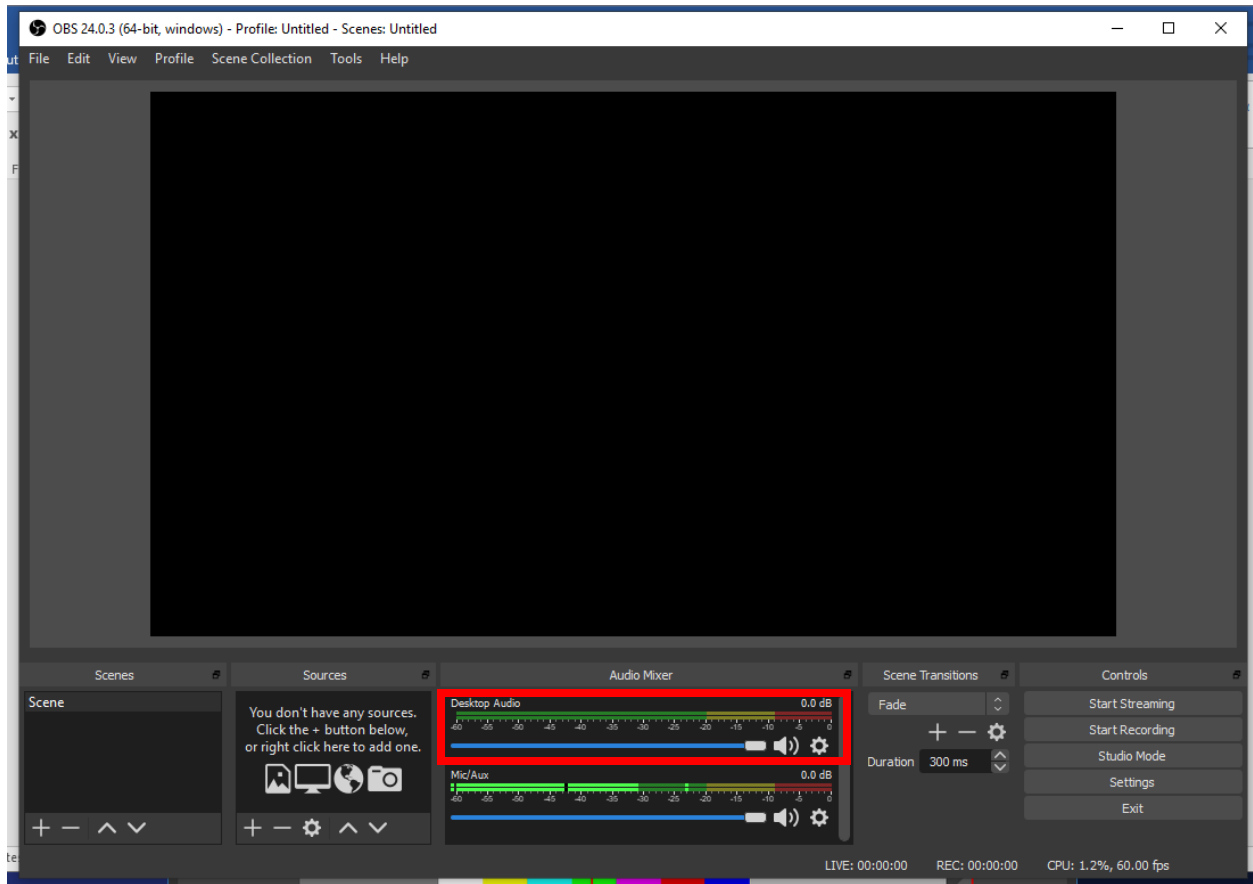
Just select "Use Current", and 60 Frames Per Second (FPS). When you convert a file or upload to YouTube things will change automatically.
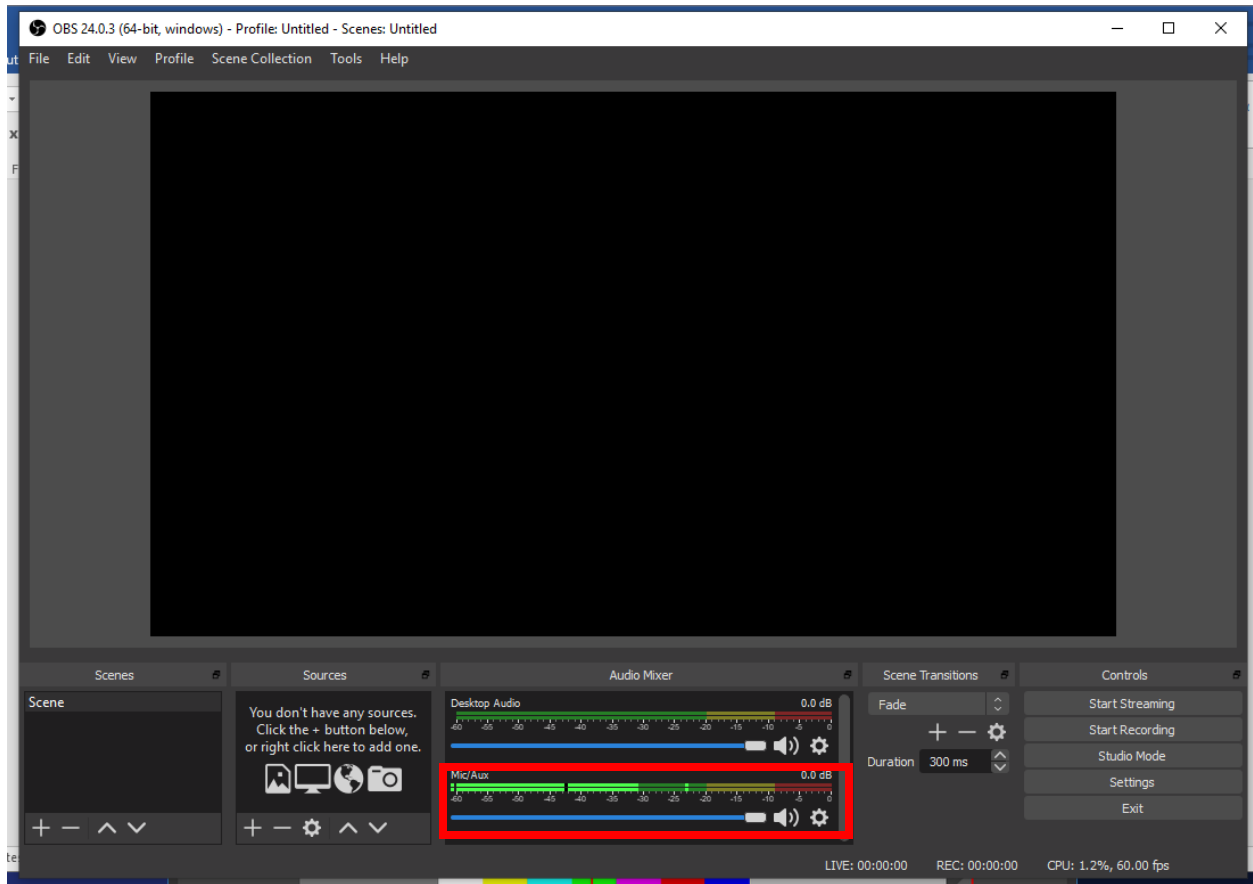

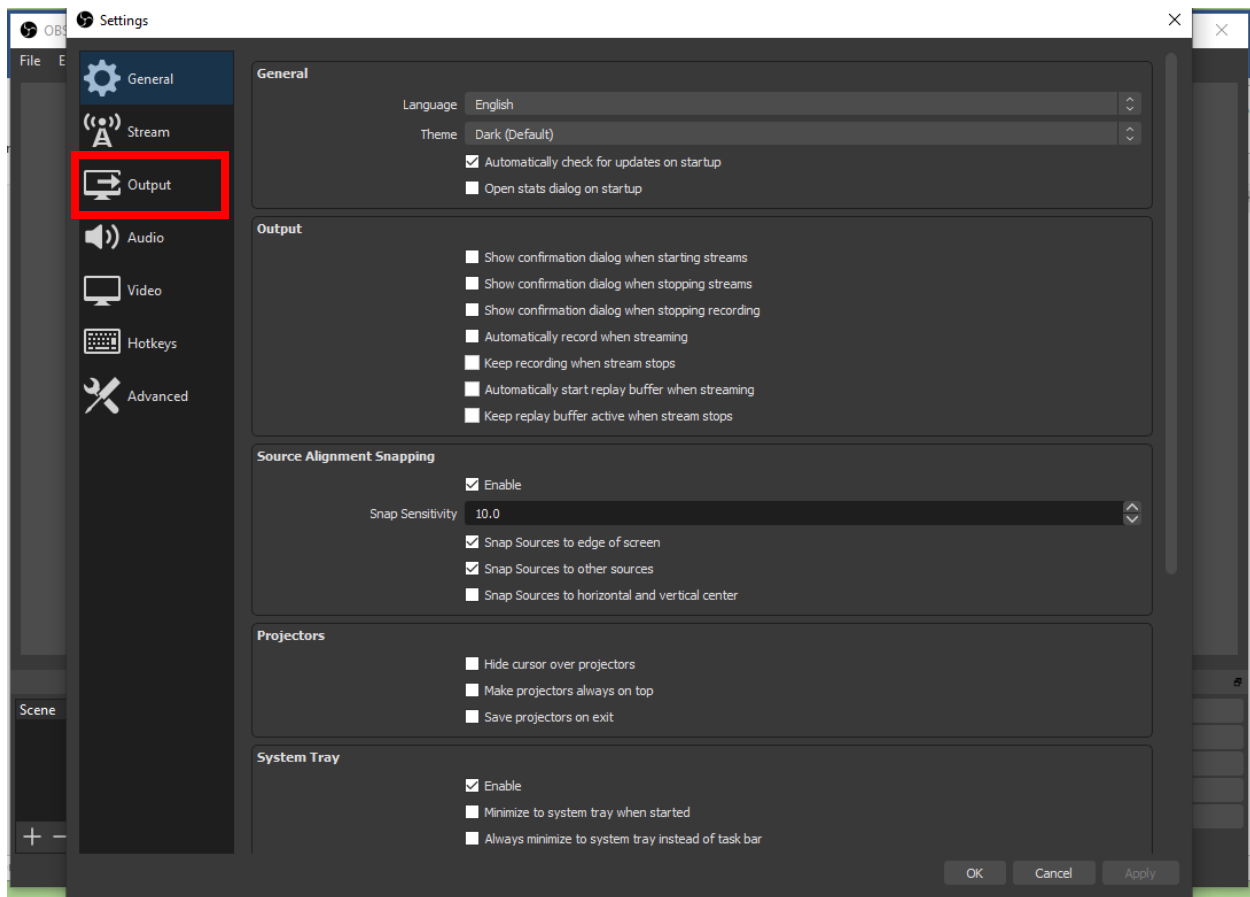Just click "Apply Settings", and you're ready to begin!
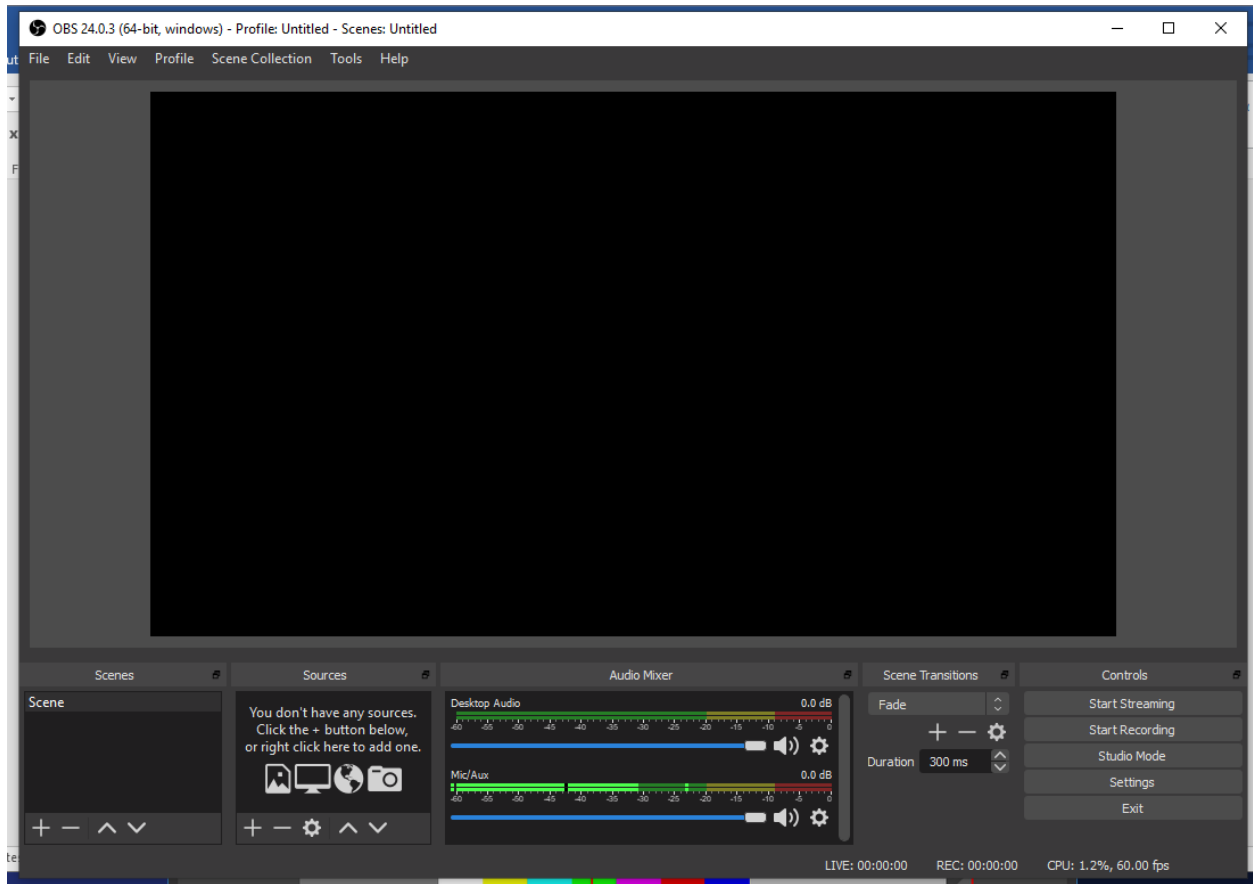
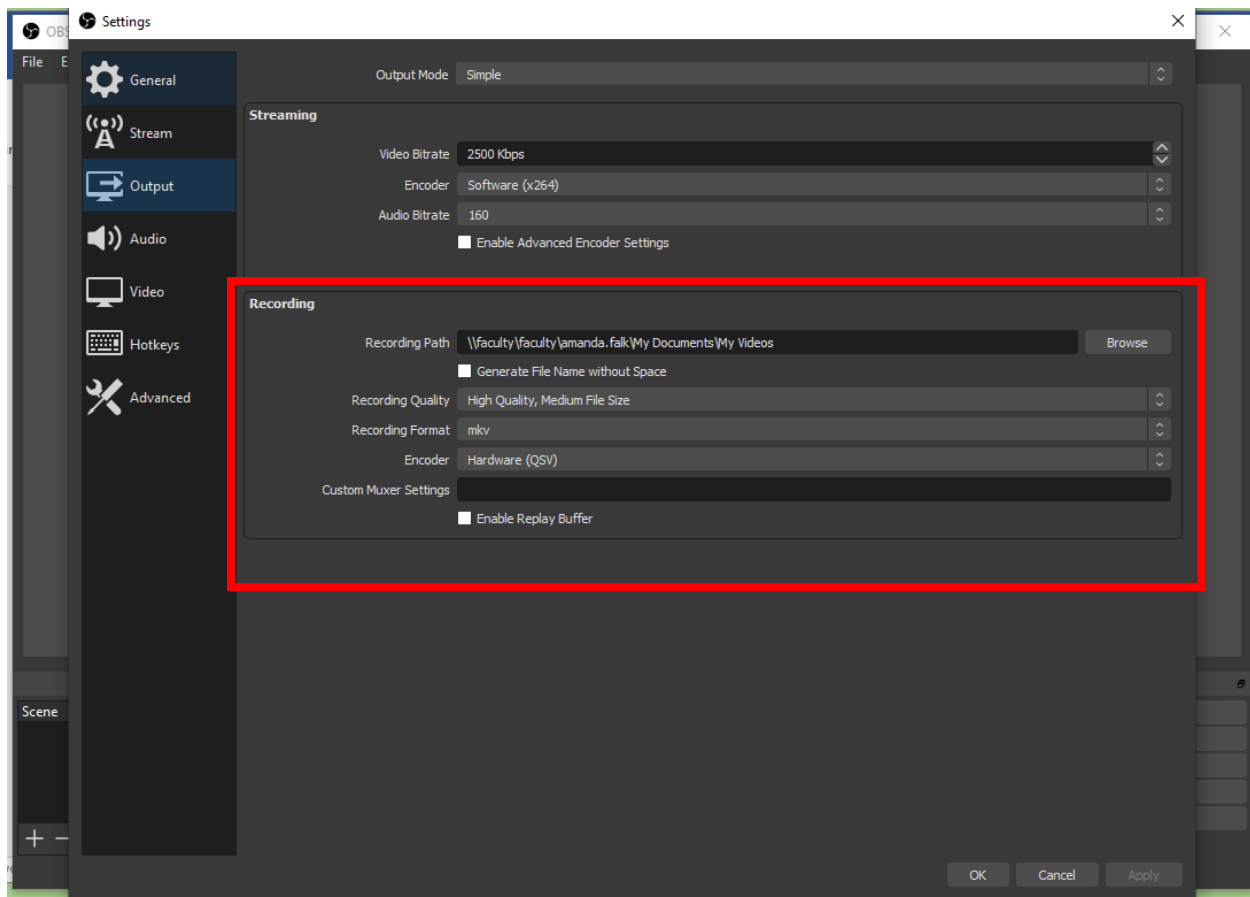This is what the "dashboard" of OBS looks like.

This is your desktop audio. You may or may not have to worry about that. If you are imbedding videos in your powerpoint, you may want to leave this as-is, but otherwise you may want to mute it so that incoming emails don't "ding".

This is your microphone audio. This is the audio you want to make sure is not too loud, or too soft. Adjustments can be made via the blue slider.

To make things easier on your computer hardware (especially if the computer you're using is older), go to "Settings". **<u>Important note:</u>** This is extremely important to do if you're using a computer that may not have the most recent drivers for your graphics card, too. You can get an error in video encoding when that happens. Changing the settings I'm about to tell you to change will cut this error off at the pass—so you'll definitely want to do this!

You want to go to "Output".

Important note: Note that there is a "Streaming" output, and a "Recording" output. You want to change the <u>recording</u> output. (I screwed this up the first time I had a problem.)
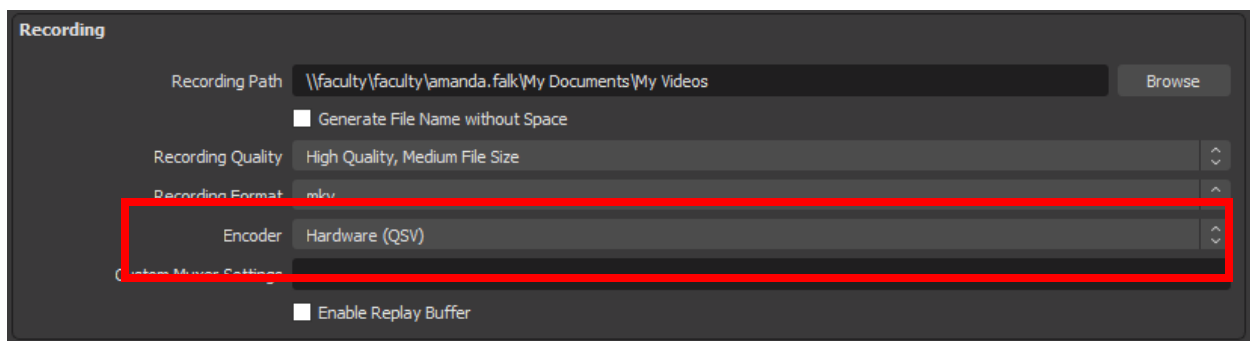

You want to change the "Encoder" tab.
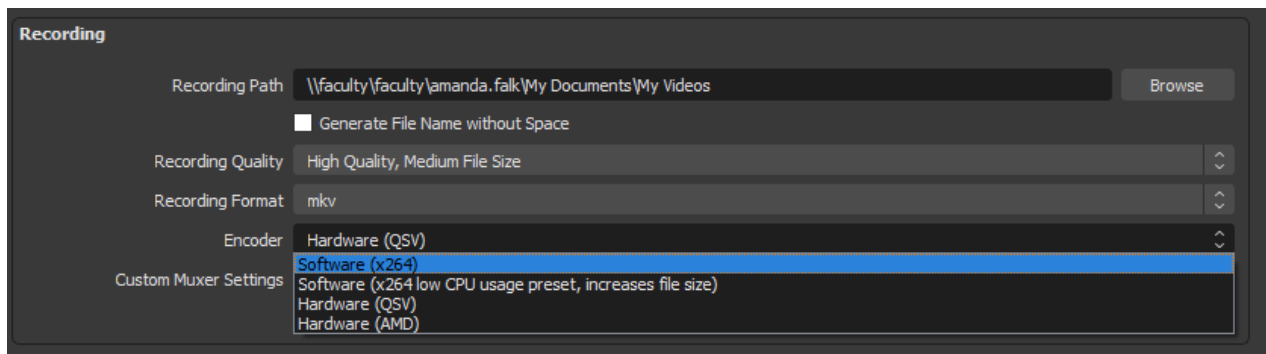
You want to select the "Software (x264)" tab. This will keep things running smoothly and, if you don't have the latest drivers on your computer (or, like my desktop at home, Windows keeps telling you "But you have the latest drivers, it's fine!" and OBS keeps saying "Nope, can't encode!") this will bypass the problem. It's also, in the long run, much easier on the machine itself; it makes the computer work less.
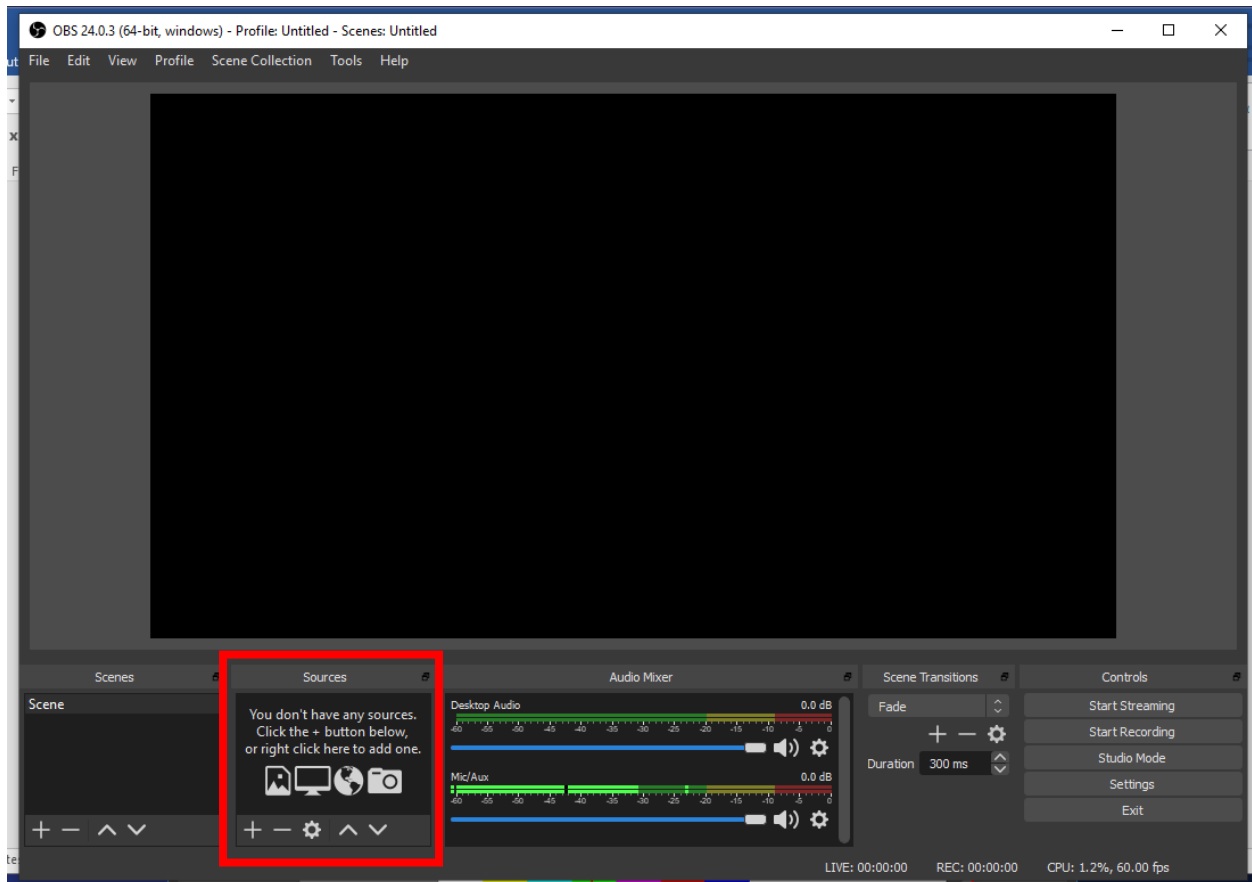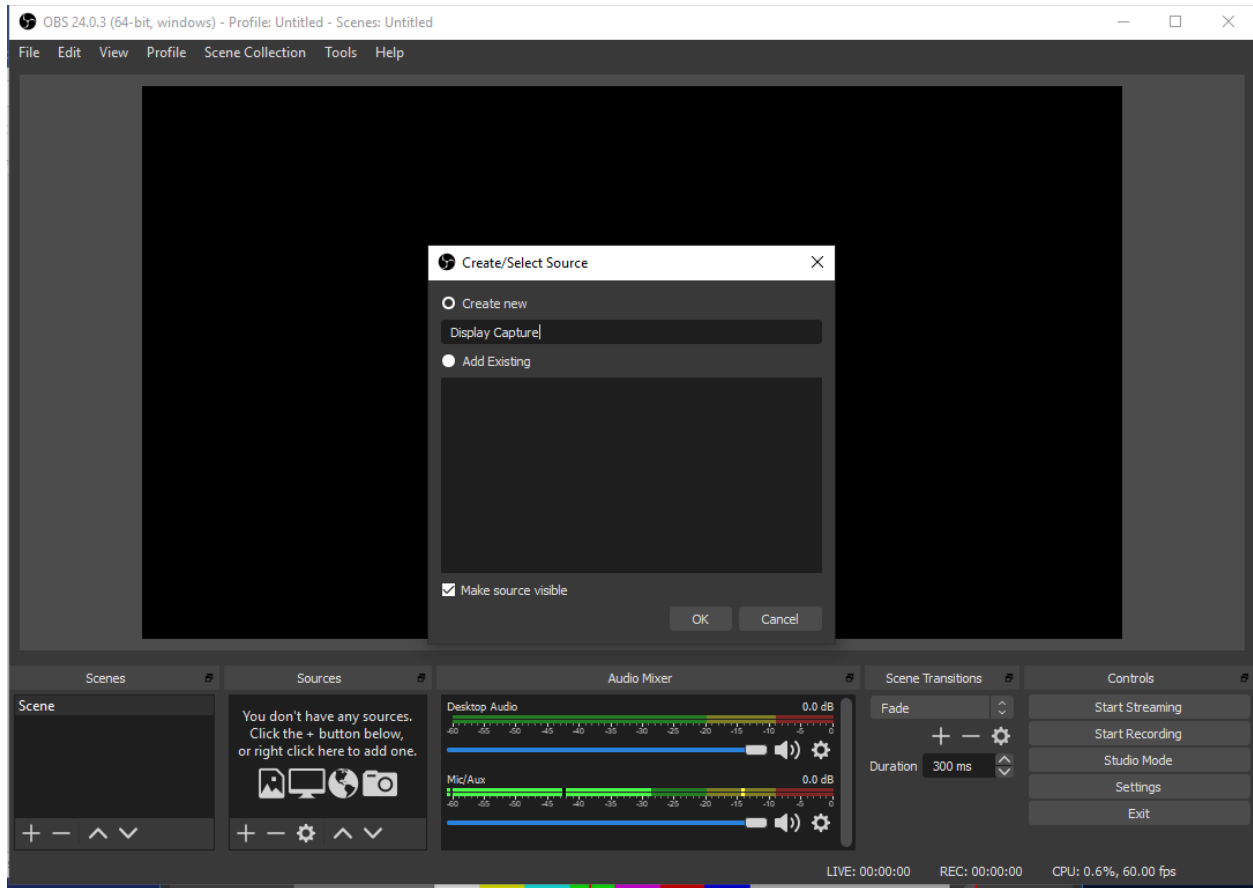

Now you need to add a source. This is what students will see on your recording.
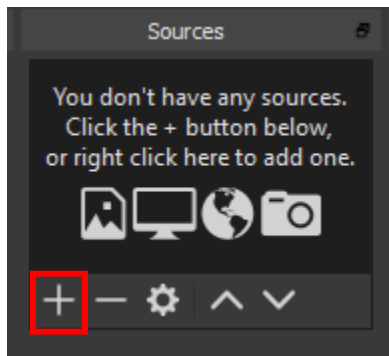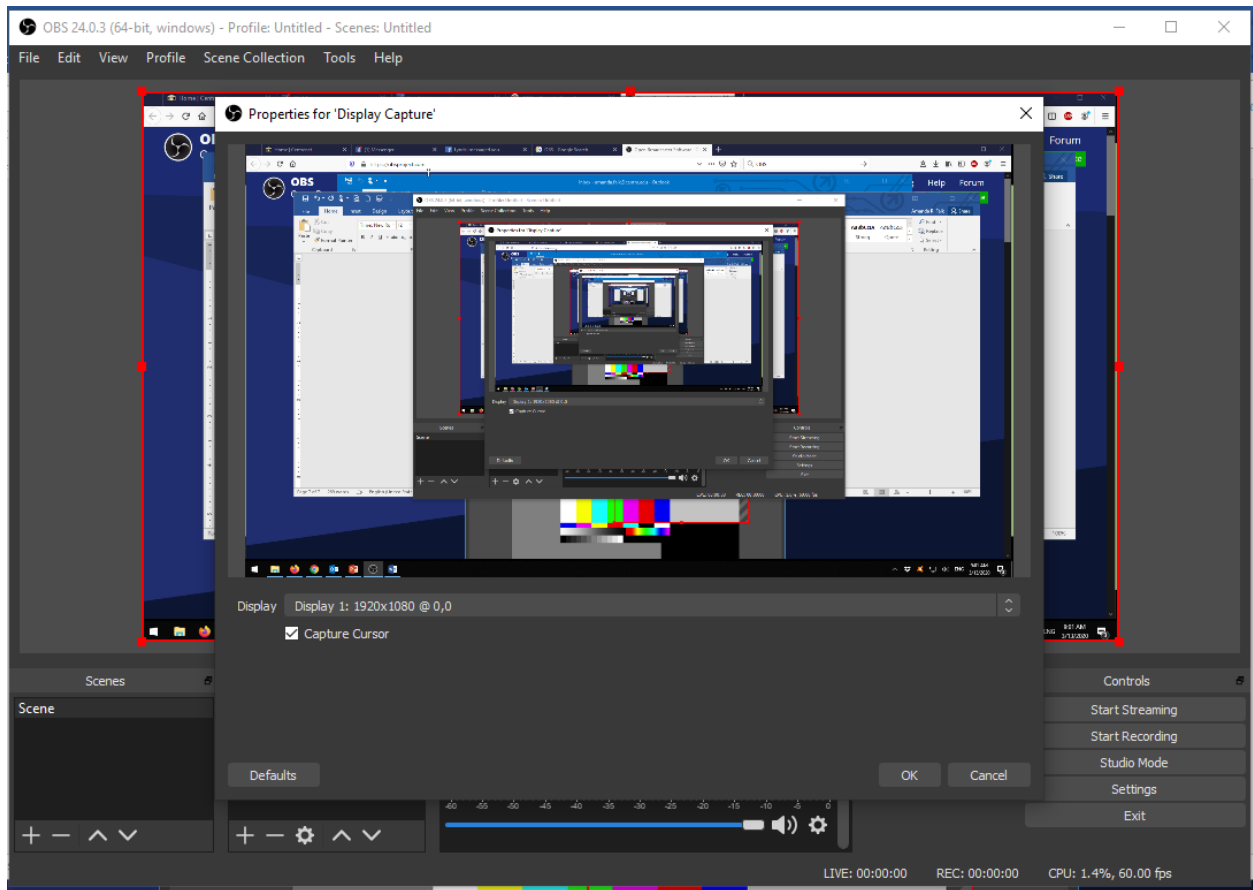
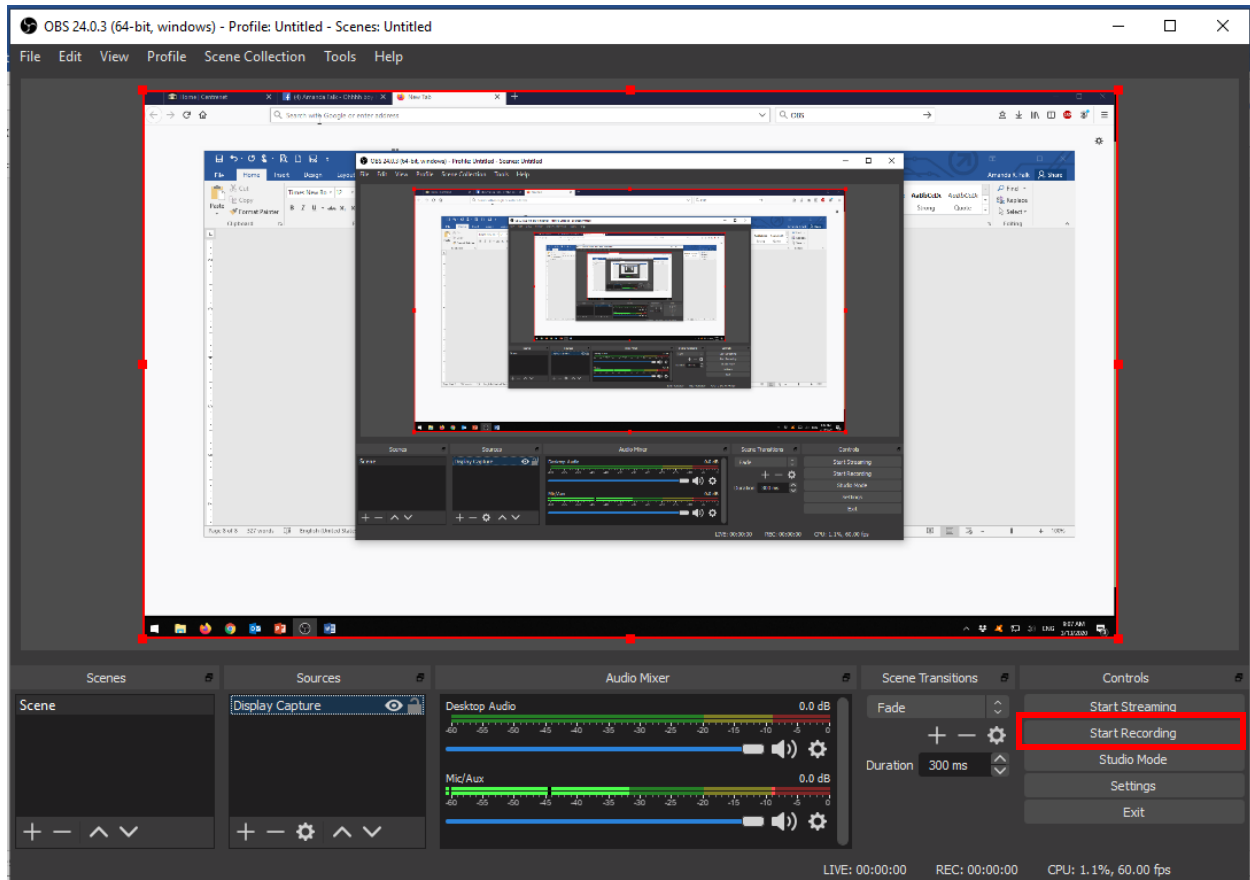Click on the plus—that's way easier than right-clicking.
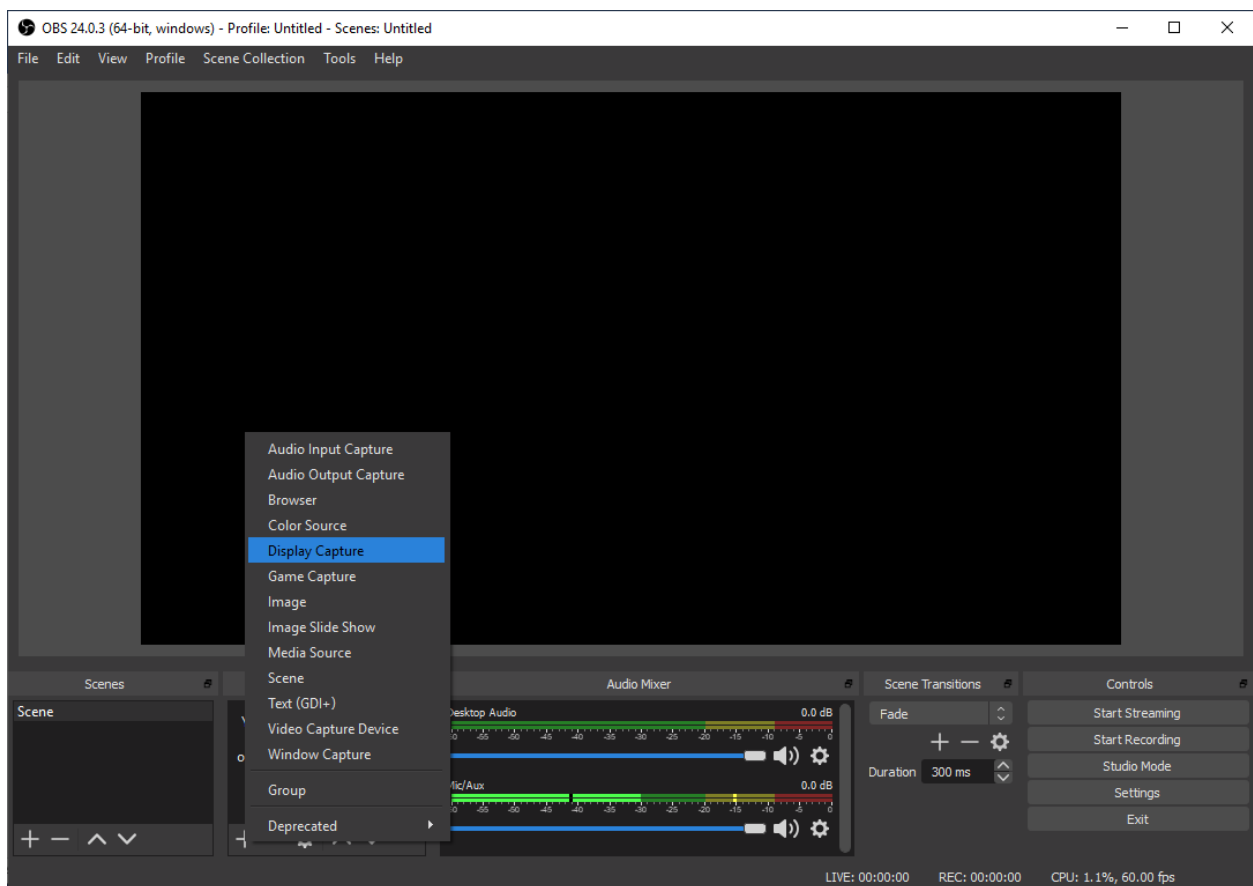
You'll select "Display Capture". That will capture your desktop as it is displayed on your computer.

Go ahead and click "OK".

Enjoy the recursion—this is what you want to see! Go ahead and click "OK", if this is what you see. I highly recommend keeping the "Capture Cursor" box checked—you'll use this instead of a laser pointer!

This is now what you should see. When you are ready to record, you can just click on "Start recording". The program will begin recording and save the video automatically to your "Videos" folder under "This PC" in Windows Explorer.
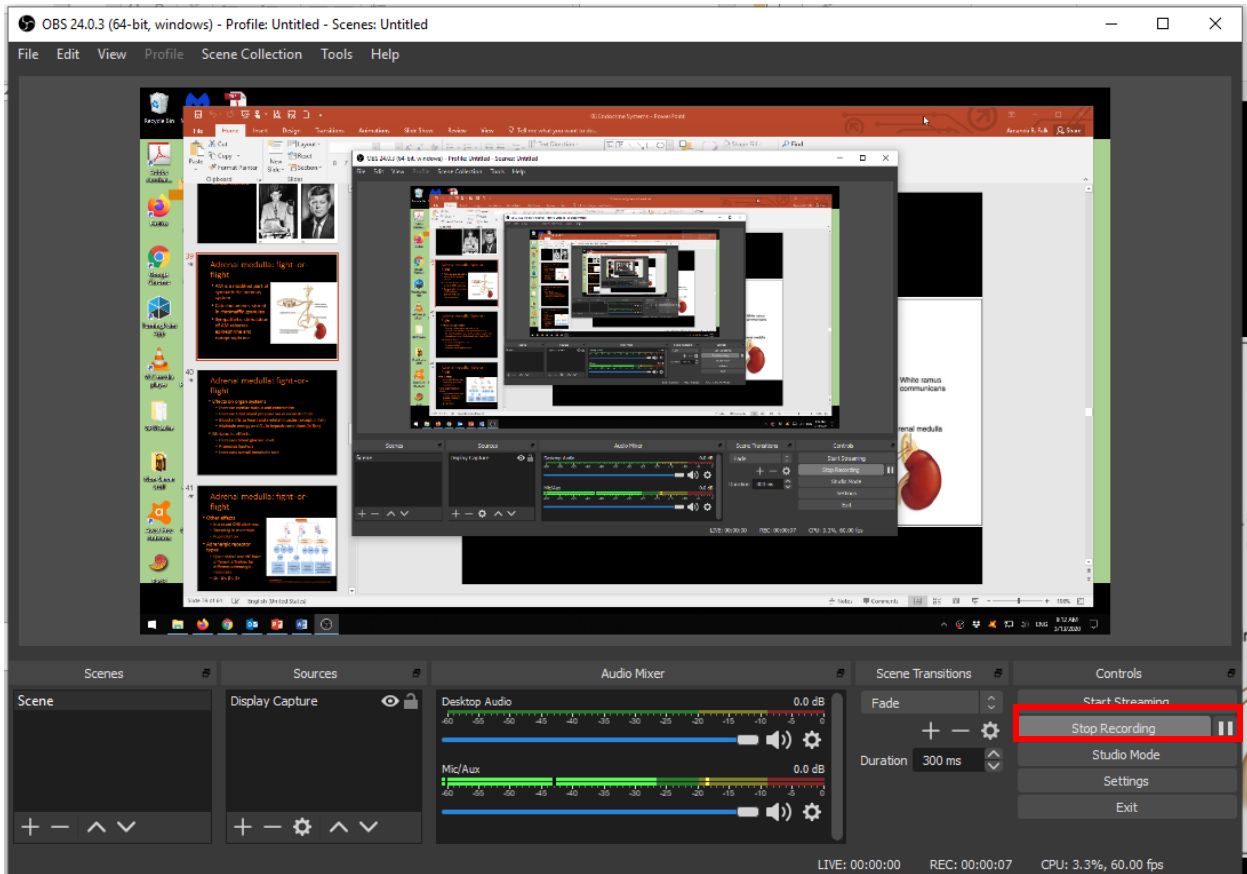
When you are done recording, simply hit "Stop recording". Note also that you can pause the recording here without stopping it, if needed.
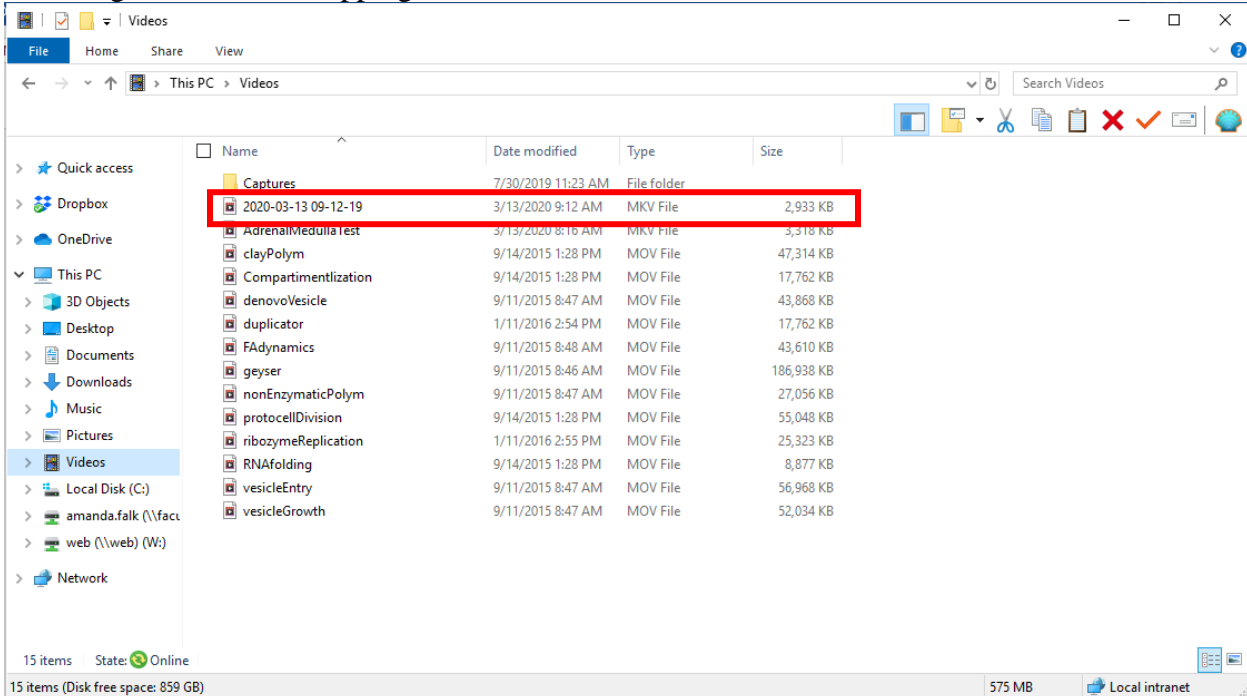

When finished, the video is found in the "Videos" folder with the date and time. You can rename it from there. You're done! Now you upload the video to YouTube and share with students.

Now, OBS saves videos as a unique file type called "MKV". VLC Media Player (a great resource to use!) will play these, but I'm not certain about YouTube. OBS saves the files as MKV, because in case of a computer crash (say, you lose power), you can recover the recording. However, OBS makes it very easy to convert files from MKV to other video file types!
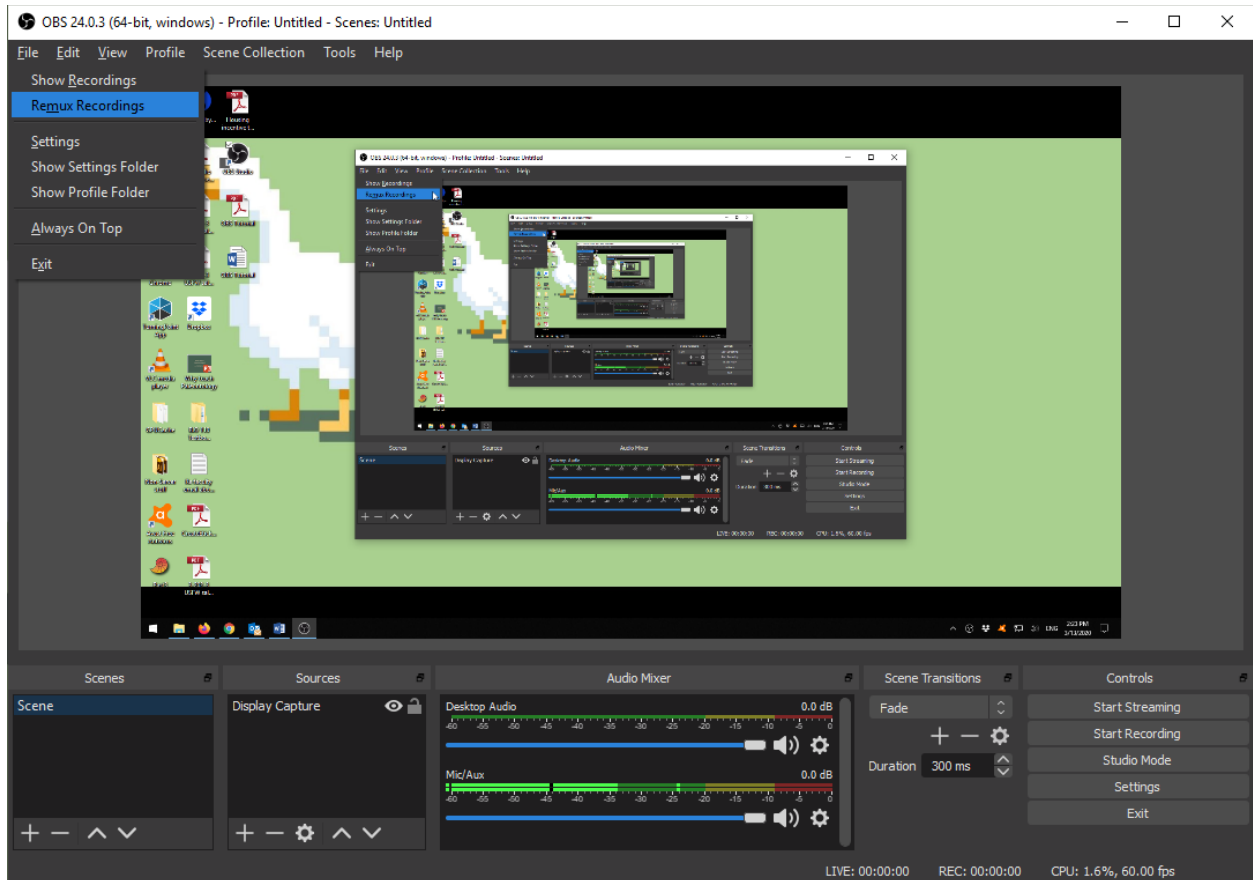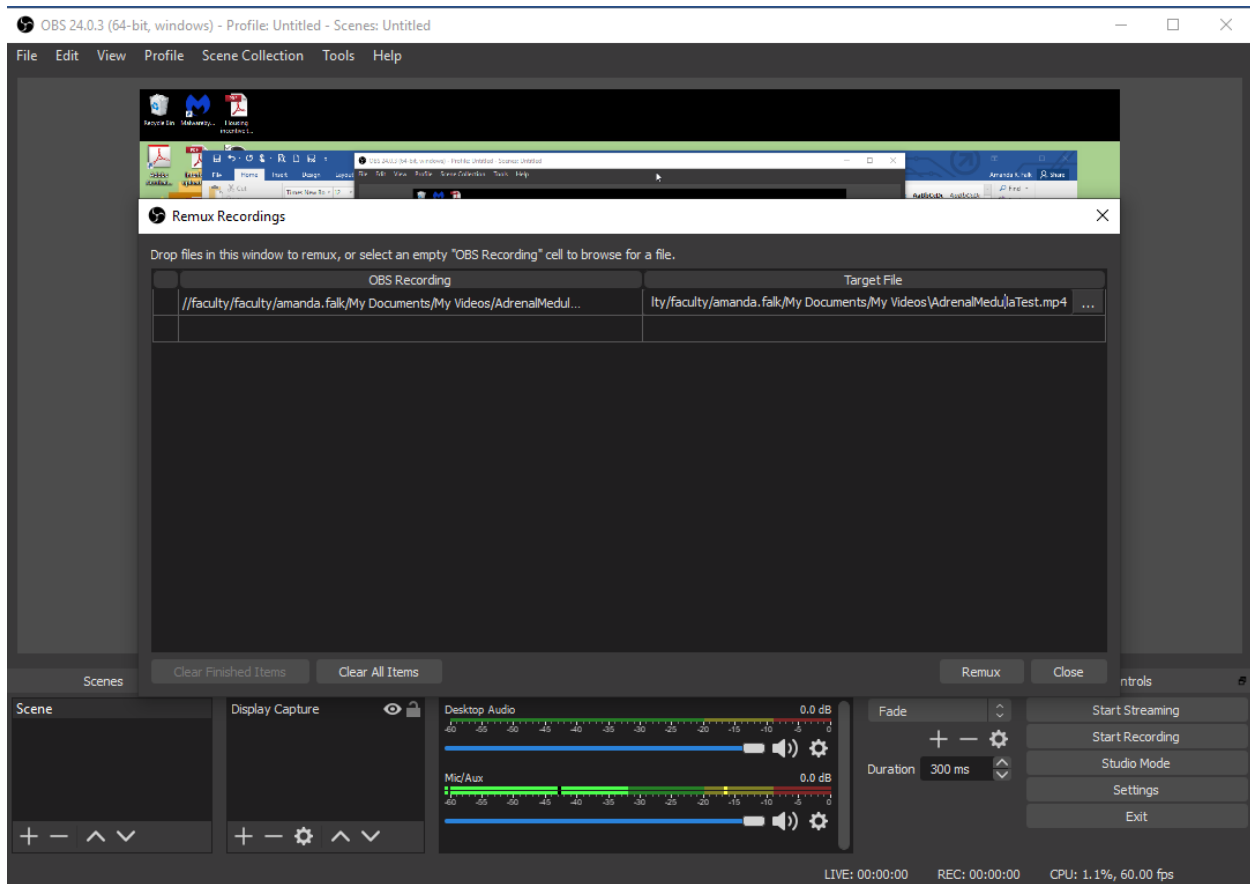

Go to File and select "Remux Recordings."
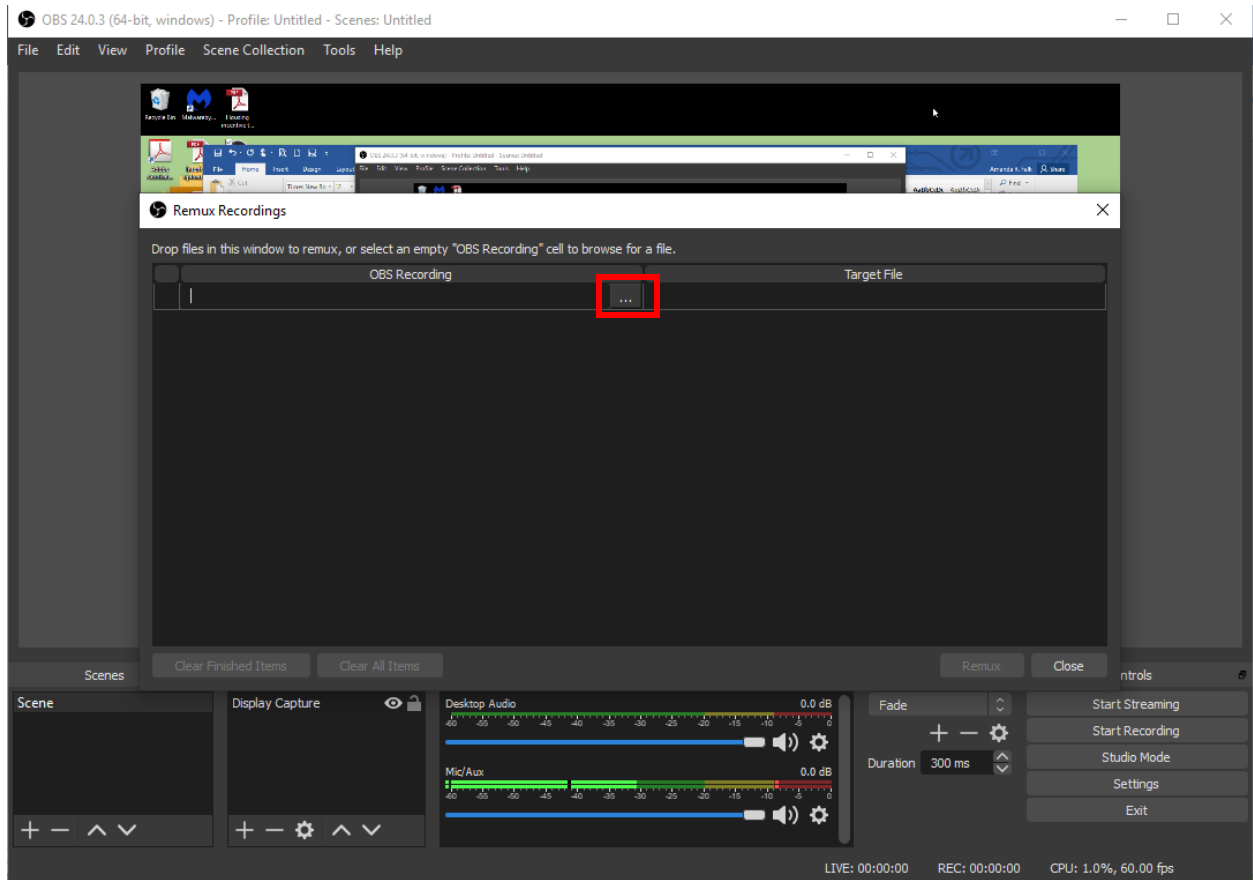
You'll see this. Next step: upload a file. Do so by clicking on the "…" there.
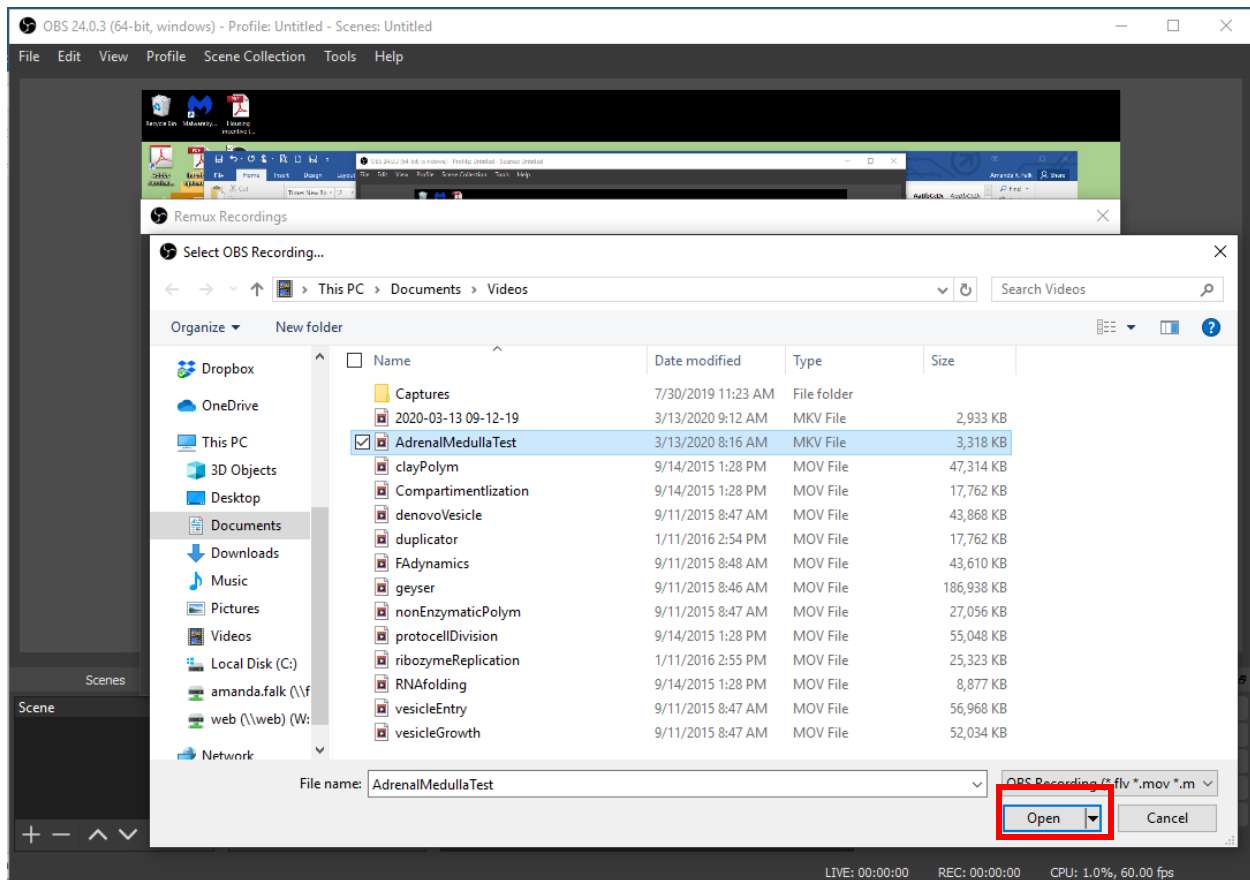
Select the video file you want to convert. Click "Open".

Note the "Target File" is now the location of the new file in the folder **.mp4**. You can delete that and type in **.mov** and it will convert it to a MOV file. Either type can be uploaded to YouTube. (Either file type is fine. Don't change it if you don't want to!)

You now have the file in a format that can be distributed, seen, and easily uploaded to YouTube. Note that you can convert more than one video at a time. (I just only had one!)

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out! You can email me (amanda.falk@centre.edu) or text me (734-255-9940). And feel free to share this with anyone, just tell them not to text me at 3 AM, that's all.