

ScreenGenie

User Guide

Version 26.4 • PNQ Software

Introduction

ScreenGenie is a Windows® 11 application designed to make working with one or more external displays more consistent, predictable, and ergonomic. In modern work environments, users frequently switch between workplaces, docking stations, and monitor configurations. Windows preserves such arrangements only to a limited extent, while monitors themselves often ship with factory defaults for brightness, contrast, and positioning that are not ideal for everyday use.

ScreenGenie acts as a connecting layer between Windows, the connected monitors, and their display settings. The application ensures that display configurations and screen layouts are applied consistently and repeatedly, without requiring manual corrections each time.

This user guide describes how to use ScreenGenie from the perspective of the end user. Installation, centralized configuration, and automation policies fall outside the scope of this document.

1. Supported Workspaces

ScreenGenie is designed for workplaces where at least one external display is used in combination with a laptop or desktop. Both simple and more advanced configurations are supported.

Supported scenarios include:

- Laptop or desktop with one external display
- Laptop or desktop with two external displays
- Laptop used in an open or closed state
- Connection via a docking station or via a monitor with integrated docking

When only the laptop display is used, ScreenGenie has no added value and remains passive.

2. Main Screen Overview

After launching ScreenGenie, the user interface is displayed. This screen serves as the central control panel of the application and contains only functions relevant for daily use.

At the top of the screen, the detected external monitors are shown in individual sections. Each section displays identifying information such as the monitor name, serial number, connection type, and current firmware version. This information is provided for reference and verification.

Below each monitor section, sliders for brightness and contrast are available. On the right side of the screen, a visual representation of the current monitor layout is displayed.

When the displays are in duplication mode, ScreenGenie automatically ensures correct alignment based on the selected layout. By default, the layout is applied from left to right: laptop → monitor 1 → monitor 2.

3. Adjusting Brightness and Contrast

Brightness and contrast have a direct impact on visual comfort and ergonomics. Many monitors are configured at the factory with relatively high values that are suitable for presentation or showroom environments but less appropriate for prolonged screen use.

Using the sliders in ScreenGenie, these values can be adjusted with precision. Adjustments are made in increments of 2.5%, with the slider alternating between steps of three and two units. As soon as a slider is moved and released, the new value is immediately applied to the corresponding monitor.

The configured values can be saved as default settings by clicking the [+] button. A dialog appears asking where to save the new defaults.

3.1 Save Settings — Where to Apply

When saving brightness and contrast values, ScreenGenie asks to which scope the new defaults should apply. This allows precise control over which monitors will use these values in the future.

All monitors Apply to every monitor	This model e.g., all DELL C2722DE	This monitor Serial number only	Disregard Cancel, no changes
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The four options work as follows:

Option	Behaviour
All monitors	The brightness and contrast values are saved as the default for all connected monitors, regardless of model or serial number. These values apply whenever ScreenGenie starts and no more specific setting exists.
This model	The values are saved specifically for the monitor model currently being adjusted — for example, all DELL C2722DE units across all workstations. When a monitor of this model is detected, these values are automatically applied.
This monitor	The values are saved specifically for this individual monitor, identified by its unique serial number. Only this exact monitor will receive these values, regardless of where it is connected.
Disregard	No changes are saved. The slider values revert to what was previously stored. Use this option to cancel the save action.

More specific settings always take priority. A per-serial-number setting overrides a per-model setting, which in turn overrides the all-monitors default.

4. Synchronizing Settings

When two external monitors are connected, ScreenGenie offers synchronization options that allow settings to be adjusted simultaneously.

There are two types of synchronization:

- Synchronization between monitors, where a single slider controls both monitors at the same time
- Synchronization between brightness and contrast, where both values are adjusted simultaneously

Synchronization between monitors is enabled by default. Synchronization between brightness and contrast is disabled by default, as this behaviour is only desirable in specific scenarios.

5. Monitor Layout and Presets

In addition to display settings, the positioning of screens is important for creating a consistent work environment. ScreenGenie uses predefined layout presets that correspond to common workplace configurations.

Available presets include:

- Laptop left (LMM)
- Laptop centred below both monitors (MLM)
- Laptop right (MML)
- Free configuration (Free)

A preset determines the logical positioning of screens in relation to the laptop and to each other. In Free configuration, ScreenGenie does not apply any layout changes. In this case, display arrangement is managed through the Windows display settings, which can be opened directly via a button in the ScreenGenie interface.

If the laptop screen remains closed, the behaviour of presets 1, 2, and 3 is identical for the external monitors.

6. Aligning and Reversing Screens

When screens differ in size or resolution, their top or bottom edges may not align properly. ScreenGenie therefore offers the ability to align all screens along the top, centre, or bottom edge to ensure a consistent visual line. By default, monitors are aligned in the centre.

Additionally, the order of external monitors can be reversed. This feature is intended for situations in which the physical arrangement of the monitors does not match the automatically detected logical order. Because monitor mapping may be based on the wrong sequence in such cases, it is recommended to restart ScreenGenie after applying this change to ensure the new order is correctly recognised.

7. Additional Functions

Windows Display Settings

This feature provides direct access to the Windows display settings. It allows users to manually adjust screen arrangements, resolutions, and other display-related settings outside of ScreenGenie. This function is useful for modifying settings that fall outside the scope of ScreenGenie, such as setting the primary display.

Update Display Information

This function reloads the current display configuration. Connected monitors are detected again, and the monitor information shown in the interface is refreshed.

This feature is intended for situations where:

- Monitors have been connected or disconnected while ScreenGenie is active
- The displayed configuration does not match the actual situation
- Windows has applied a change that has not yet been reflected

Refreshing the display information does not modify any saved settings and does not apply layout changes.

Dark Mode

If the configuration does not follow the Windows 11 theme settings, the “Dark Mode” option allows the application to be displayed in a dark theme.

Reset

The reset function restores the entire configuration file to its original initial values. The existing configuration file is overwritten in the process. Before this occurs, the user is clearly informed and must explicitly confirm the reset action.

The reset function does not merely revert brightness or contrast values—it resets the entire configuration to the default settings as they were defined during initial installation. Display arrangements stored in the Windows 11 registry are not affected.

8. Primary Monitor

ScreenGenie indicates which monitor is set as the primary display in Windows. This designation is informational only.

The primary monitor setting is not changed by ScreenGenie and must be adjusted through the Windows settings.

9. Automatic Application of Settings

Saved settings are applied only when ScreenGenie or the ScreenGenie Refresh Engine is started. During startup, the current monitor configuration is detected and, if supported, the corresponding configuration is automatically loaded.

When the ScreenGenie Agent is active, settings are applied fully automatically based on docking or undocking (changes in power delivery) and/or whenever a change in the display configuration occurs.

10. Tips and Background Information

Laptop Open or Closed

Whether the laptop is open or closed does not affect how the display layout should be determined. ScreenGenie always assumes that the internal laptop display is available and can be used, even when the lid is physically closed. This ensures the configuration remains consistent.

When working with both an open and a closed laptop, it is recommended to perform the initial alignment while the laptop is open. At that moment, both the layout with an active laptop display and the layout without one are correctly detected and saved, keeping both scenarios consistently aligned.

Monitor Order and Race Conditions

Windows 11 always expands the desktop from left to right. When detecting multiple displays, the system places the laptop screen fully on the left, followed by the first detected external monitor and then the second. ScreenGenie follows this alignment automatically, which often leads to the assumption that the monitor connected via USB-C or Thunderbolt is the left-most monitor. However, due to a so-called “race condition,” it is possible for the other monitor to register itself slightly earlier and therefore appear as the left-most screen.

To prevent this, ScreenGenie can be configured to force a monitor to always appear on the left or right, based on its connection or model name. If necessary, your IT department can assist with this configuration.

Adjusting Brightness and Contrast

Adjusting a monitor to the proper brightness and contrast works best by starting with a slightly dim image and gradually increasing brightness. This allows you to clearly see when details in light and dark areas are displayed correctly. Brightness varies significantly depending on ambient light and should therefore be adjusted to the lighting conditions in the room.

Contrast typically remains within a narrower range—often around 70–80%—because this setting is less dependent on the environment. The monitor’s brightness should blend naturally with its surroundings and should not appear distractingly bright.

Appendix I: Example Configurations

One external monitor, laptop on the left

Laptop connected on the left via USB-C or Thunderbolt (TBT) cable to the monitor or docking station.

- Select “Laptop left.”
- If alignment should not be centred but positioned at the top or bottom, choose the desired alignment option afterwards.

Two external monitors, laptop centred below

Laptop connected via USB-C or Thunderbolt (TBT) cable to the monitor or docking station.

- Select “Laptop centre.”
- The external displays will be aligned along the bottom edge, as a smooth visual transition between the laptop display and the external monitors would otherwise not be possible.

Two external monitors, laptop on the right

Laptop connected via USB-C or Thunderbolt (TBT) cable to the monitor or docking station.

- Select “Laptop right,” enable “Reverse monitors,” and—if vertical resolutions differ—also enable “Align top/centre/bottom.”

11. Support

For assistance with the use of ScreenGenie, contact your internal IT department or the designated support organisation.

For additional support, you can also contact PNQ Software:

Contact	Details
Support Portal	https://pnqsoftware.com/support/
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