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Desktop dual monitor setup

Even a generous 24-inch monitor can feel cramped when you have multiple windows open on your desktop (and who doesn't?). It's much worse when you're limited to your laptop screen. Fortunately, it's easy enough to add another monitor to your computer's setup and expand. (Note: While the monitors discussed below are 1080p, our article on 1080p vs. 4K monitors can help determine which approach should be taken for your own home setting.) Save on holiday shopping with our selection of the best laptops in season. HP Pavilion 21.5-Inch IPS LED HDMI VGA Monitor Every modern desktop or laptop has graphics capability to run dual screens. All it takes is a second monitor. You can get a very nice second screen for about $100, such as HP's 21.5-inch, 1920x1080 Pavilon IPS monitor for $99 or so on Amazon or Acer's 21.5-inch, 1920x1080 G226HQL for $90 on Amazon. Both features are fairly thin, an important feature if you want to reduce the disconnect between two screens. Acer G226HQL 21.5-inch LED Monitor display Today's monitors typically include some combinations of VGA, DVI, HDMI and DisplayPort ports. In other words, you will have some options to connect your monitor to your computer. While it is common for VGA and DVI cables to come on with the screen, you may need to buy your OWN HDMI or DisplayPort cable separately if you go this way. These can be easily purchased on Amazon. You can also touch the TV to work like a second screen in pinching, although this has some potential flaws. Our guide to using your TV as a computer monitor explains everything you need to know, although the method of telling Windows to manage it is the same as you see below. How to configure dual monitorsStep 1: This part is easy. Simply plug the other monitor into an electrical outlet and an available port on your computer. Step 2: Next you need to tell Windows how to manage two monitors. Right-click the desktop and select the screen resolution (Windows 7 and Windows 8) or Display Settings (Windows 10). Microsoft Windows 8: By selecting a screen extension, your two screens will work as one. In the Task dialog box, you can specify the arrangement of the screens. The Multi-Screen Drag menu lets you control how two screens work together. If you select Expand these screens, Windows will be asked to treat your screens as a single neighborhood screen. Microsoft Display Settings in Windows 10: Click the Recognize tab below the graphic to specify the layout of your monitors. Step 3: Select the monitor order. You can tell Windows which monitor is on the left or right by dragging the screen icons at the top of the dialog box. This misplaced mouse movement will be very confusing. Step 4: Select the primary display. The Make this my main display option which monitor gets the taskbar and and Button. If you do not see this option, the currently selected monitor is already in charge. You can also control many of these settings by right-clicking the desktop and selecting the video dashboard. Note: When you buy something after clicking links in our articles, we can earn a small commission. For more details, please read our affiliate links policy. 1 Know that most laptops can support dual monitors. If you have a laptop that has at least one video output slot (such as an HDMI port or VGA port), you can usually use an external monitor in connection with a video port. While some Windows laptops might not support dual monitors, all Apple MacBooks do so — if you have a Mac laptop, you can skip ahead to another monitor's connection. [1] 2 You understand that not all desktop computers support dual monitors. Depending on your video card and home COMPUTER, you may not be able to run the second monitor at the same time as the first monitor. [2] If you are using an Apple iMac desktop unit, you can use dual monitors. 3 Check the video output port on your computer. Most computers have at least two video output ports, which means you'll usually be able to connect another monitor; however, if the door (or multiple) doors are not identical to each other, they are probably not part of the same video card and cannot therefore be used for double monitors. [3] For example, if you see two horizontal HDMI ports next to (or at the top), your computer's video card probably supports dual monitors. This also applies to different outputs (e.g. VGA output in addition to HDMI output). Windows desktops typically have this port on the back of your PC. If you see only one video output on a desktop computer, your computer's video card supports only one monitor at a time. Laptops that have one video output port can usually support multiple monitors. 4 Specify whether your matinee panel supports double monitors. Virtually all modern computer panels support multiple monitors, but older machines may not. To support the double monitor, you can check your panel by doing the following: Find the name of your motherboard. Search the search engine (e.g. Google) for the name of your motherboard. Select a search result that lists the functions of your motherboard. Look for Multi-Display, Multi-Monitor, or Dual Display. 1 Specify the type of video connection on your computer. At the back of your computer's CPU field (or monitor if you're using an iMac), you'll need to see multiple ports, one of which is currently used for the main monitor. Common connections include the following: DVI — A wide piece of plastic with many small square holes in it. VGA — Trapezoidal piece of colored plastic with multiple holes in it. HDMI – Thin, flat, hexagonal port. These are on most modern computers and TVs. — Similar to HDMI, but has a straight edge on one side instead of symmetrical. Thunderbolt — Found on the backs of most iMac monitors, thunderbolt connection has a lightning bolt icon under it. The adapter for any of the above video connections can be connected to a thunderbolt connector (e.g. VGA to Thunderbolt). [4] 2 Check the connection type of the other monitor. Your other monitor must have at least one of the aforementioned connection types. You don't need to use the same connection you use for the first monitor on the second monitor. For example, you can attach the first monitor with a DisplayPort cable and attach a second monitor with HDMI. In some cases, you may be able to set up another monitor wirelessly. For example, if you want to use an iPad as a second monitor, you can wirelessly connect it to your computers using an app called Air Display. 3 Buy any cables or adapters you do not have. If you don't have the right cable or adapter to attach another monitor to your computer, you can find it online or in a technology store. Especially if you connect another monitor to an iMac, you will need either a Thunderbolt cable or a port-to-Thunderbolt adapter for the rear part of the monitor. 4 Connect the second monitor to the computer. Connect one end of the video cable to the other monitor to the back of your computer and connect the other end to the other monitor. 5 Connect the second monitor to the power source. Connect the monitor's power cord to an electrical outlet, such as a wall outlet or a surge protector. 6 EXPERT TIP Chiara Corsaro Phone & Computer Repair Technician Chiara Corsaro is managing director and Apple Certified Mac & iOS Technician for macVolks, Inc., Apple Authorized Service Provider located in the San Francisco Bay area. MacVolks, Inc. was established in 1990, is accredited by the Office for Better Business (BBB) with an A+ rating and is part of the Apple Consultants Network (ACN). Chiara Corsaro Phone & Computer Repair Technician In most cases, this is all you have to do. Normally, you need to turn on and turn on your other monitor, and the dual screen will automatically appear. However, to adjust your settings, under Screen settings, under Display Settings, you'll just insert System Settings to change how you set. 1 Open Start . Click the Windows logo in the lower-left corner of the screen. 2 Open settings . Click the gear icon on the lower-left side of the start window. 3 Click System. This is an icon in the form of a computer monitor in the Settings window. 4 Click the Display tab. You'll find this on the top left side of the window. [5] 5 Scroll down to the More screens section. It's at the bottom of the page. 6 Click the More screens drop-down box. You'll find this box under the heading More screens. The drop-down menu appears. 7 Select Option. From the drop-down menu, click one of the following options, depending on your preferences:[6] Expand these screens (recommended) – Uses the second monitor as an extension of the first monitor. Duplicate these screens – Displays the contents of the first monitor on the second monitor. Point to 1 only – Displays content only on the first monitor. Point to 2 only - Displays content only on another monitor. 8 Click Apply. It's below the drop-down box. 9 Click Keep settings when prompted. This will use the display settings. If you decide to expand your desktop, you'll see a desktop split between the first monitor and the second monitor. 1 Open the Apple menu. Click the Apple logo in the upper-left corner of the screen. The drop-down menu appears. 2 Click System Settings.... It's near the top of the Apple drop-down menu. 3 Click Screens. You can find this icon in the form of your computer monitor on the upper-left side of the System Settings window. 4 Click the Allocation tab. It's at the top of the page. 5 Clear the Mirror screens check box. To extend your desktop to another monitor, make sure the Mirrors check box has not been checked. To display the same content on both monitors, you can select the Mirror screens check box. 6 Change the default display. If you want to use a different monitor as the main screen, you can click and drag the white rectangle at the top of one of the blue screens to the other screen. [7] Add a new question Question Why does my mouse not move to another monitor? Maybe it's because your monitors are the wrong way around (so your system thinks that the monitor on the right is actually on the left). Try moving your mouse from the wrong side and make sure it appears on another monitor. Question What should I do if I can see the cursor on my monitor but I can't control it? Make sure the mouse is connected properly. Sometimes just turn it off for a few seconds and then plug back into the give reset. Question Can I do this with a laptop? Yes, if there is a DVI or a VGA. You may be able to connect only one monitor for the sake of your video card. Question How should one control the primary and the other control the extension? Windows+P will bring projection settings to your computer. You can then select expand desktop and choose which one you want to be the primary monitor and which secondary monitor, and drag the monitor position to determine which is left and which is right. Question What is the cheapest video card good for gaming using a dual monitor? The best price/capacity of the game card is currently nVidia GTX 1050 / 1050 TI, 1050 TI has better performance, but it costs a small amount extra if you want to pay a lower price, I would recommend something after line GTX 750 ti or GTX 660 Question I can work on separate documents on each and cut and paste between them? yes, it works like it's on the same monitor. Just copy and paste as usual, and this will work. Question My computer does not detect my other monitor even after connecting the VGA splitter. What's the matter? The VGA splitter doesn't add an extra screen -- it simply duplicates existing cables. The best way to do this is to use the river as an analogy: if you have one river that is divided into two, it is still the same water, as opposed to two separate rivers to begin with. Question Can I connect double monitors when I have only one VGA and one HDMI port on my desktop? Yes - you can try a Y cable that will allow you to connect two monitors. For this to work properly, you must have good graphics memory on your computer (for smooth operation). Question My second monitor not detected. I have a double HDMI out slot on my upgraded video card. What can I do? Go to the Notifications tab in the lower-right corner of the screen. Click Project, and then click Expand. Question How should a mouse work on another monitor? You should be able to just drag the mouse to the left or right, depending on which side you place your monitor on, and should only wear it. Show more answers Ask a question Thank you! Thanks! Every day on wikiWhat we try to give you access to instructions and information that will help you live a better life, whether it keeps you safer, healthier or improve your well-being. With the current health and economic crises, when the world is moving dramatically and we are all learning and adapting to change in everyday life, people need wikiWhat more than ever. Your support helps wikiWhat create more in-depth illustrated articles and videos and share our trusted brand of instructive content with millions of people around the world. Please consider the contribution to wikiHow today. Written by: Phone & Computer Repair Technician This article was written by Chiara Corsaro. Chiara Corsaro is managing director and Apple Certified Mac & iOS Technician for macVolks, Inc., Apple Authorized Service Provider, located in the San Francisco Bay Area. MacVolks, Inc. was established in 1990, is accredited by the Office for Better Business (BBB) with an A+ rating and is part of the Apple Consultants Network (ACN). This article has been viewed 3,581,328 times. Co-authors: 27 Updated: December 18, 2019 Views: 3,581,328 Categories: Print Print Mail To Fans Thanks to all authors for creating the page, which has been postponed 3,581,328 times. It solved my problems without drama. The extension part of the monitor helped me the most! It works fine, I did it to mine and it worked. Pictures and clearly readable text. Easy to follow, well illustrated. Now I know where to start. Thanks. Share a story

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