

How to record a particular area of desktop screen on Linux

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Categories : [Desktop](#), [Video](#)

Tagged as : [screencast](#)

Question: I want to create a screencast of a particular area on my Linux desktop (not the entire desktop). Is there screen recorder software that allows me to do that?

When you need to demonstrate your desktop activities to someone else, using a screencast (i.e., recording of desktop screen) is far more effective than a textual tutorial or a bunch of static images. For a video tutorial, sometimes you may want to record a particular area of the desktop (e.g., one GUI window), instead of the entire desktop screen. One way to create a screencast of a particular area of the desktop is by using **recordMyDesktop**.

recordMyDesktop is an open-source Linux tool that can capture audio and video of a desktop screen session. It can record not only the whole desktop screen, but also a particular GUI window or any arbitrary area that you define with a mouse.

Install recordMyDesktop on Linux

recordMyDesktop is a command-line tool, but can be better used with its GUI frontend **gtk-recordMyDesktop**. Here is how to install them on various Linux distros.

Debian, Ubuntu or Linux Mint:

```
$ sudo apt-get install recordmydesktop gtk-recordmydesktop
```

Fedora:

```
$ sudo dnf install recordmydesktop gtk-recordmydesktop
```

CentOS or RHEL:

First [enable EPEL repository](#), and then proceed with:

```
$ sudo yum install recordmydesktop gtk-recordmydesktop
```

Arch Linux:

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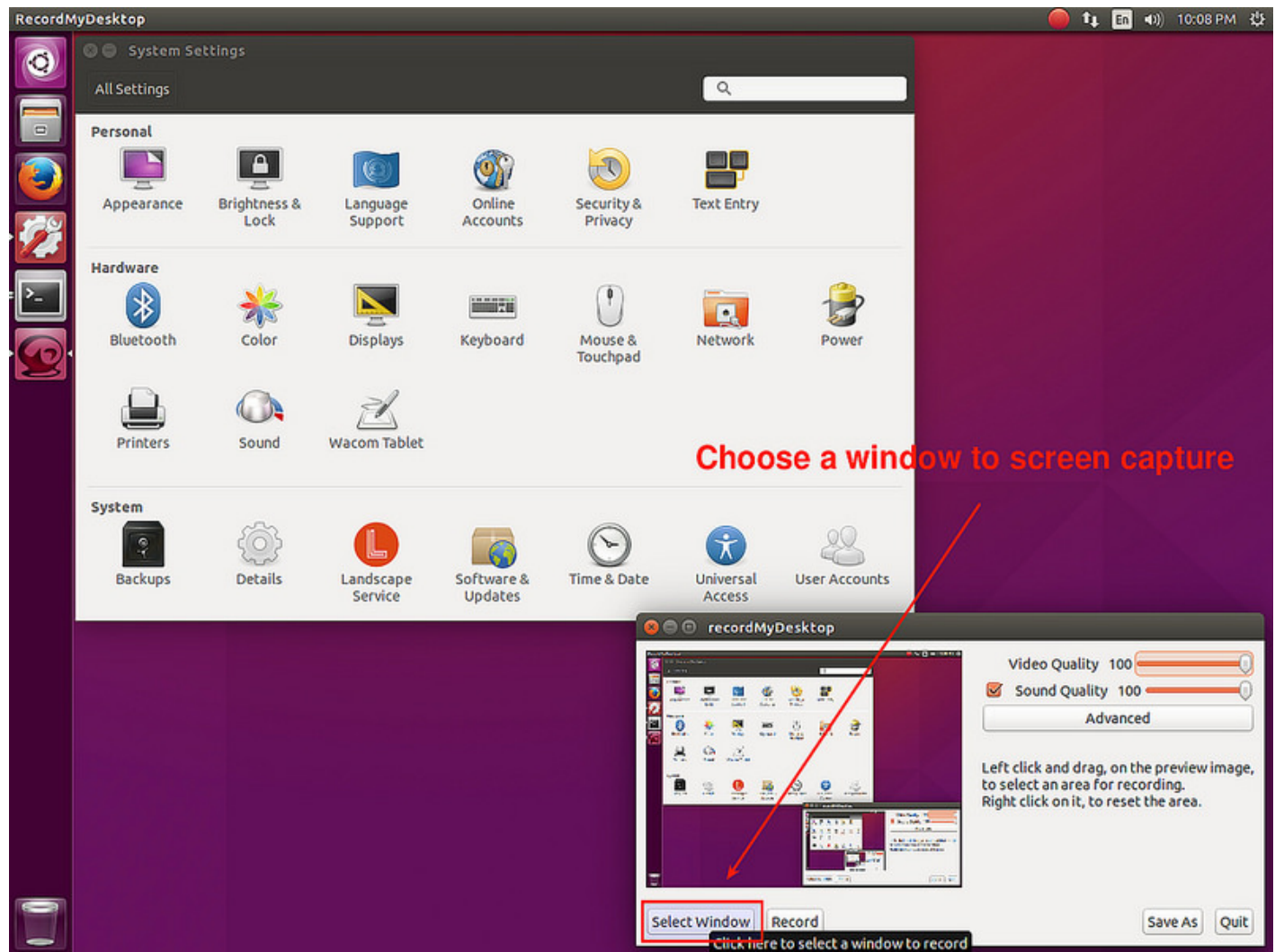
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```
$ sudo pacman -S recordmydesktop gtk-recordmydesktop
```

Record a Particular GUI Window on Desktop

To record a particular window on desktop, click on "Select Window" button on gtk-recordMyDesktop. Then move the mouse cursor to a target window that you wish to capture, and click on any area within the window.



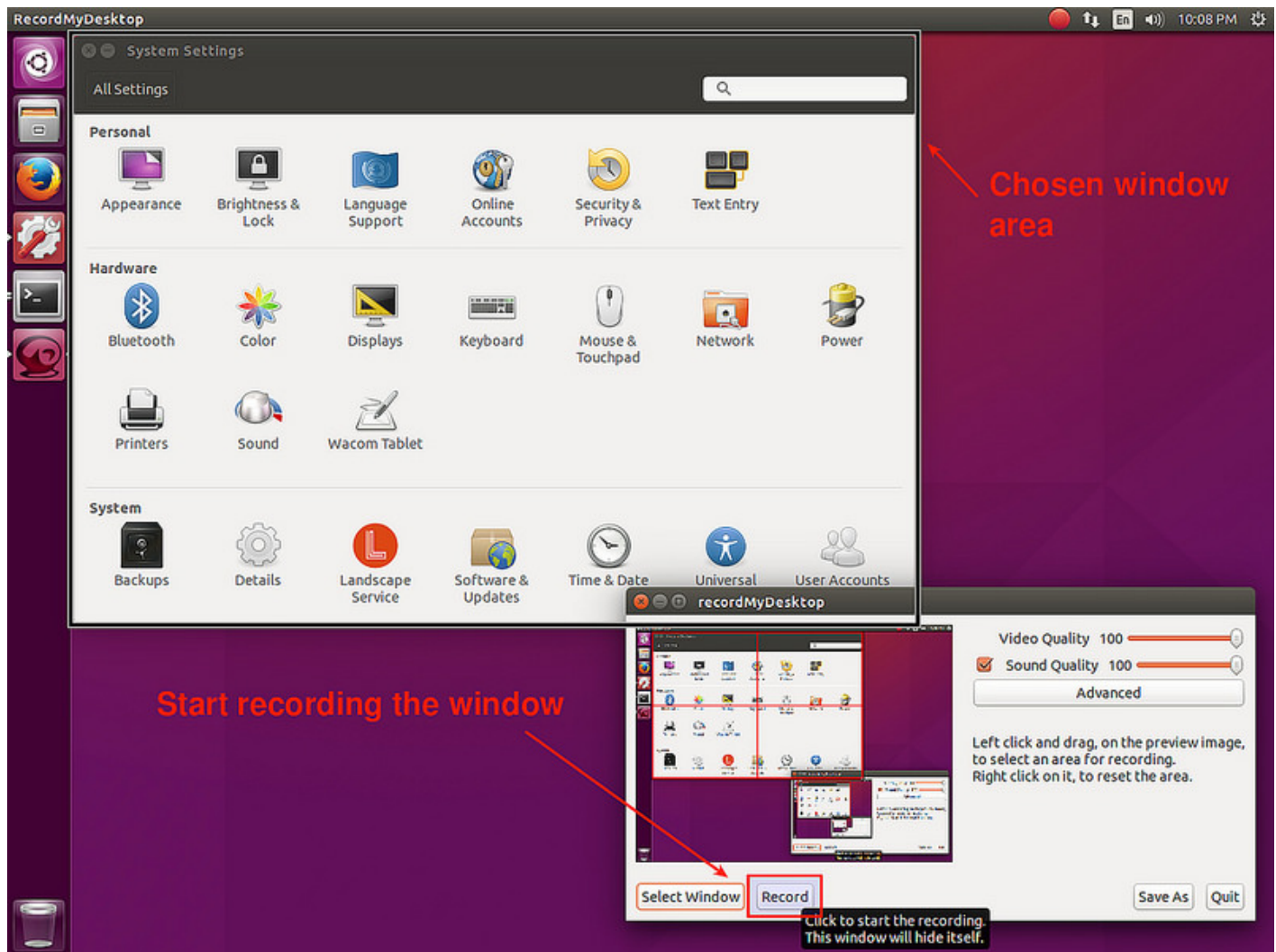
The boundary of the chosen window will be highlighted. Note that if you move the window after this, the highlighted area will remain unchanged, so be careful.

If you want to exclude the specified window's title bar from recording, turn off "Include Window Decorations" option in "Advanced" menu.

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To start recording the window, click on "Record" button on gtk-recordMyDesktop.



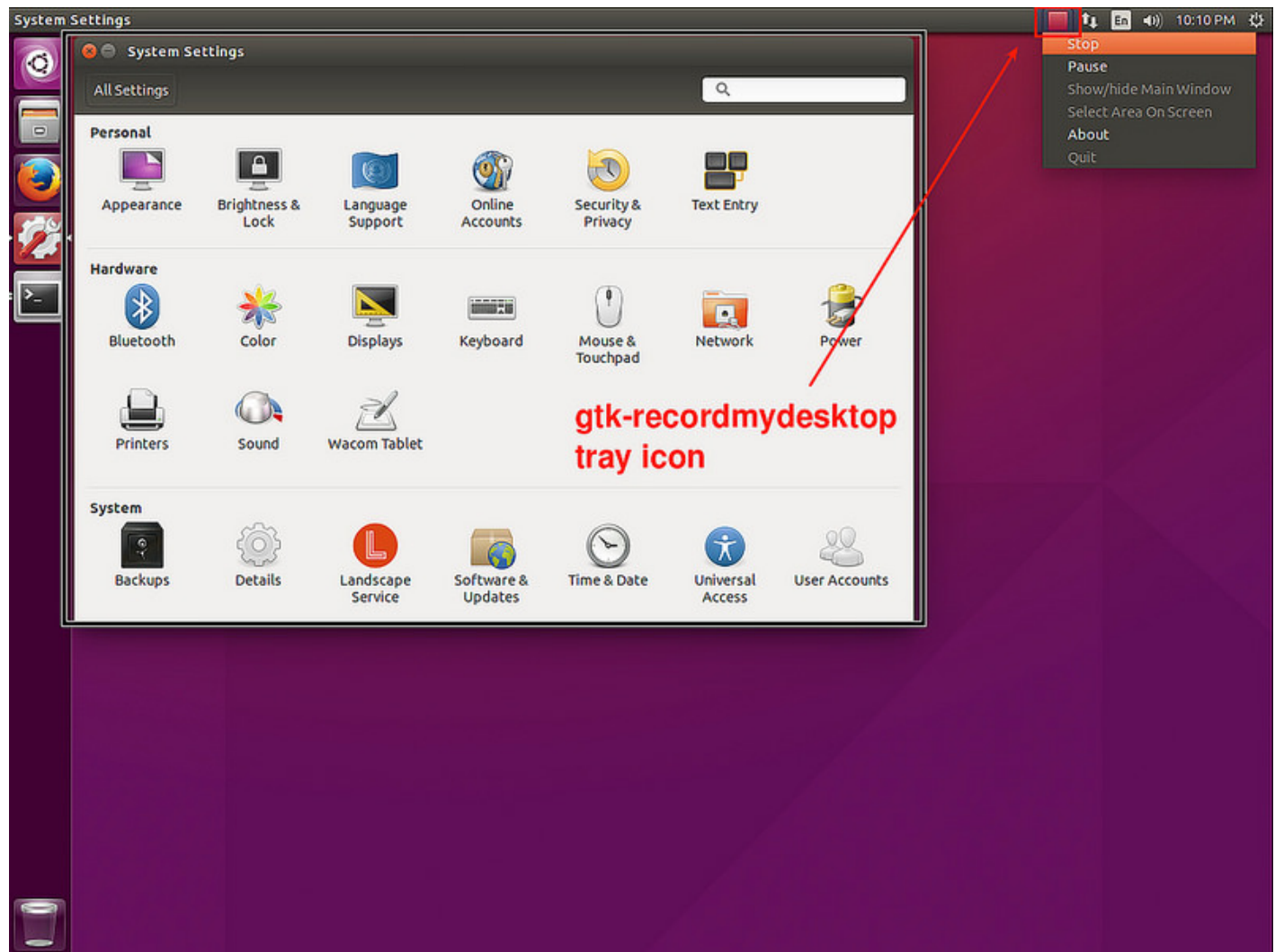
Once the recording gets started, gtk-recordMyDesktop's main window will disappear automatically.

If you want to stop the recording, click on the recordMyDesktop's tray icon at the top of the desktop, and choose "Stop".

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The recorded screencast will be saved as .ogv file. You can play .ogv file with any video player such as `mplayer` or `vlc`. or upload it directly to YouTube without any transcoding.

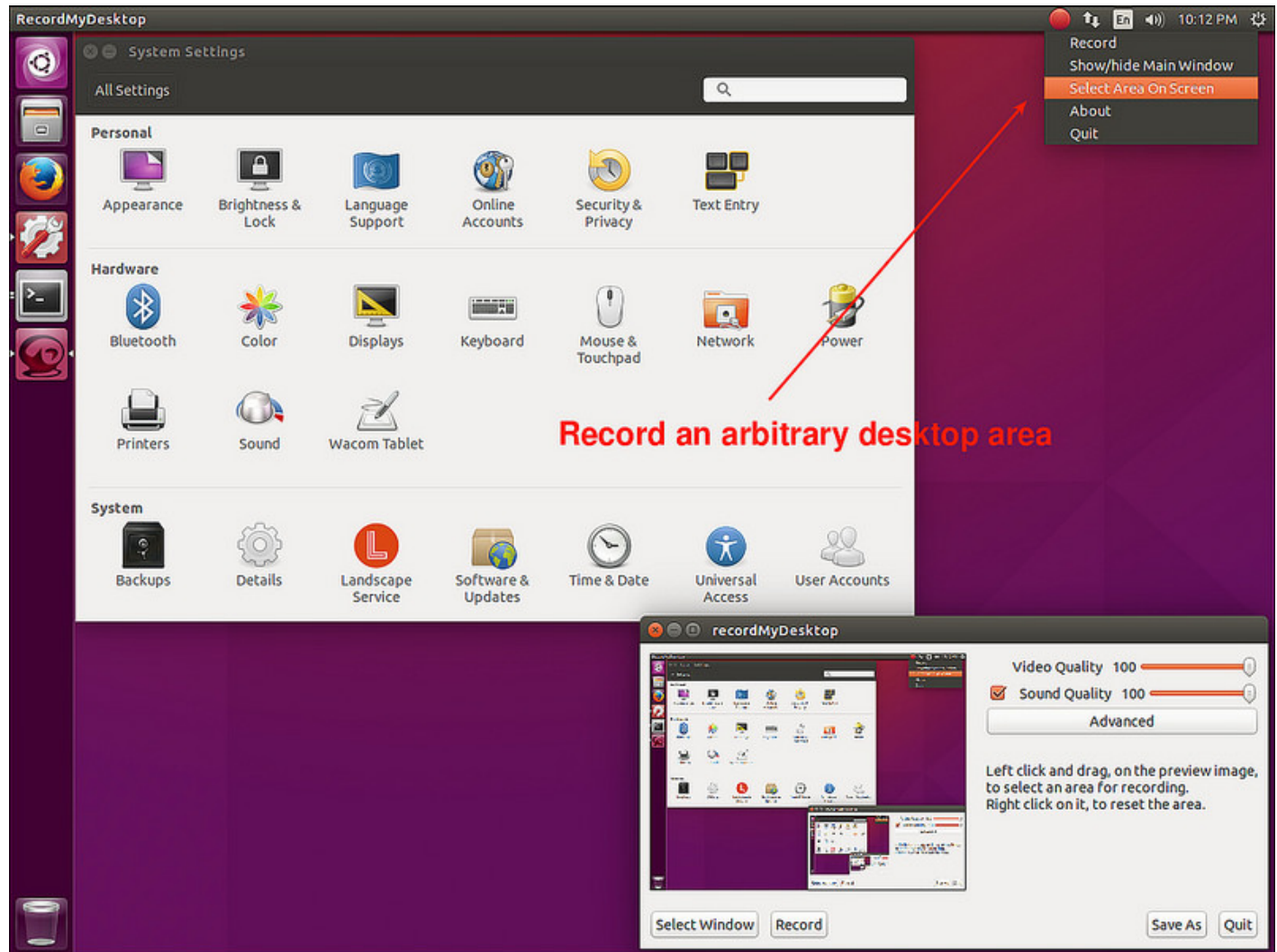
Record any Arbitrary Area on Desktop

If you want to create a screencast of a particular area of desktop, click on the recordMyDesktop's tray icon. Then choose "Select Area on Screen".

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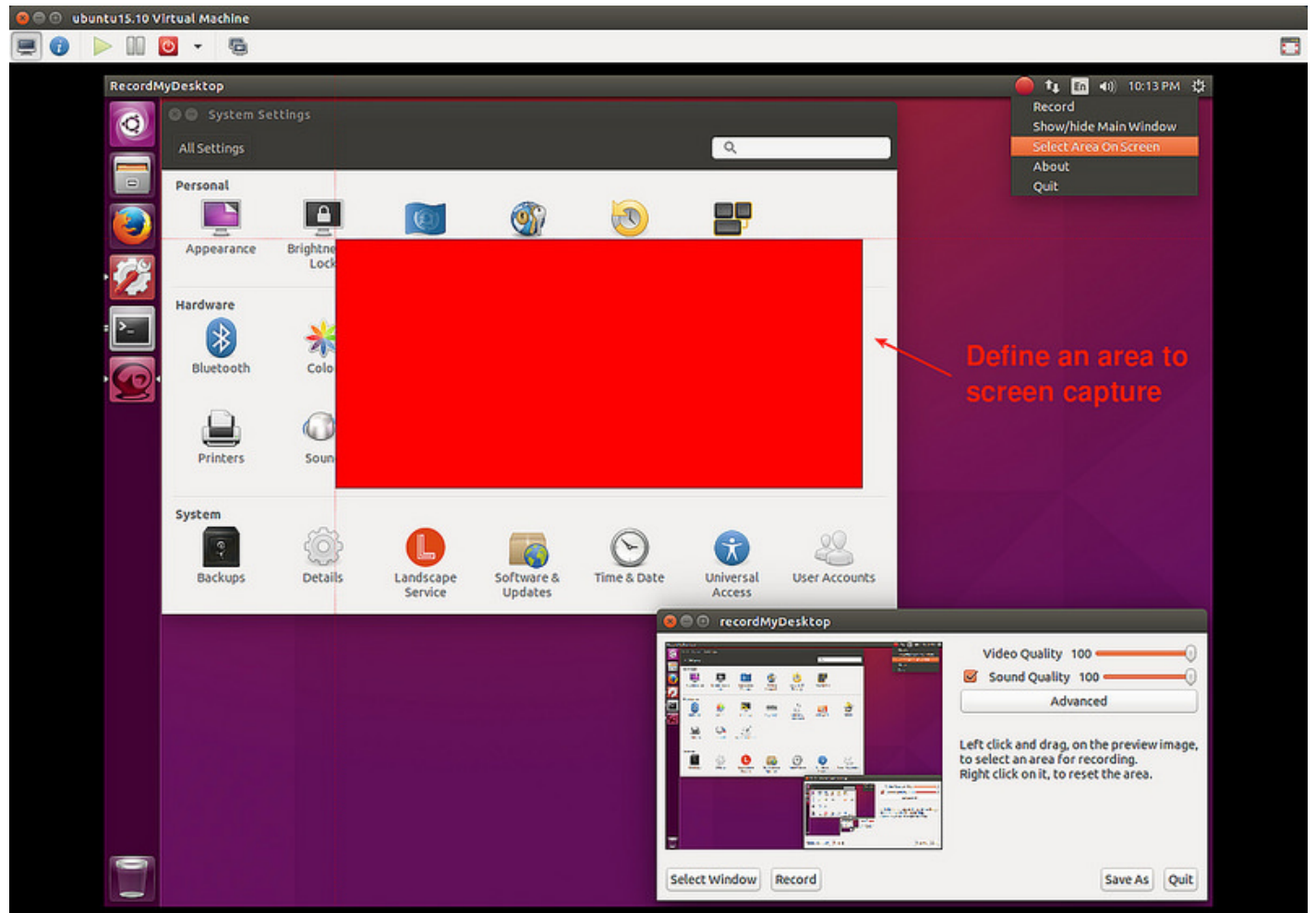


This will change the mouse cursor to a cross. Now left click and drag a mouse to define an area.

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Once you release a mouse, the area will be highlighted and ready for recording. Click on "Record" button to start the recording.

Here is a screencast of gtk-recordMyDesktop. :-)