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## Knowledge base

# The screen is too small when connecting to a headless Raspberry Pi running VNC Server in Service Mode

**Platform(s):**

Raspbian

**Product(s):**

VNC

**Version(s):**

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## Problem

The screen is very small when connecting to a headless Raspberry Pi running VNC Server in Service Mode.

The Raspberry Pi generally detects its screen resolution from whichever monitor is attached. If you're running your Pi headless with no monitor attached, it defaults to the smallest safe resolution, which is typically the same as a standard definition TV. As VNC Server remotes the desktop at whatever size the Raspberry Pi is using, the screen displayed by VNC Viewer is much smaller than you would expect.

## Resolution

To force your Pi to use a particular display resolution, you can change some settings in `/boot/config.txt` to convince it that a particular type of monitor is attached:

<code>hdmi_force_hotplug=1</code>	Pretend a HDMI display is attached
<code>hdmi_ignore_edid=0xa5000080</code>	May not be strictly necessary, but better safe than sorry.
<code>hdmi_group=2</code>	
<code>hdmi_mode=16</code>	Gives a fairly safe resolution of 1024x768 at 60Hz. See <a href="http://elinux.org/RPiconfig">http://elinux.org/RPiconfig</a> for more options.

You'll need to restart your Pi for the settings to take effect. For the full details on `config.txt` settings, see <http://elinux.org/RPiconfig>.

Note that these new monitor settings will override any information from monitors you subsequently plug in (unless you change `hdmi_force_hotplug` back), so pick a 'headless' resolution that your normal monitor can handle.

