

Key Takeaways



- Cropping a screenshot on a Mac can help focus on specific details or improve the aesthetic appeal of the image by removing unwanted and distracting elements.
- You can directly take a cropped screenshot on Mac, eliminating the need to edit the captured image later.
- To crop screenshots, you can also use Mac's built-in Screenshot tool, the Preview app, the Photos app, third-party photo editing apps like PhotoScapeX, or online tools like Canva.

Screenshots offer a great way to capture and share information from your Mac screen. However, sometimes, you may need to remove unnecessary elements from the captured images to focus on specific details. In such instances, knowing how to crop a screenshot on your Mac can help.

In this guide, I'll walk you through various methods to crop screenshots on your Mac. Whether you're an experienced macOS user or entirely new to the device, I have something useful for everyone. So, without any further ado, let's get started!

How to crop a screenshot on Mac using keyboard shortcut

Apple offers several ways to [take screenshots on your Mac](#). One of those methods allows you to capture just the desired portion, which eliminates the need for cropping altogether!

Here's how it is done:

1. Press and hold **Command + Shift + 4** keys simultaneously on the keyboard. Once you press these keys, the mouse pointer will turn into a **crosshair (+)**.
2. **Drag the crosshair (+)** to select the area of the screen you wish to capture. *You may press the **Esc (Escape)** key to cancel taking the screenshot.*
3. **Release the mouse or the trackpad** to capture the screenshot. You'll see a thumbnail of the cropped screenshot on the bottom right of your screen. To view it, just click on it.



By default, the screenshot will be saved on the **Desktop** of your Mac.

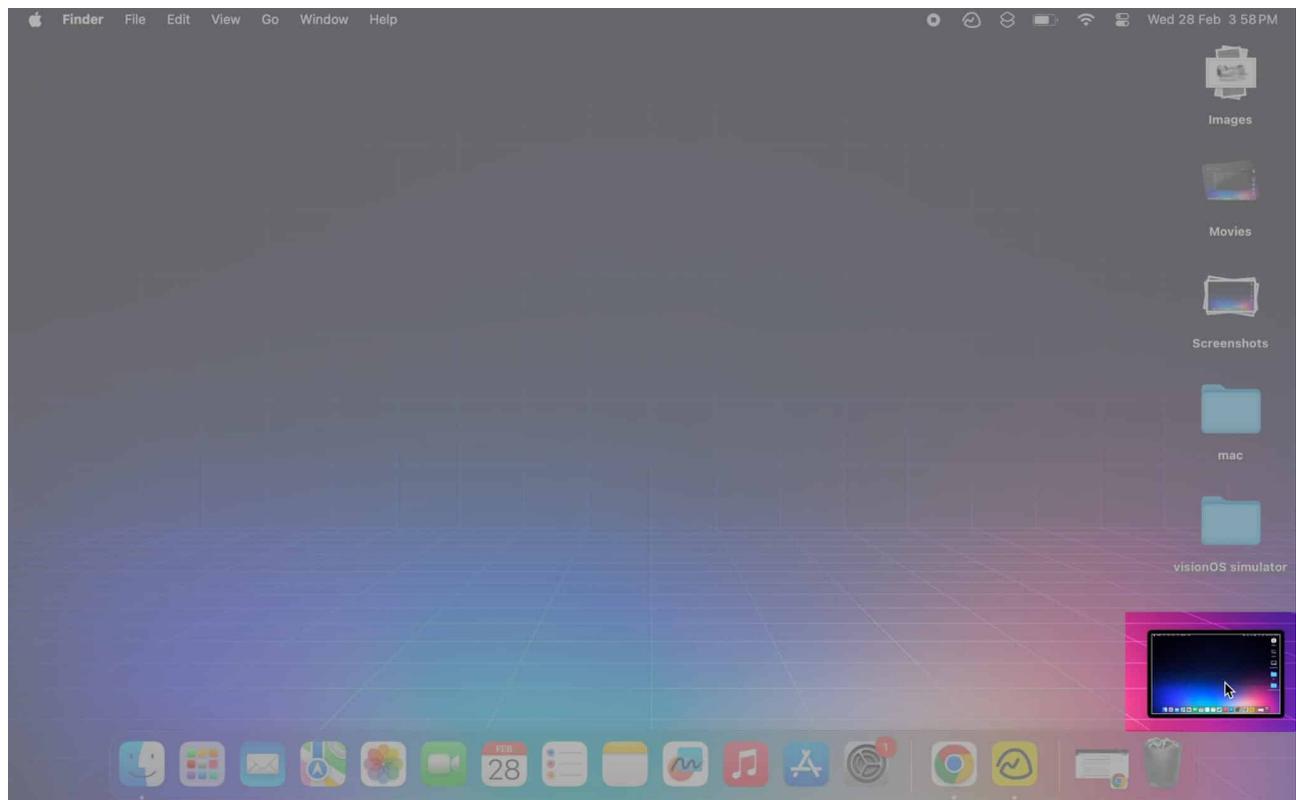
If you're using a MacBook Pro with a Touch Bar, you can also tap the screenshot button on the Touch Bar to take cropped screenshots. However, to add this option, you must [customize the Touch Bar](#).

Crop a screenshot on Mac using the built-in tool

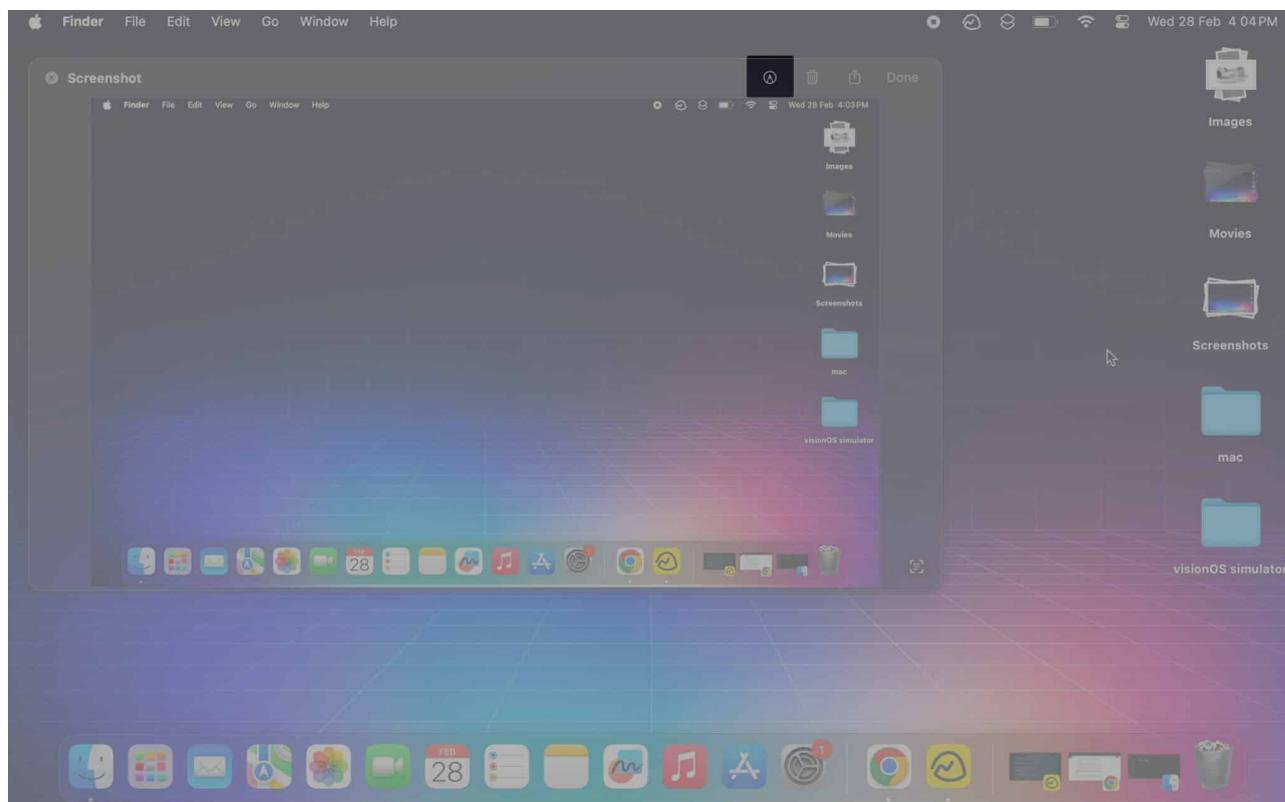
When you take a screenshot using the built-in screenshot tool on Mac, you'll see a floating thumbnail appear in the bottom right of your screen.

You can click this thumbnail to preview the image and access a built-in editor that can be used to annotate or crop the screenshots. Here's the step-by-step process:

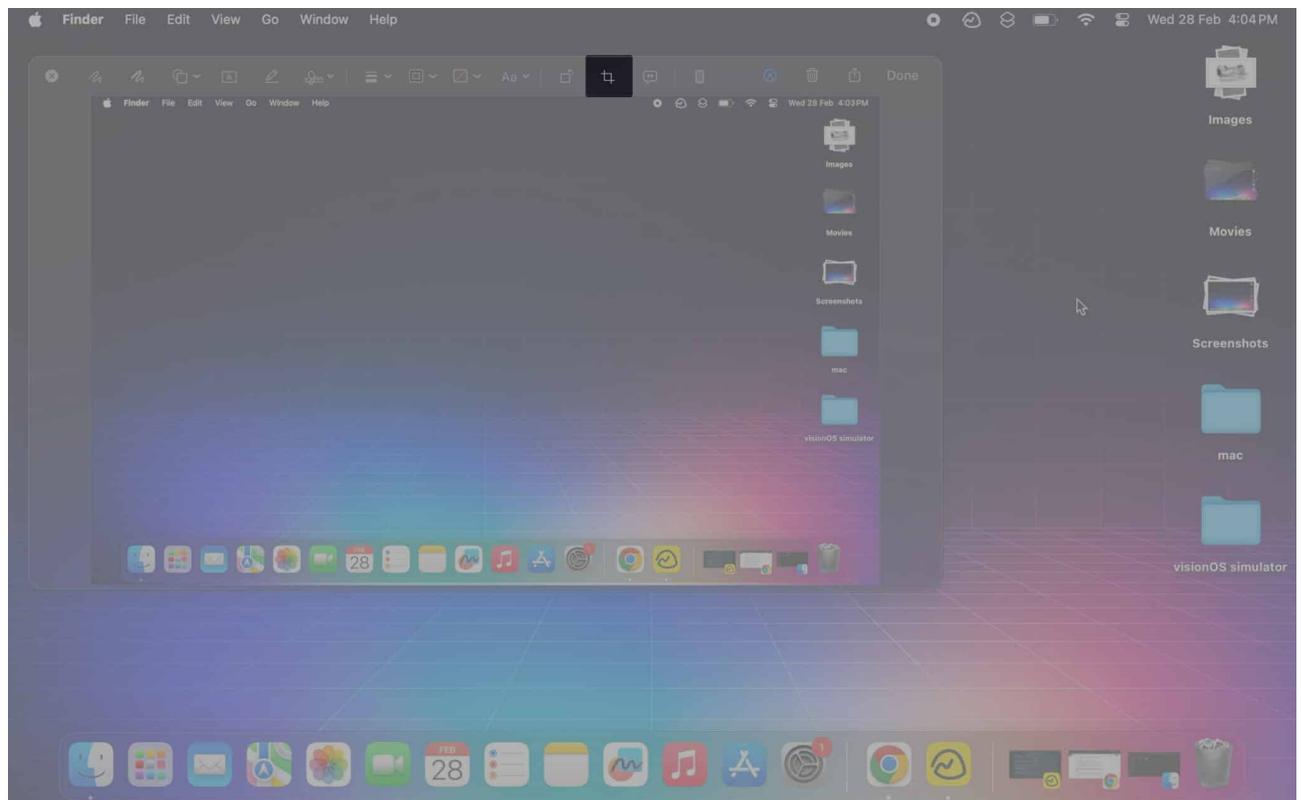
1. **Take a screenshot** on your Mac using your preferred capturing option.
*For demonstration, I am going with the famous **Command + Shift + 3** combination.*
2. Click the **screenshot preview** that appears at the bottom right corner.



3. Click the **Markup button** (circular icon with a pen) in the preview window's top right corner.



4. Click the **Crop button** (sixth option from the right) located at the center of the Preview window's toolbar.



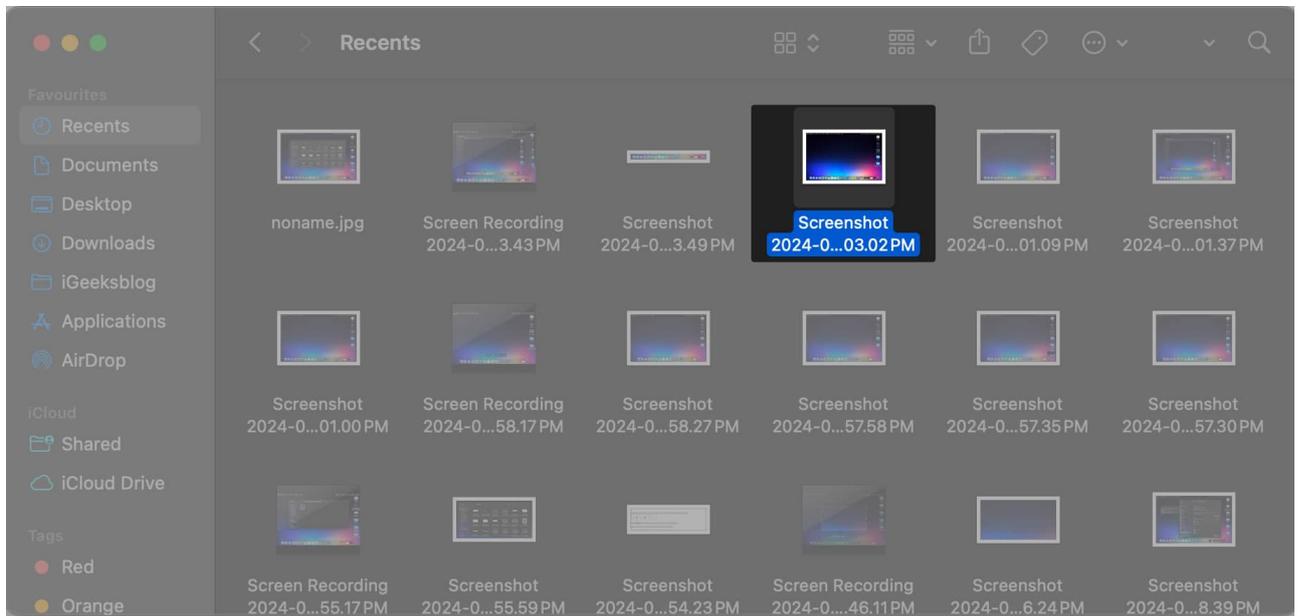
5. Drag the corners inwards or outwards to **select a portion** you wish to save → Then, select **Crop** to save the changes.



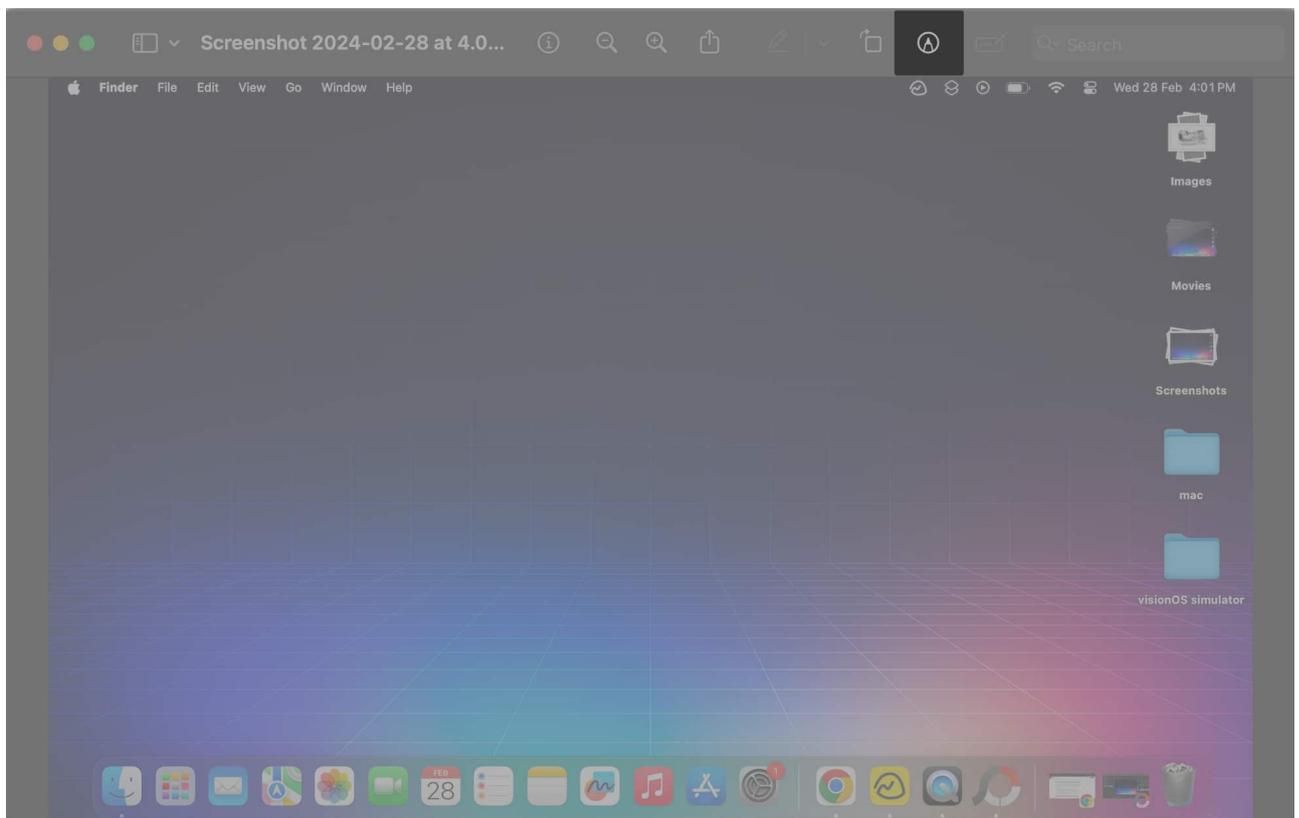
Crop an existing screenshot using the Preview app

Yet another way you can crop screenshots on Mac is through the Preview app. Although the preview app's main function is to let you view images and PDFs in macOS, you can also use the tool to [edit screenshots](#).

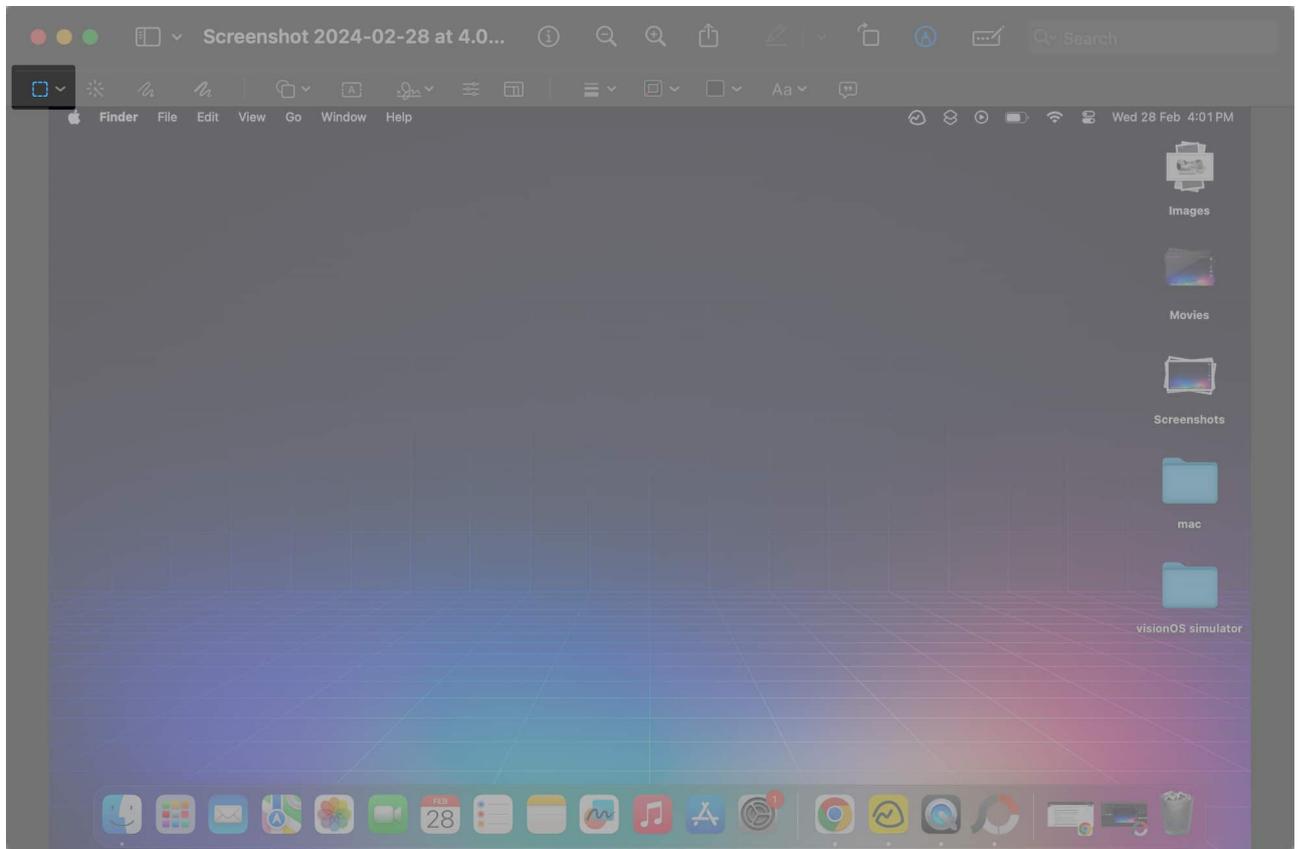
1. Launch **Finder** from the dock on your Mac.
2. Locate the saved **screenshot** → Double-click to **open it**.



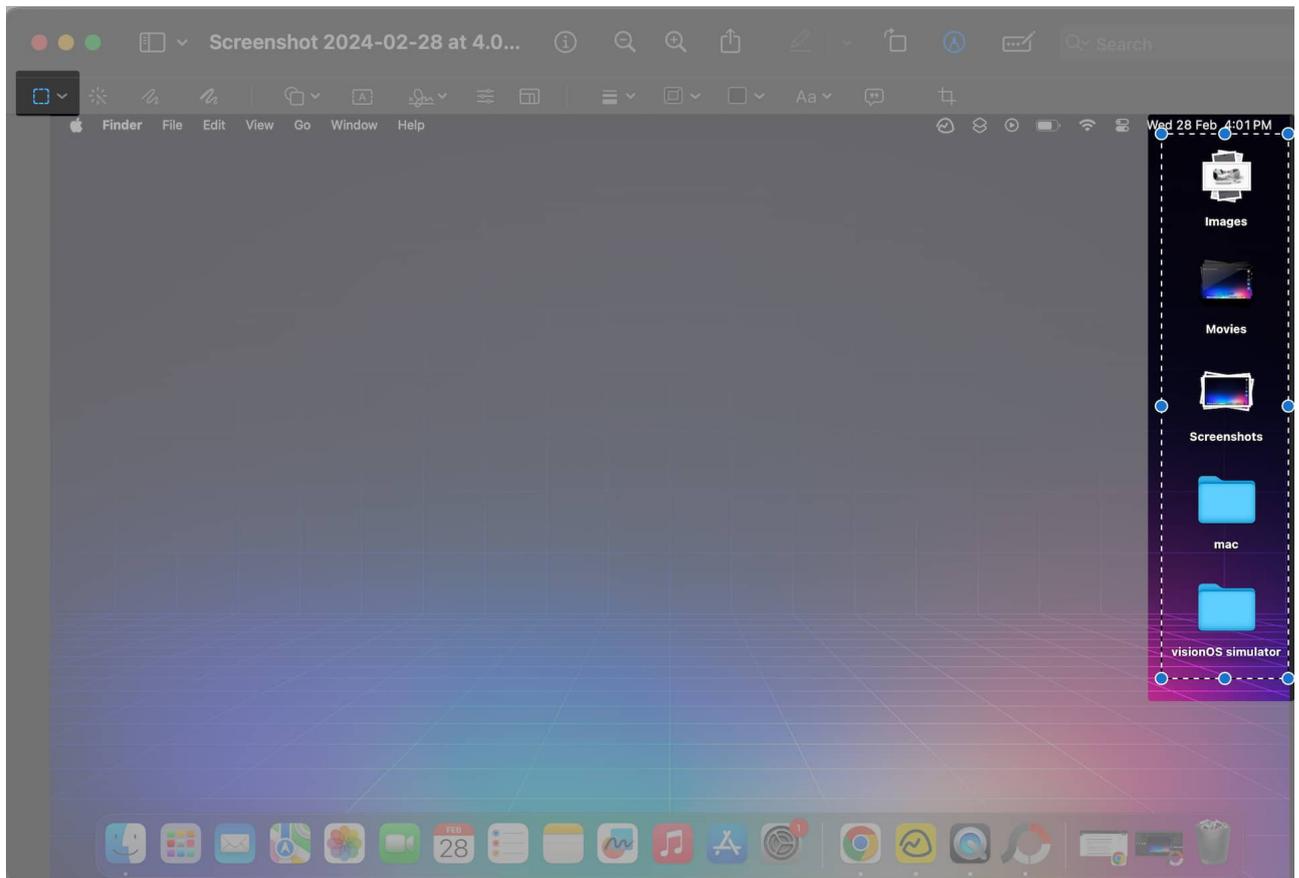
3. Click the **Markup button** (circular icon with a pen) from the toolbar.



4. Now, click the **first button with a dotted square** from the new options that appear.



5. Double-tap and drag to **select a part** of the screenshot → Then, click the **Crop** button.

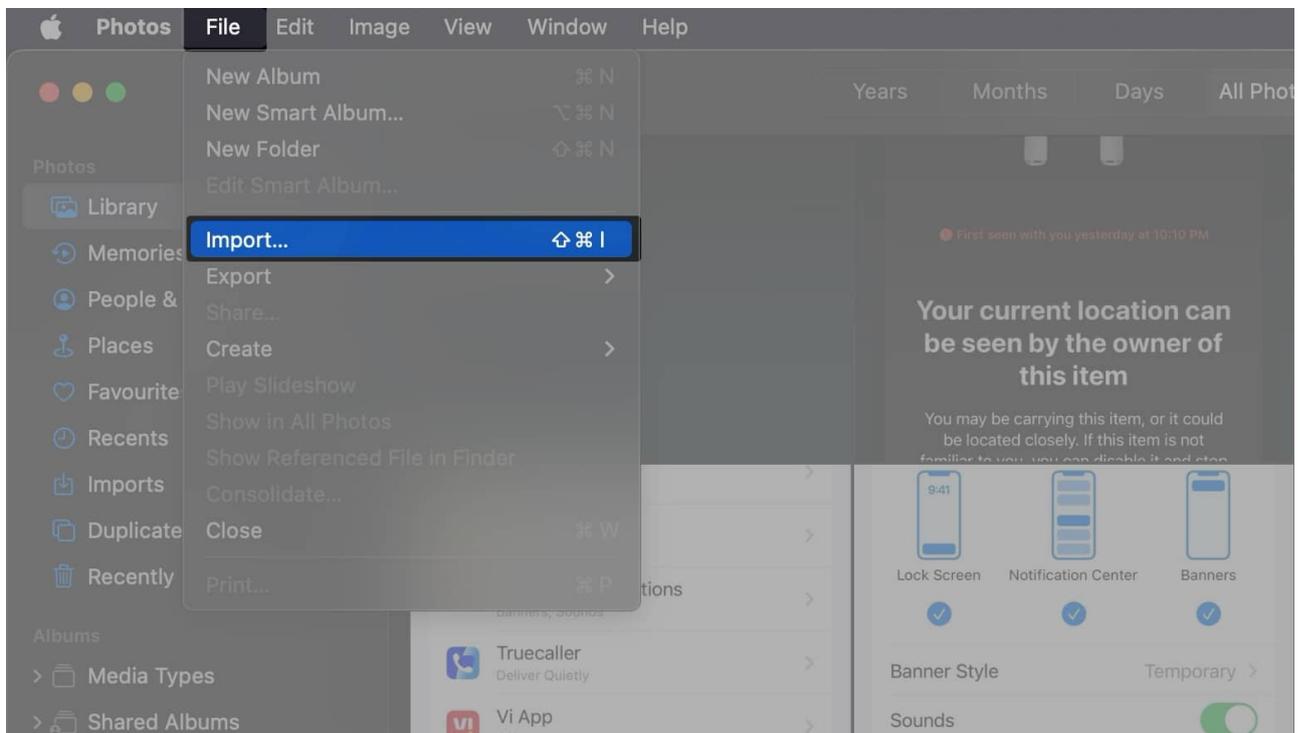


Crop an existing screenshot using the Photos app

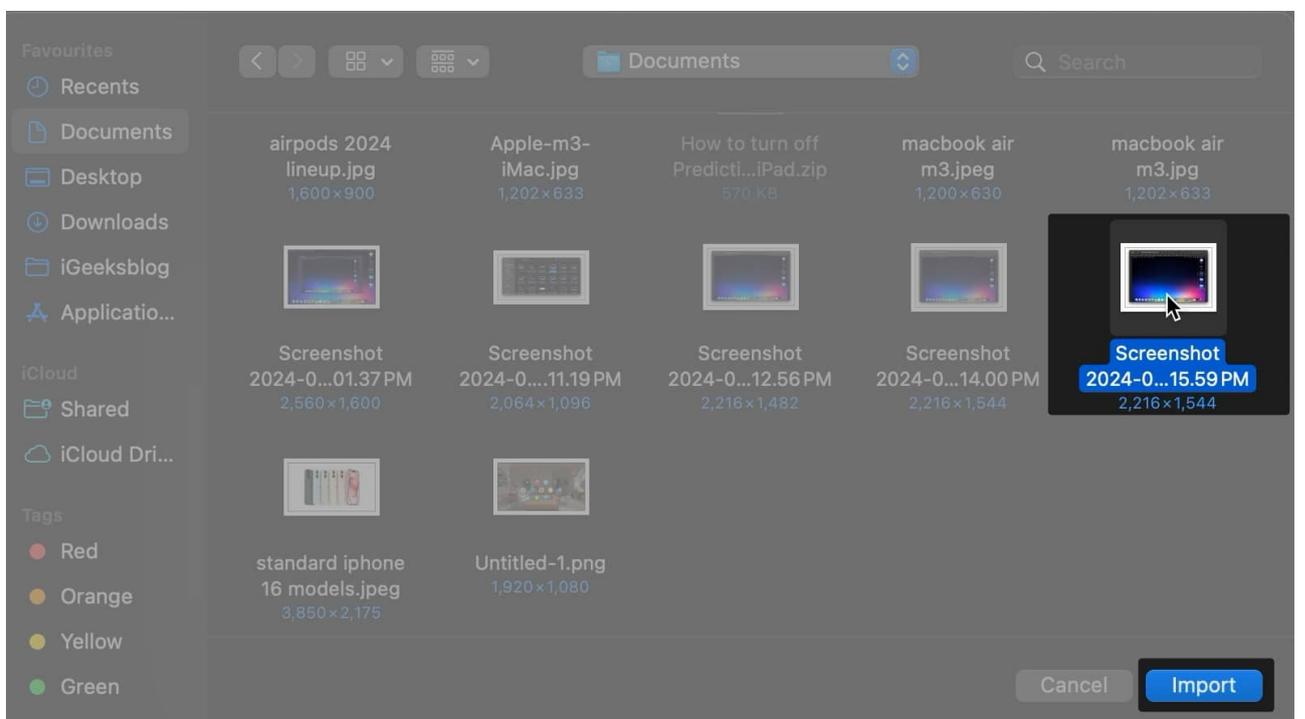
You can quickly crop a screenshot using the editing options available in the Photos app of your Mac.

The downside of this method is that you would need to perform a couple of extra steps to import the screenshot into the Photos app. With that said, here's how you can do this:

1. Locate and open the **Photos app** on your Mac.
2. Click on **File** from the Menu Bar → Select **Import**.



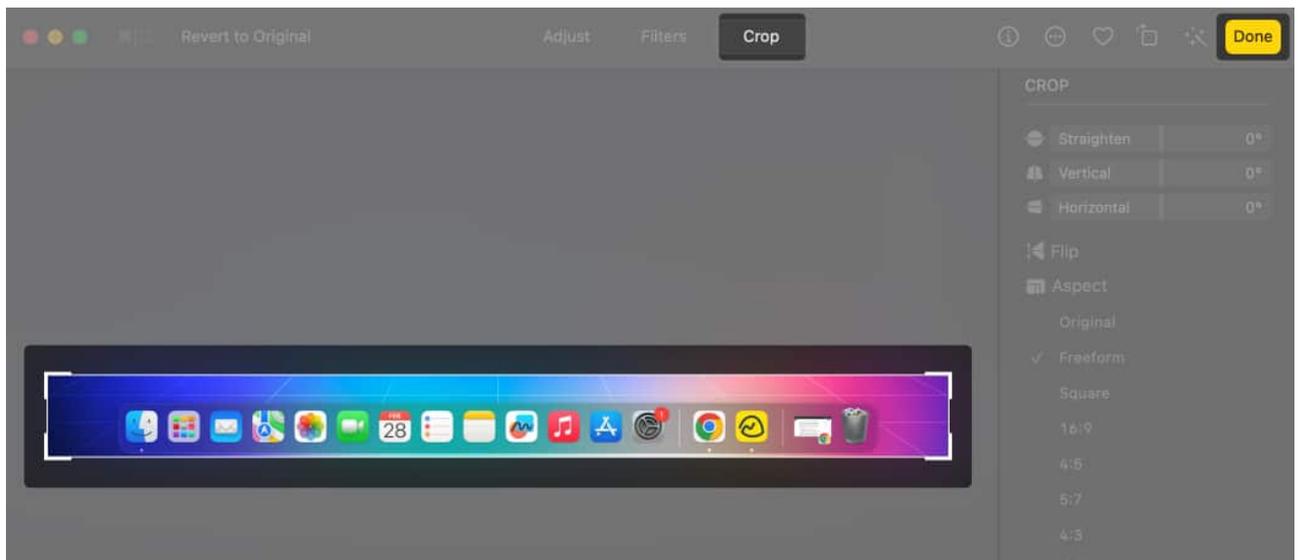
3. Locate and select the saved **screenshot** → Click **Import**.



4. Select **Imports** from the sidebar → Open the **imported screenshot** in the Photos app.
5. Now, in the same window, click the **Edit button** located in the top right corner.



6. Select **Crop** from the top of the window → Use the guides to **select the portion of the image** you wish to crop.
7. Click **Done** to save the changes.



The cropped image will be saved in the Photos app.

Crop screenshots using third-party tools on Mac

Besides the native tools on Mac, you can even use [third-party photo editing apps](#) like [PhotoScapeX](#) to crop screenshots on your Mac.

These apps offer a wide range of features to modify your images. However, if you want to avoid downloading apps on your Mac, you can use online tools like [Canva](#).

Wrapping up...

Whether you're trying to remove distracting portions of a screenshot or simply trying to clean up a screenshot for aesthetic reasons, cropping screenshots on your Mac can be incredibly useful for a variety of purposes.

And, even though editing images can be a somewhat boring process, cropping screenshots on your Mac should be a piece of cake, thanks to the methods outlined in this guide. If you face any difficulty while trying these methods, do drop your concern in the comments below. I'd be happy to help!

Also read:

- [How to find a router IP address on Mac](#)
- [How to use F keys on Mac](#)
- [How to customize Mac keyboard settings](#)