


Change your screen resolution on Windows

Screen resolution refers to the clarity of the text and images displayed on your screen. At higher resolutions, such as 1600 x 1200 pixels, items appear sharper. They also appear smaller so more items can fit on the screen. At lower resolutions, such as 800 x 600 pixels, fewer items fit on the screen, but they appear larger.

The resolution you can use depends on the resolutions your monitor supports. CRT monitors generally display a resolution of 800 × 600 or 1024 × 768 pixels and can work well at different resolutions. LCD monitors, also called flat-panel displays, and laptop screens often support higher resolutions and work best at a specific resolution.

The larger the monitor, usually the higher the resolution it supports. Whether you can increase your screen resolution depends on the size and capability of your monitor and the type of video card you have.

To change your screen resolution

- Open Screen Resolution by clicking the **Start button** , clicking **Control Panel**, and then, under **Appearance and Personalization**, clicking **Adjust screen resolution**.
- Click the drop-down list next to Resolution, move the slider to the resolution you want, and then click **Apply**.
- Click **Keep** to use the new resolution, or click **Revert** to go back to the previous resolution.

Native resolution

LCD monitors, including laptop screens, typically run best at their native resolution. You don't have to set your monitor to run at this resolution, but it's usually recommended in order to ensure you see the sharpest text and images possible. LCD monitors generally come in two shapes: a standard proportion of width to height of 4:3, or a widescreen ratio of 16:9 or 16:10. A widescreen monitor has both a wider shape and resolution than a standard ratio monitor.

If you're unsure of your monitor's native resolution, check the product manual or go to the manufacturer's website. Here are typical resolutions for some popular screen sizes:

- 19-inch screen (standard ratio): 1280 x 1024 pixels
- 20-inch screen (standard ratio): 1600 x 1200 pixels
- 22-inch screen (widescreen): 1680 x 1050 pixels
- 24-inch screen (widescreen): 1900 x 1200 pixels

Note

When you change the screen resolution, it affects all users who log on to the computer.

When you set your monitor to a screen resolution that it can't support, the screen will go black for a few seconds while the monitor reverts back to the original resolution.

Change your screen resolution on Mac

Your display's resolution determines the size of text and objects on your screen. By default, the resolution on your display is set to show the sharpest text and the most detailed images. While it's best to use the default resolution, you can manually set the resolution to make text and objects appear larger on your screen, or adjust it to make text and objects appear smaller so you have more space on your screen.

Depending on how you adjust the resolution, some app windows may not fit entirely on the screen. Using a scaled resolution may affect performance.

Set the resolution for your primary display

1. Choose **Apple menu > System Preferences**, click **Displays**, then click **Display**.
2. Select **Scaled**, then select one of the options.

Set the resolution for a connected display

If you have more than one display, additional resolution options are available.

- After the display is connected, choose **Apple menu > System Preferences**, click **Displays**, then click **Display**.
- Press the **Option key** while you click **Scaled** to see additional resolutions for the second display. Then select a **scaled resolution** option for the second display.