

Screen Pixel Ruler [master]

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2021-12-08

Contents

Overview	5
Features	5
Installation	5
Providing feedback	5
User Interface	7
Rotating the ruler	7
Flipping the ruler	8
Shifting to the cursor	8
Freezing the Cursor	8
Exiting the software	8
Accessing this help	8
Guidelines	9
Adding and Removing Guidelines	9
Clearing Guidelines	9
Locking to Guidelines	9
Importing and Exporting Guidelines	9
Guideline dialog	10
Keyboard Shortcuts	13
Global Shortcuts	13
Local Shortcuts	13

Configuration	15
Options	15
Location	16
Themes	17
Supplied Themes	17
Location	18
Creating a Theme	18

Overview

Screen Pixel Ruler is a on screen ruler that can assist in measuring elements from web pages, documents or software which does not implement a native ruler. Based on .NET Core 3.1 and inspired by MioPlanet PixelRuler, this software is supported on Windows 7 and higher.

This software is free and open source; licensed under the BSD 3-Clause License.

Features

- Global hotkeys to trigger functionality when other software is in focus.
- Rotatable vertical or horizontal ruler. **Ctrl + Shift + Alt + R**
- Customizable ruler themes.
- Freezable position. **Ctrl + Shift + Alt + F**
- Guideline system that can lock the mouse cursor horizontally or vertically
- Position 0 of the ruler to the current cursor location. **Ctrl + Shift + Alt + S**

A list of all shorcuts can be found [here](#).

Installation

Screen Pixel Ruler can be installed from either the Installer or via Chocolatey Package Management by running the command `choco install screenpixelruler`. Both the installer and package will install the .NET Core 3.1 runtime if it is not present.

Providing feedback

You can report bugs or request features by opening an issue on the GitHub repository. Any contributions are also welcome and can be done by creating a

pull request.

User Interface

The user interface consists of a single ruler that can be displayed either horizontally or vertically.

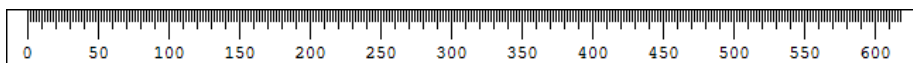


Figure 1: The ruler user interface.

Holding down the primary mouse button on the ruler will allow you to drag the ruler around the screen. Pressing the secondary mouse button on the ruler will display a context menu called the *Ruler Menu*.

If the mouse cursor moves past the right or bottom edge of the ruler, it will automatically extend. The ruler will stay extended if the cursor is frozen or if a Guideline has been set beyond the default size. Guidelines are covered in further detail in the Guidelines section.

The primary mouse button is determined by the *Select your primary button* option in the *Mouse Settings* in Microsoft Windows. Typically it is the left mouse button.

Rotating the ruler

The ruler can be rotated using the **Ctrl + Shift + Alt + R** key combination or by the **Ruler Menu → Rotate** menu item. This is assignable to a mouse button click via the **Rotate** function. It is not possible to have both a vertical and a horizontal ruler displayed at the same time. When rotating the ruler, the axis changes but any Guidelines are kept in the same position.



Figure 2: The horizontal ruler flipped in both directions.

Flipping the ruler

The hatch marks on the ruler can be flipped to be displayed on the opposite side of the ruler. This is done by pressing the **Ctrl + Shift + Alt + E** key combination or by the **Ruler Menu → Flip Direction** menu item. This is assignable to a mouse button click via the **Flip** function.

Shifting to the cursor

The ruler can be shifted to the cursor position using the **Ctrl + Shift + Alt + S** key combination. This will shift the ruler along its current axis and position the 0 on the ruler to the cursor position. Holding down the key will continuously shift the ruler to the cursor position.

Freezing the Cursor

You can freeze the cursor on the ruler so that it does not move with the mouse. This is done by pressing the **Ctrl + Shift + Alt + F** key combination.

Exiting the software

Exit the software by pressing the **Ctrl + Shift + Alt + X** key combination or via the **Ruler Menu → Exit** menu item.

Accessing this help

You can access this help guide by pressing **F1** when the ruler is focused or via the **Ruler Menu → Help** menu item.

Guidelines

Guidelines allow you to mark specific points on the ruler. These points can then be *locked on to* with the mouse and allow you to move the mouse along the locked axis.

Adding and Removing Guidelines

Add and remove Guidelines by using the **Ruler Menu → Guidelines** submenu or via the *Guidelines* dialog. Adding a Guideline will add a new guideline at the current cursor position on the ruler. Removing a Guideline will remove the nearest guideline to the current cursor position.

Both these functions can be assigned to a mouse button.

Clearing Guidelines

All the Guidelines can be cleared by using the **Ruler Menu → Guidelines → Clear All** submenu or via the *Guidelines* dialog. Guidelines are also cleared before Import.

Locking to Guidelines

Importing and Exporting Guidelines

You can import and export Guidelines by using the **Ruler Menu → Guidelines → Import** or the **Ruler Menu → Guidelines → Export** submenus or via the *Guidelines* dialog. Either of these options will display a File dialog so that you can select the file to load or save.

Importing Guidelines will overwrite any existing Guidelines on the ruler.

Guideline File Format

Guidelines can be exported to/imported from a simple text file. The file contains a list of numbers which denote the Guideline pixel position on the ruler. These files have no preferred extension.

20
100
150
620

Guideline dialog

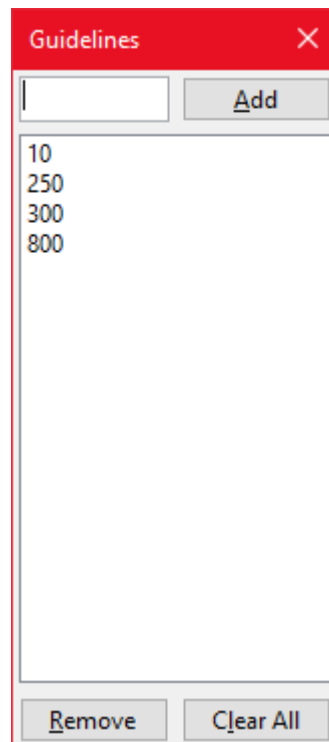


Figure 3: The Guideline dialog.

The Guideline dialog can be accessed via the **Ruler Menu** → **Guidelines** → **Edit Guidelines** submenu. This Dialog accepts manual input of Guideline positions and can remove specific Guidelines from the list or clear all Guidelines.

Keyboard Shortcuts

Global Shortcuts

These shortcuts can be used even when the Screen Pixel Ruler is not focused.

Keystroke	Function
Ctrl + Shift + Alt + R	Change ruler rotation.
Ctrl + Shift + Alt + E	Flip ruler notch direction.
Ctrl + Shift + Alt + F	Freeze the position marker on the ruler.
Ctrl + Shift + Alt + S	Move position 0 of the ruler to the current mouse position.
Ctrl + Shift + Alt + X	Exit Screen Pixel Ruler 2.
Ctrl + Shift + Alt + A	Add Guideline at current position on the ruler.
Ctrl + Shift + Alt + D	Delete nearest Guideline from current position on the ruler.
Ctrl + Shift + Alt + G	Lock mouse position to nearest Guideline.

Local Shortcuts

These shortcuts only work when the Screen Pixel Ruler has focus.

Keystroke	Function
F1	Opens this help guide.

Configuration

You can access the configuration by right clicking the ruler and selecting *Options*. This will then display the *Options window* where you can change the configuration.

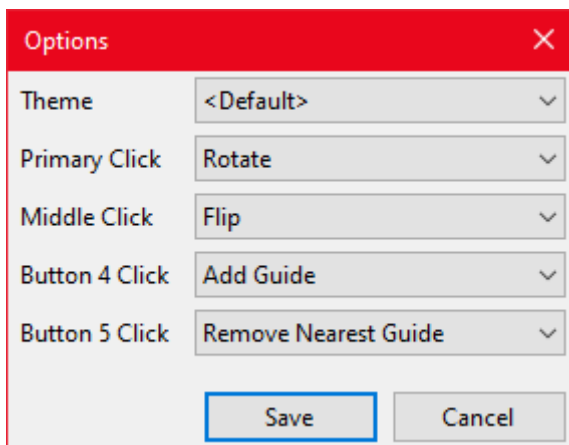


Figure 4: The options window.

Options

Theme

Allows you to change the theme of the ruler.

Mouse button clicks

Allows you to assign mouse button clicking the ruler to specific functionality. Supports the Primary, Middle, Button 4, and Button 5 mouse buttons. The

following functions are assignable: - None *Do nothing for the mouse button.* - Rotate *Rotates the ruler.* - Flip *Flips the ruler.* - Add Guide *Adds a guideline to the ruler.* - Toggle Guide *Toggles the guideline at the current cursor position.* - Remove Nearest Guide *Removes the nearest guideline to the cursor.* - Remove All Guides *Removes all guidelines.* - Lock to Nearest Guide *Locks the mouse to the nearest guideline to the cursor.*

Pressing and holding the primary mouse button will always allow you to move the ruler.

The primary mouse button is determined by the *Select your primary button* option in the *Mouse Settings* in Microsoft Windows.

Location

Configuration is stored in two locations depending on if you installed from the installer or from the chocolatey package.

Installer: %appdata%\screenpixelruler\app.cfg

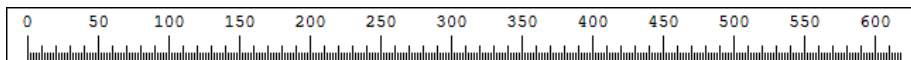
Chocolatey: %chocolateyinstall%\lib\screenpixelruler\tools\app.cfg

Themes

Themes can change the ruler colour, size or even the interval of the hatch marks. Screen Pixel Ruler comes with some supplied themes.

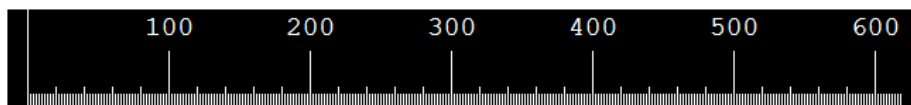
Supplied Themes

Default



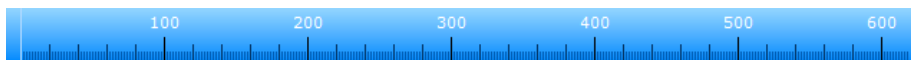
A simple black and white theme with a thin ruler. The built-in default theme.

Panda



A high contrast theme with a thick ruler for easy visibility.

MioPlanet PixelRuler



A blue gradient ruled designed to mimic the look of the MioPlanet PixelRuler software.

White Chocolate

A white on brown coloured theme. Simple pallet swap of the Default theme.

Location

Themes are stored in the two locations, depending on if you installed from the installer or from the chocolatey package.

Installer: %appdata%\screenpixelruler

Chocolatey: %chocolateyinstall%\lib\screenpixelruler\tools

Creating a Theme

You can create your own themes for Screen Pixel Ruler. Themes have a **thm** file extension and are written in yaml.

Objects

Below are objects and explanations of them that can be used in the theme file.

<string> A string of text.

<boolean> Either **true** or **false**.

<decimal> A decimal number like 1.0 or 1.5.

<number> A number like 1 or 15.

<array> An array of objects.

<colour> A colour value. Supported input types are: - '#RRGGBB' Hex/HTML Colour - RRR, GGG, BBB Decimal (0-255) - **ColorName** Name

<colours> An array of either one ([**<colour>**]) or two colour values ([**<colour>**, **<colour>**]). If two colours are provided then the colour will be a gradient.

For a list of colour names see the **KnownColor** Enum reference.

File Format

The rendering order of the elements are **Background** ← **Border** ← **Hatch Marks** ← **Guidelines** ← **Cursor**.

Fields

Name: <string> The name of the theme.
 Cursor: Cursor themeing.
 Line: <colour> The cursor line colour.
 Font: The font used for the cursor.
 Family: <string> The font family.
 Size: <decimal> The font size.
 Bold: <boolean> Whether the font is bold.
 Italic: <boolean> Whether the font is italicised.
 Underline: <boolean> Whether the font is underlined.
 Strikeout: <boolean> Whether the font is striked out.
 Background: <colours> The background colours for the cursor.
 Frozen: The frozen colours for the cursor.
 Line: <colour> The frozen line colour.
 Font: The font used for the frozen cursor.
 Family: <string> The font family.
 Size: <decimal> The font size.
 Bold: <boolean> Whether the font is bold.
 Italic: <boolean> Whether the font is italicised.
 Underline: <boolean> Whether the font is underlined.
 Strikeout: <boolean> Whether the font is striked out.
 Background: <colours> The frozen background colours.
 Locked: The guideline locked colours for the cursor.
 Line: <colour> The locked line colour.
 Font: The font used for the locked cursor.
 Family: <string> The font family.
 Size: <decimal> The font size.
 Bold: <boolean> Whether the font is bold.
 Italic: <boolean> Whether the font is italicised.
 Underline: <boolean> Whether the font is underlined.
 Strikeout: <boolean> Whether the font is striked out.
 Background: <colours> The locked background colours.
 Ruler: Ruler themeing.
 Size: <number> The size of the ruler in pixels.
 Background: <colours> The background colour for the ruler.
 Border:
 Colour: <colour> The border colour.
 Spacing: <number> The spacing between the border and the ruler.
 Marks: The hatch marks.
 Colour: <colour> The colour of the hatch marks.
 Size:
 Horizontal: <number> The size of the hatch marks when horizontal.
 Vertical: <number> The size of the hatch marks when vertical.
 Zero: The zero hatch mark.
 NumberVisible: <boolean> Whether the number zero is displayed.

Size:
 Horizontal: <number> The size of the zero hatch mark when horizontal.
 Vertical: <number> The size of the zero hatch mark when vertical.

Sizes: <array> The sizes of the hatch marks.
 Interval: <number> The interval of the hatch marks.
 Colour: <colour> The colour of the hatch marks.

Size:
 Horizontal: <number> The size of the hatch marks when horizontal.
 Vertical: <number> The size of the hatch marks when vertical.

Numbers: The numbers on the ruler.

Padding:
 Horizontal: <number> The padding on the left and right of the numbers.
 Vertical: <number> The padding on the top and bottom of the numbers.
 Colour: <colour> The colour of the numbers.

Font: The font used for the numbers.
 Family: <string> The font family.
 Size: <decimal> The font size.
 Bold: <boolean> Whether the font is bold.
 Italic: <boolean> Whether the font is italicised.
 Underline: <boolean> Whether the font is underlined.
 Strikeout: <boolean> Whether the font is striked out.

Display:
 Interval: <number> The interval at which numbers should appear.

Guidelines:
 Guideline: The guidelines.
 Colour: <colour> The colour of the guidelines.
 Size:
 Horizontal: <number> The size of the guidelines when horizontal.
 Vertical: <number> The size of the guidelines when vertical.

Locked: The guideline locked onto.
 Colour: <colour> The colour of the guideline that has been locked onto.
 Size:
 Horizontal: <number> The size of the guideline that has been locked onto when horizontal.
 Vertical: <number> The size of the guideline that has been locked onto when vertical.

Nearest: The guideline nearest to the cursor.
 Colour: <colour> The colour of the nearest guideline.
 Size:
 Horizontal: <number> The size of the nearest guideline when horizontal.
 Vertical: <number> The size of the nearest guideline when vertical.

Visual Guide

Zero is the Zero Mark which is explained further below.

Numbers are configured in Ruler → Number section. The Ruler → Number → Display → Interval determines how often the numbers appear. An interval

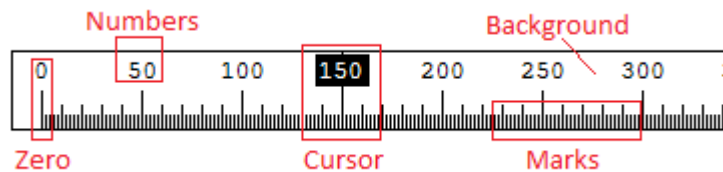


Figure 5: The Ruler user interface with theme elements highlighted.

of 50 means that numbers will appear at the 50th, 100th, 150th, etc hatch marks. The other properties under **Ruler** → **Number** determine the font, colour and size of the numbers.

Cursor is the position of the mouse cursor on screen. Further explanation below.

Background is the background colour of the ruler. This is set at **Ruler** → **Background** and can be a single colour or a gradient when two colours are provided.

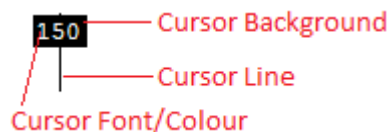


Figure 6: The cursor that appears in the ruler.

The above options are all configured in the **Cursor** section. **Cursor** → **Frozen** is used when the cursor is frozen.



Figure 7: The ruler hatch marks.

Zero Mark hatch mark is provided by the **Ruler** → **Marks** → **Zero** → **Size** property. You can also set the **Ruler** → **Marks** → **Zero** → **NumberVisible** property to **false** to omit the 0 number.

Size interval 10 and Size Interval 50 hatch marks are provided by the **Ruler** → **Marks** → **Sizes** array. Below is an example of a 50 pixel interval hatch mark:

```

...
  Marks:
    Sizes:
      - Interval: 50
      Colour: #000000
      Size:
        Horizontal: 20
        Vertical: 40
...

```

Marks Size hatch marks are provided by the **Ruler → Marks → Size** properties. The colour is provided by the **Ruler → Marks → Colour** property. Every even pixel on the ruler will have a hatch mark provided by this value. Set the size to 0 to omit the default hatch marks.

Default Values

Font

```

Family: Courier New
Size: 9
Bold: false
Italic: false
Underline: false
Strikeout: false

```

Cursor → Locked

Cursor → Frozen

Cursor → Frozen

Cursor

Ruler → Background

White

Ruler → Marks → Zero → NumberVisible

false

Ruler → Marks → Zero → Colour

Ruler → Marks → Colour

Transparent

Ruler → Guidelines → Nearest

Ruler → Guidelines → Guideline

Ruler → Guidelines → Locked

Ruler → Guidelines → Guideline

Ruler → Guideline → Guideline → Size
Ruler → Size

Ruler → Guideline → Guideline → Colour
Ruler → Marks → Colour