



Windows

Customizing Windows for Low Vision

Simplifying Display

Computer screens can look busy and cluttered, and sometimes they include distracting elements.

Fortunately, Windows Ease of Access settings provide many ways for you to simplify your computer's visual display. Give them a try.

1. Use the keyboard shortcut Windows + U to open the Ease of Access menu.
2. In the Settings list on the left, go to the first category: Vision. At the top, select Display. Then the right side of the screen shows options for your computer's screen display. The following steps explain some of these options.

Tip: Size and brightness controls are covered in another workshop in this series.

3. Show animations in Windows: This toggle button turns on and off animation, like the movement of windows as they open or minimize. If animations are disorienting and cause you to sometimes lose focus, turning them off may really help.
4. Show transparency in Windows: Turning this setting on makes the taskbar transparent. Your desktop wallpaper will show behind the Start menu, the taskbar, and the action center.
5. Automatically hide scroll bars in Windows: When you toggle this on, the scroll bars disappear when they're not in use. You can see the scroll bar again if you move your cursor to the side of the screen.
6. Show notifications for: Use this drop-down box to customize how long you want notifications to show on your screen: 5, 7, 15 or 30 seconds or 1 or 5 minutes.
7. Show desktop background image: If background images distract you and you prefer a dark background without any images, try this setting.

8. Personalize your background and other colors:
This link opens a new window so you can change the background.
9. You can use your own picture or try one of the images provided by Windows.

It's pretty amazing all the ways that Microsoft has developed to help you customize your computer. And they've really made it easy to do. Now that you've tried simplifying your display, why not try another workshop in this series to further improve how you use your computer?

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