

# **Use Your Computer to scan QR codes**

A Learn in 30 Presentation

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for PATACS + OPCUG

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# Why are QR codes useful?

Each QR codes provides useful info in machine-readable form.

- A smart phone, a tablet, and your computer can scan QR codes so you can see the contained info.
- The scanned QR code gives you information:
  - Faster than you can type it, and
  - Free of typos

# QR code scanning is NOT built into Windows

- Recent iOS and Android operating systems provide QR code scanning in the Camera app.
- Older portable devices can download and install a free QR code scanning app such as QRBOT.
- But, until now, I had not found a way to scan QR codes using a computer.

# I include QR codes in most of my presentations

- While I believe QR codes provide a great convenience for you, I know some problems arise.
- I cannot pause indefinitely on every slide containing a QR code to permit scans by the audience, due to meeting time constraints.
- I have been forced to provide only the URL for each Web page from which a free computer program can be downloaded for installation.

# Wouldn't it be nice!

- Provide a QR code for web pages from which Windows programs can be downloaded for installation.
- The audience can quickly and easily save any presentation screen containing a QR code.
- The audience can scan any saved presentation page QR code after the presentation ends, at their convenience.

# Agenda

- How to obtain a free Windows app to scan QR codes
- Ordinary webcams are not very capable of scanning QR codes. How to improve on that.
- Using the Windows app to scan QR code photos.
- Save Now, Scan Later
- A free Mac app to scan QR codes, and a Mac keystroke combo for Save Now, Scan Later

**Obtain a free Windows QR code  
scanning application**

# Find a free Windows application for scanning QR codes

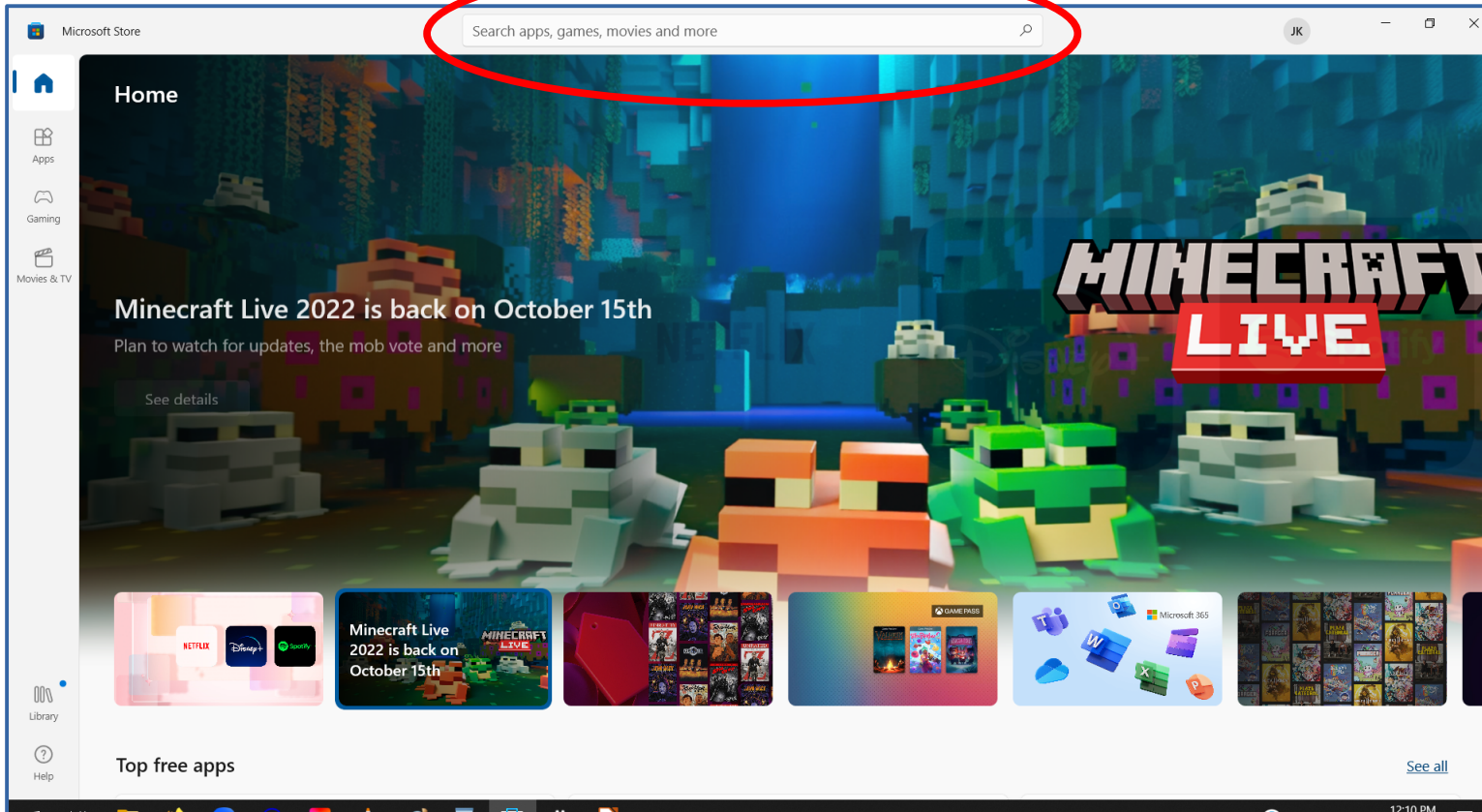
- Many Windows 10/11 computers have the Microsoft Store application built in. Here is the app icon:



- If you cannot find the Microsoft Store application on your Windows computer, then open this Web page: [apps.windows.com](https://apps.windows.com)
- Click in the **Search bar** at the top of the Windows store app or the Web page. Type: **QR** and tap the Enter key.



# Find a free Windows application for scanning QR codes



Here is the Microsoft Store application.

The Search field is circled in red.

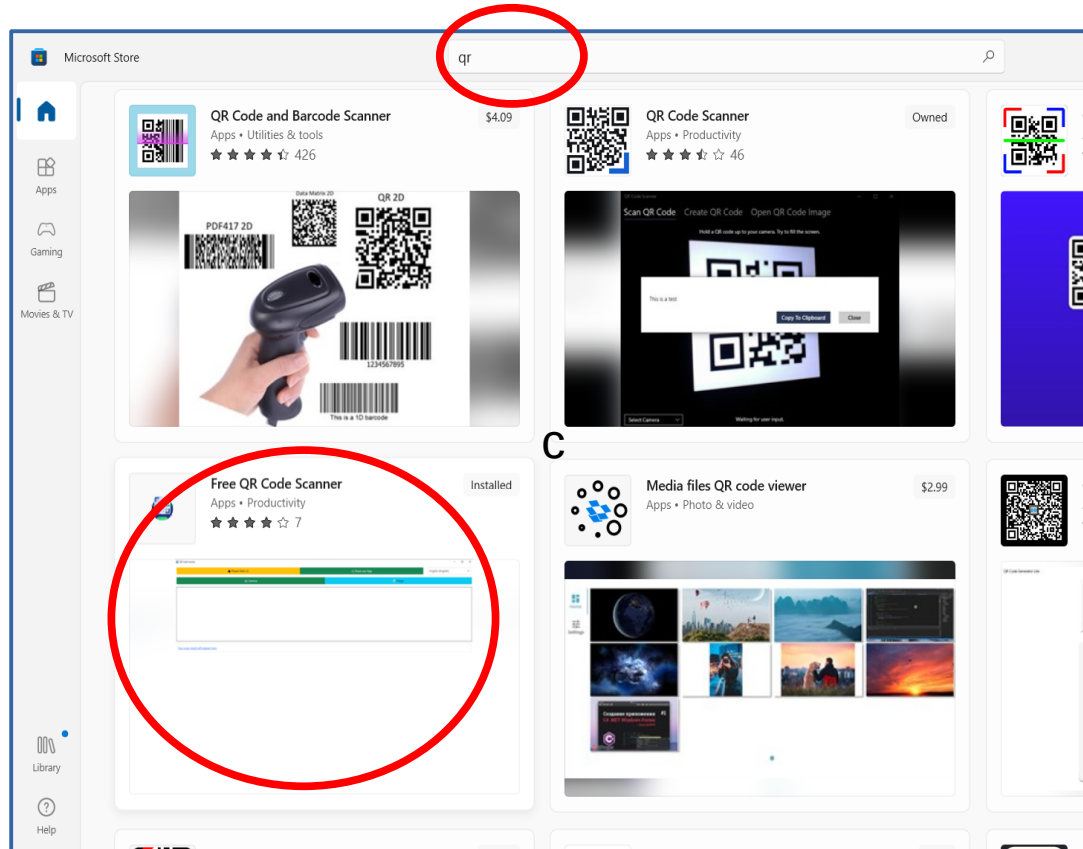
# Find a free Windows application for scanning QR codes

- I typed **QR** in the Search field, and tapped the Enter key.
- A number of apps appeared as search results.
- Not all of the apps scan QR codes.
- Some generate QR codes.

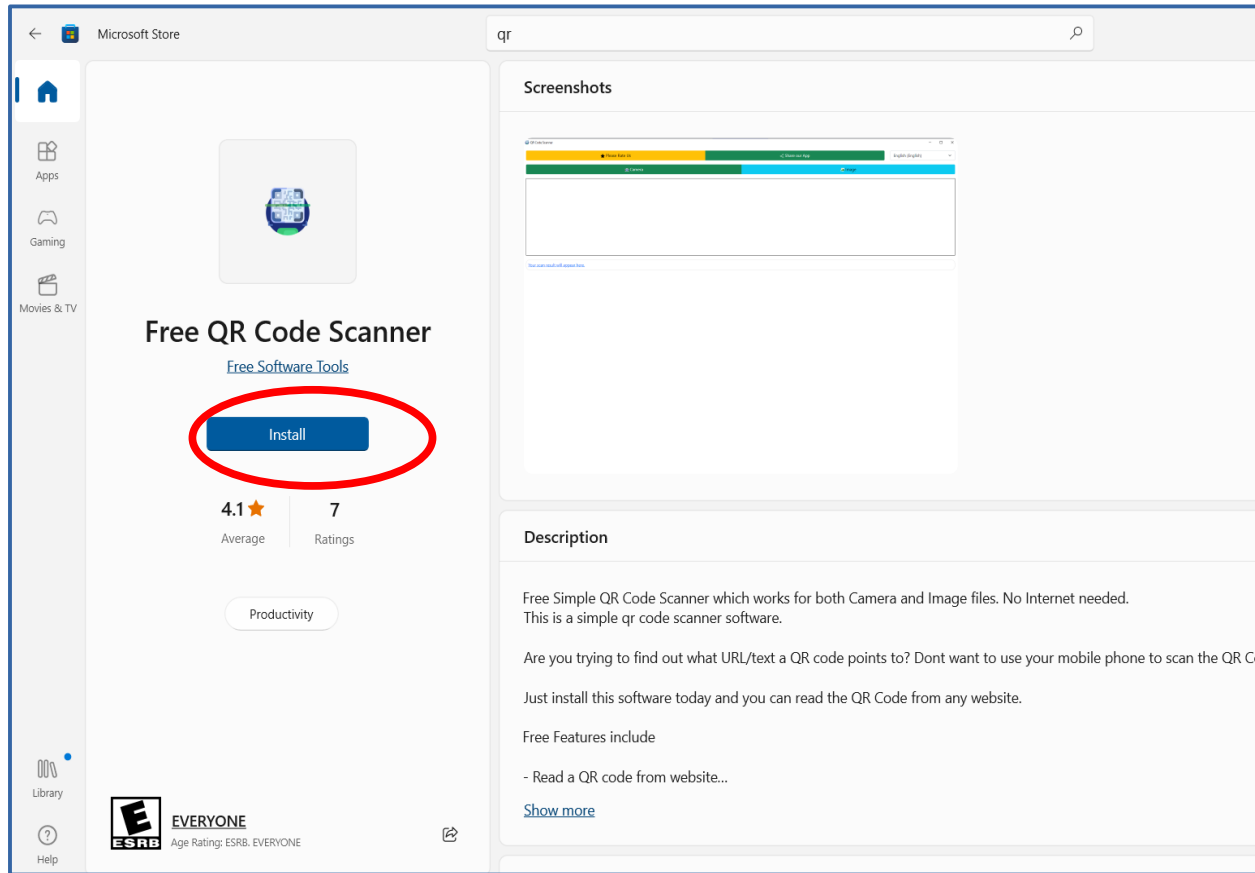
# Find a free Windows application for scanning QR codes

Here is the Microsoft Store application search results.

**Free QR Code Scanner** is the application I chose. The price is free.



# Find a free Windows application for scanning QR codes



- Click the app tile in search results. A full page description appears.
- Click the **Install** button to download and install the app.

# Equivalent Application for Mac

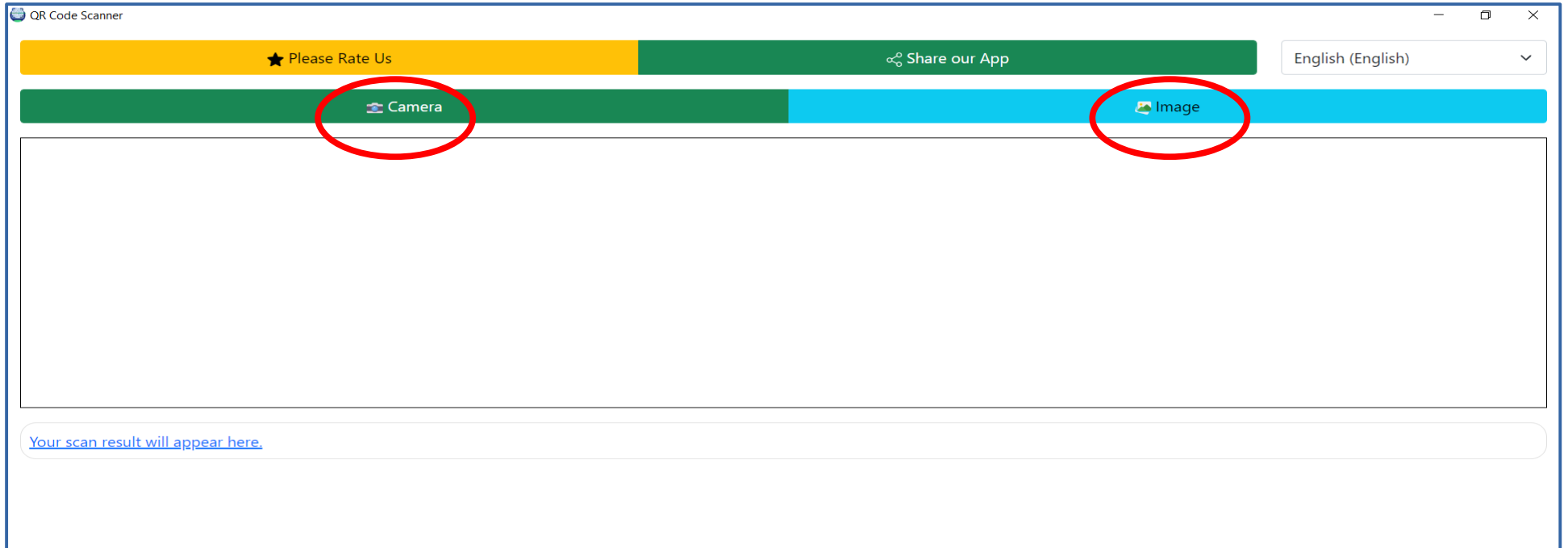
- **QR Journal** published by Josh Jacob
- Free application on Mac App Store
- I have not tested this application

# **How to use the Free QR Code Scanner application**

# Application control buttons

Webcam scan

Image file scan



# Scan a QR code with the app

- This application will scan a QR code placed in front of your webcam.
- Many QR codes on products and flyers are very small.
- Webcams are usually fixed focus, and cannot focus on anything very close to the lens.
- This application will also scan a **photo file** containing a QR code.



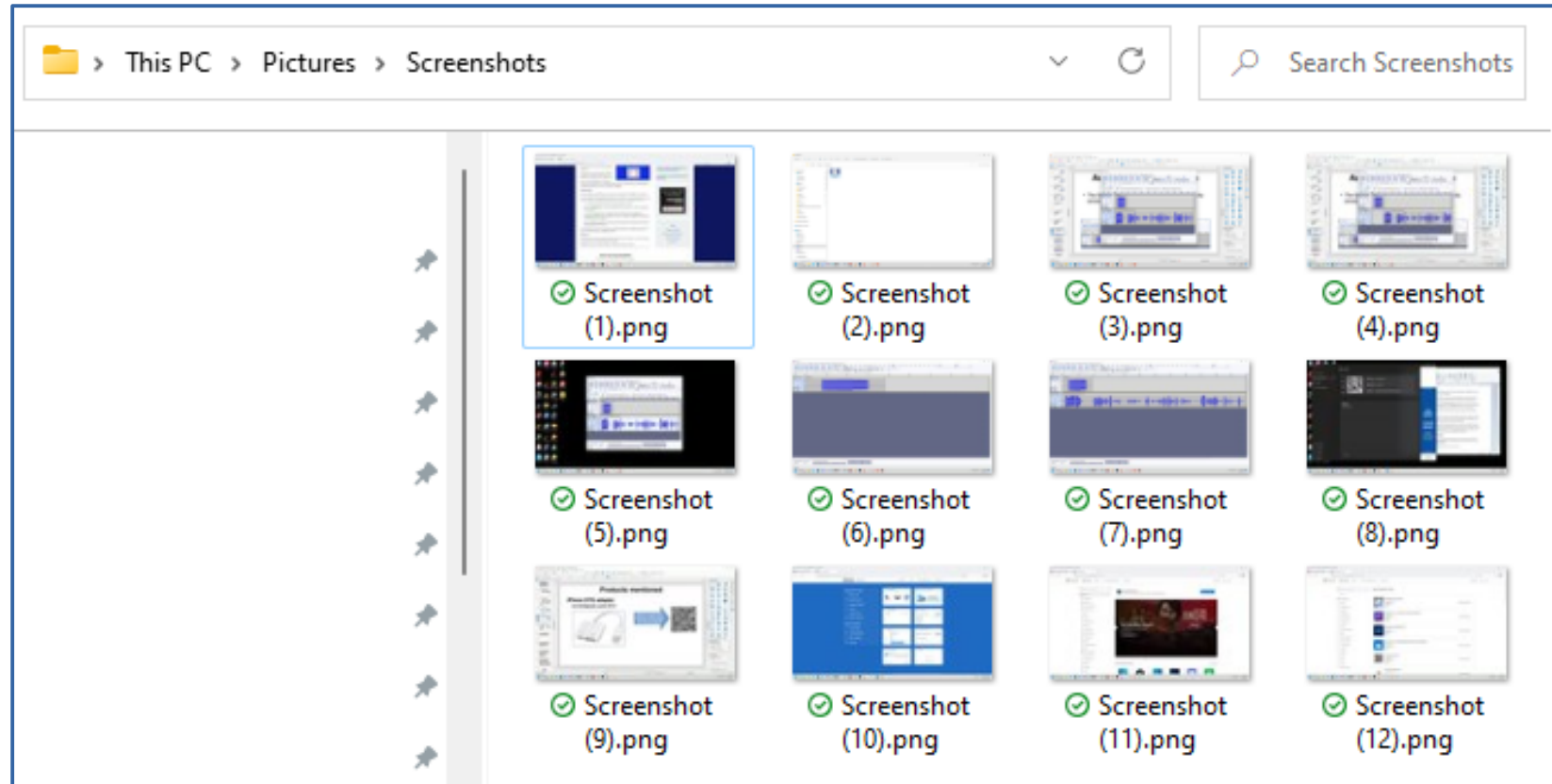
# A good way to photograph a small QR code

- Use your smart phone!
- Smart phone lenses work very well with close-up subjects.
- When the Camera app provides an option to do what the QR code suggests, tap the **Shutter button**.
- Transfer photos of QR codes to a known folder on your Windows computer, such as Desktop or Pictures
- Use the computer application to scan those photo files

# A way to “photograph” a QR code in a Zoom presentation

- Use this keystroke combo to save any presentation slide as a **photo file** in the Pictures/Screenshots folder:  
**Win+PrintScreen**
- Hold down the **Windows key** and, while holding it down, tap the **PrintScreen key**
- Each screen photo file is recorded with a name ending in a sequential number (1,2,3 etc)

# Numbered screenshot files in the Pictures/Screenshots folder



# Save Now, Scan Later

- Save presentation slides containing QR codes for Web page URLs to download Windows applications, data files, etc.
- Optionally, you can also save presentation slides containing QR codes for smart phone apps, emails, etc.
- You can scan the saved photo files for Windows applications after the meeting ends, **at your own pace**, using the Free QR Code Scanner application.
- You can scan saved screen photo files for Android/iOS app QR codes by displaying each photo file on your computer and scanning the screen image with your smart phone.

# Mac Equivalent keystroke combo

- **Command+Shift+5** will save the current screen as an image file
- The image file is stored on the Mac Desktop
- I have not tested this keystroke combo

# The result of a QR code scan using the app

- Camera apps on smart phones will offer to open the web page, or any other app on the phone to do what the QR code says to do.
- The Windows app scans the QR code, and displays the contents of the QR code, such as a Web page URL.
- If the QR contains a web page URL, then Free QR Code scanner displays that web page URL.

# An example

This is a presentation slide screenshot captured and saved using **Win+PrintScreen**

Download the **VLC** application for  
Windows/Mac/Linux

<https://www.videolan.org/vlc/>

Scan this QR code to  
open that Web page



# An Example

Free QR Code Scanner app after scanning the saved screenshot file including a QR code.

The screenshot shows the interface of a 'QR Code Scanner' app. At the top, there are two buttons: 'Please Rate Us' (yellow) and 'Share our App' (green). Below these are two tabs: 'Camera' (green) and 'Image' (light blue). The main content area displays a promotional message for VLC: 'Download the VLC application for Windows/Mac/Linux', followed by 'VLC is a general purpose media player application' and the URL <https://www.videolan.org/vlc/>. A QR code is shown with an arrow pointing to it and the text 'Scan this QR code to open that Web page'. A large blue arrow on the right points to the QR code with the text 'Thumbnail of screen image selected for scan'. At the bottom left, a blue arrow points to the URL <https://www.videolan.org/vlc/> with the text 'Web page URL from scanned QR code'. Below the URL is a text box containing the placeholder text 'Your scan result will appear here.'.

QR Code Scanner

★ Please Rate Us Share our App English

Camera Image

Download the **VLC** application for Windows/Mac/Linux

VLC is a general purpose media player application

<https://www.videolan.org/vlc/>

Scan this QR code to open that Web page

Thumbnail of screen image selected for scan

Web page URL from scanned QR code

<https://www.videolan.org/vlc/>

Your scan result will appear here.



**The following slides are for  
practicing presentation  
screen saves  
using  
Win+Printscreen or  
Command+Shift+5**

# Download the **VLC** application for Windows/Mac/Linux

VLC is a general purpose media player  
application

<https://www.videolan.org/vlc/>

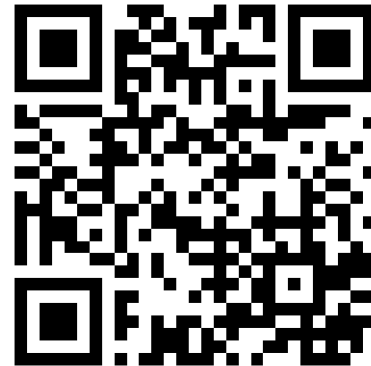
Scan this QR code to  
open that Web page



# Download the **Audacity** applicaton for Windows/Mac/Linux

Audacity is a digital audio editor application  
[www.audacityteam.org/download](http://www.audacityteam.org/download)

Scan this QR code to  
open that Web page

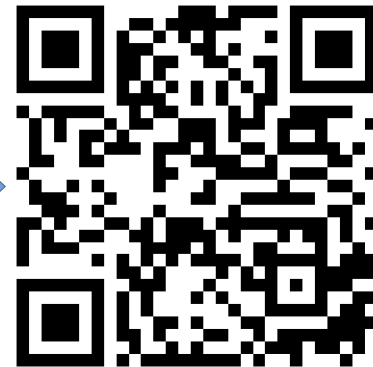


# Download the **Handbrake** application for Windows/Mac/Linux

Handbrake is a general digital video utility,  
including adding subtitles,  
changing frame rates, and much more

<https://handbrake.fr/downloads.php>

Scan this QR code to  
open that Web page



**THE END**

Time for questions