

Multiple Displays - Settings and Layout in Windows 10

How to Change Settings and Layout for Multiple Displays in Windows 10

Terry 28/02/2022

Quite a many of us have multiple displays connected to our computers,

Most of today's laptops and desktops allow users to connect at least one external display, computers with advanced graphics hardware even more.

This presentation will show you how to setup your dual display system, the instructions are valid also if you have multiple external displays.

To Access the **Display Settings** right click your mouse on desktop, then select Display Settings)

You can also use the following KeyBoard shortcut keys **Windows key + I** , and this will open the Settings Screen.

I have listed some of the most useful Windows Keyboard shortcuts on a later slide.

Part One: Duplicate displays

1.) When Windows is installed with two or more displays connected, the desktop will be by default shown duplicated when Windows has finished installing the video drivers.

This means that the same desktop is shown on all connected displays; when you move your pointer, open applications and Explorer windows, you will see the exactly same on each display.

2.) When you check the **Display Settings**, you will notice that the system shows only one display icon, in my case now it shows that both the laptop built-in display #1 and the external display #2 are being duplicated:

Settings

SYSTEM

Find a setting

Display

Notifications & actions

Apps & features

Multi-tasking

Tablet mode

Battery saver

Power & sleep

Storage

Offline maps

Default apps

About

Customise your display



[Identify](#) [Detect](#)

Change the size of text, apps and other items: 100% (Recommended)

Orientation

Landscape

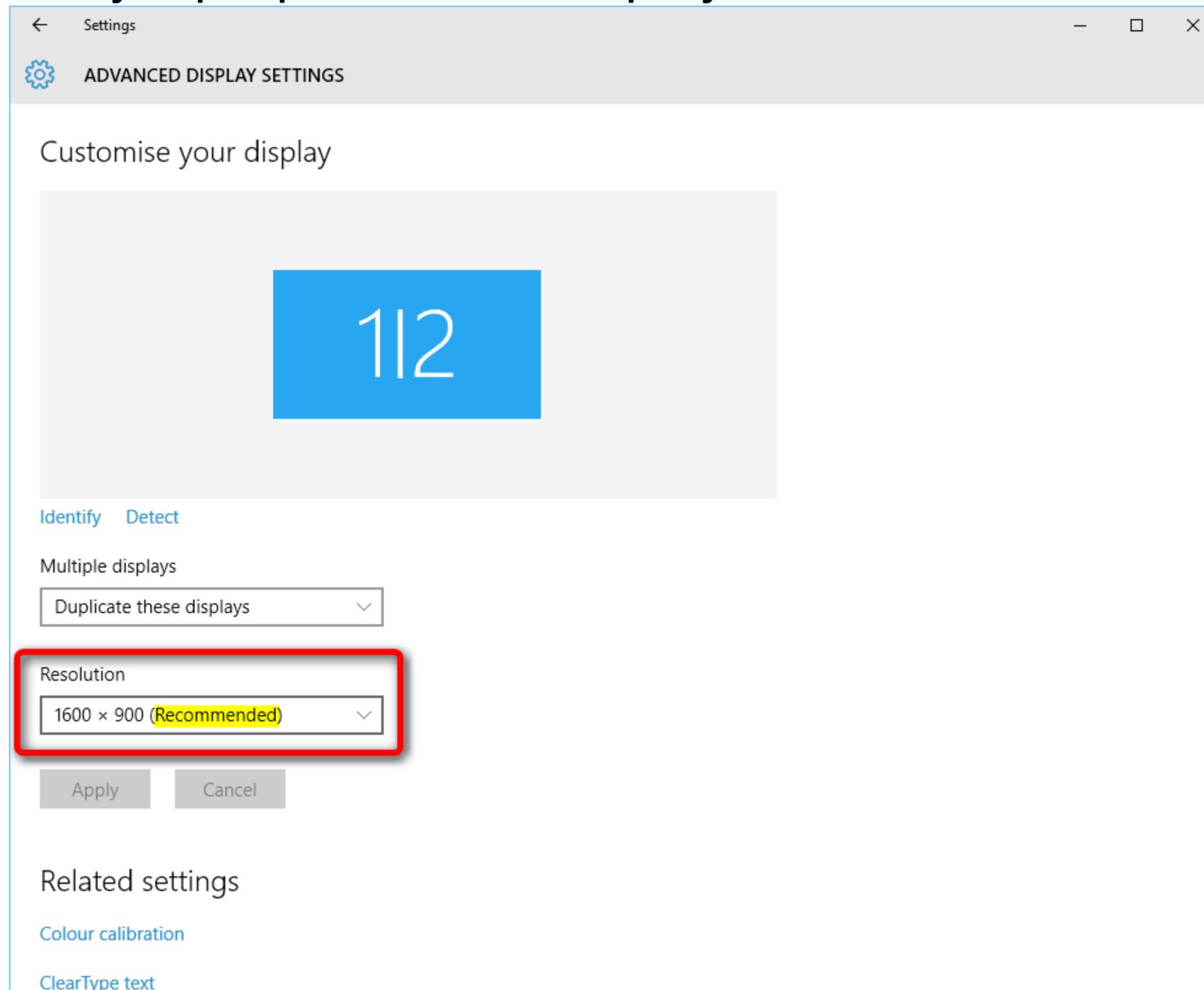
Brightness level

Multiple displays

Duplicate these displays

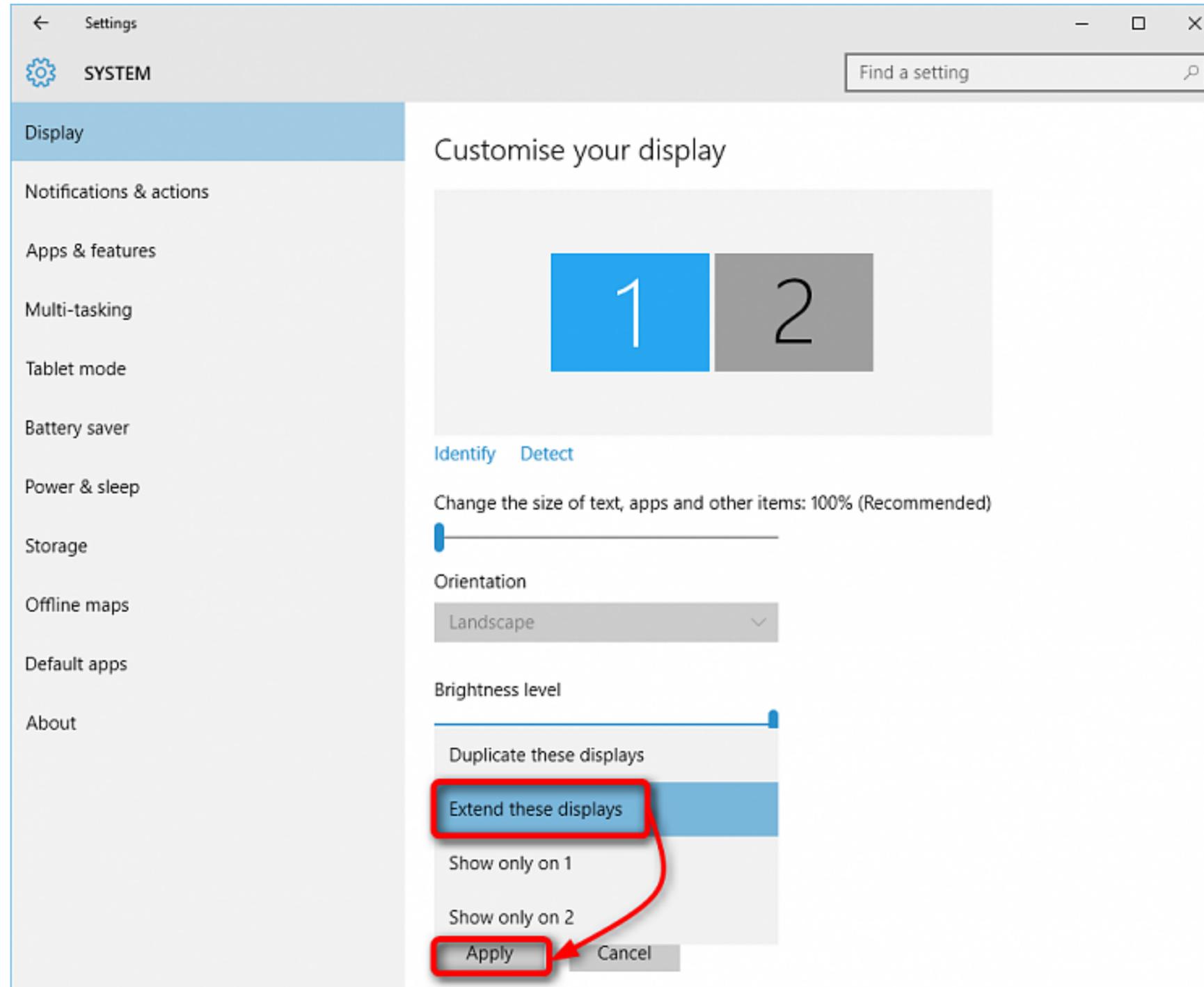
Apply Cancel

3.) When the displays are duplicated, Windows automatically selects the resolution used according to the max resolution of the smaller display; *in **Duplicate** mode the resolution on all displays must and will be the same!* In screenshot you can see that although my external display is capable of bigger resolution, Windows has selected and recommends 1600*900, the max resolution of my laptop's built-in display:



Part Two: Extended displays

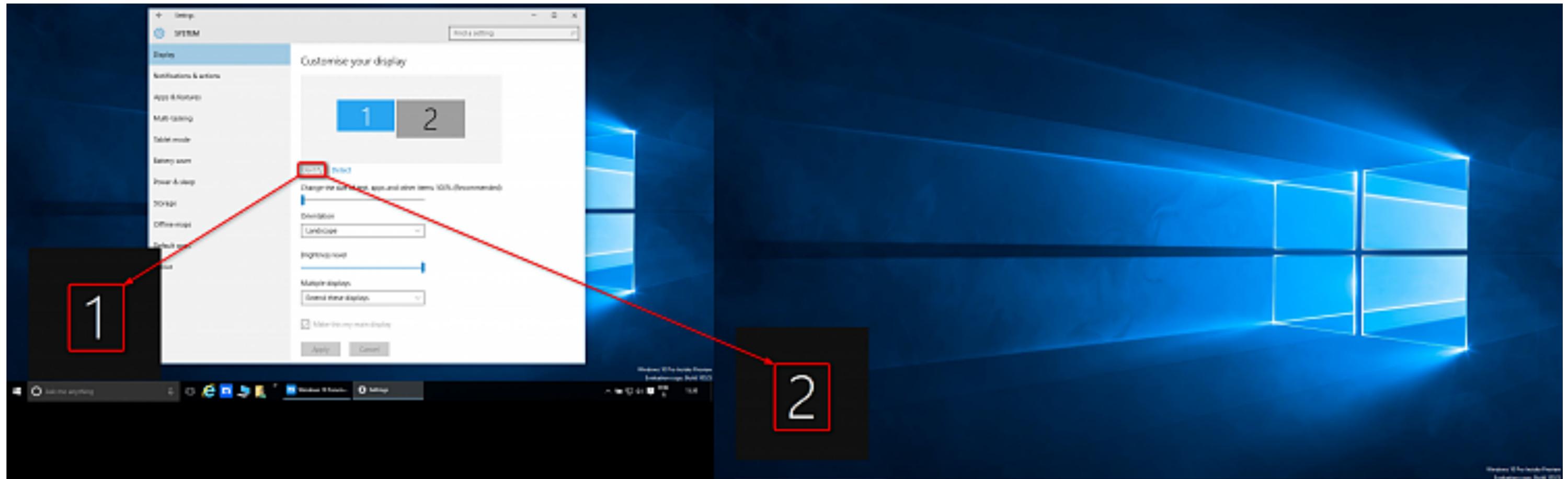
1.) If you want to show different content on each display, select **Extend these displays** and click **Apply**:



2.) The **Display Settings** is now showing a thumbnail for each connected display.

3.) When you are not sure which of your physical displays is shown as Display #1, which as #2, click **Identify**.

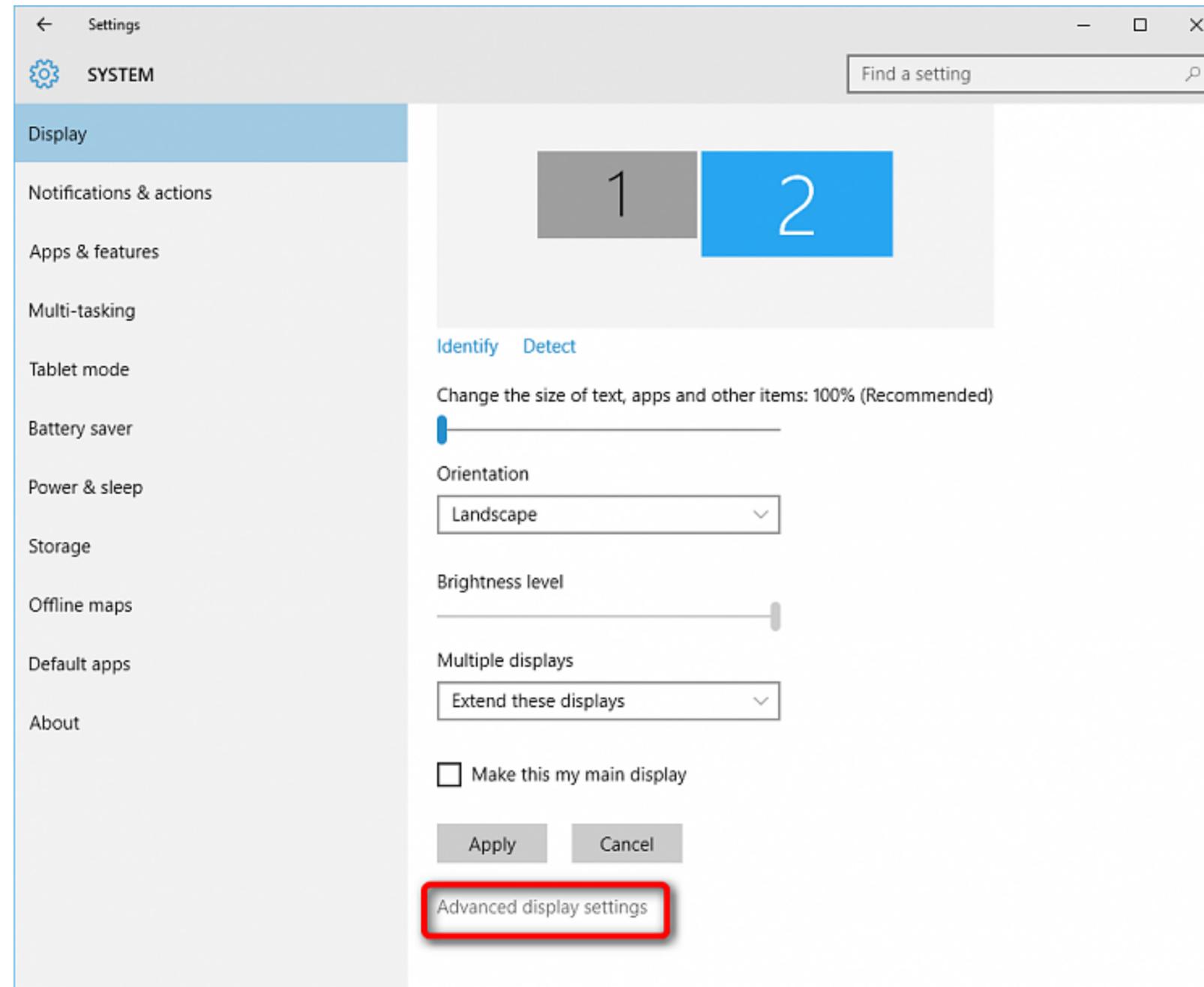
Windows will now show the **display ID** on bottom left on each display:



Part Three: Change the resolution

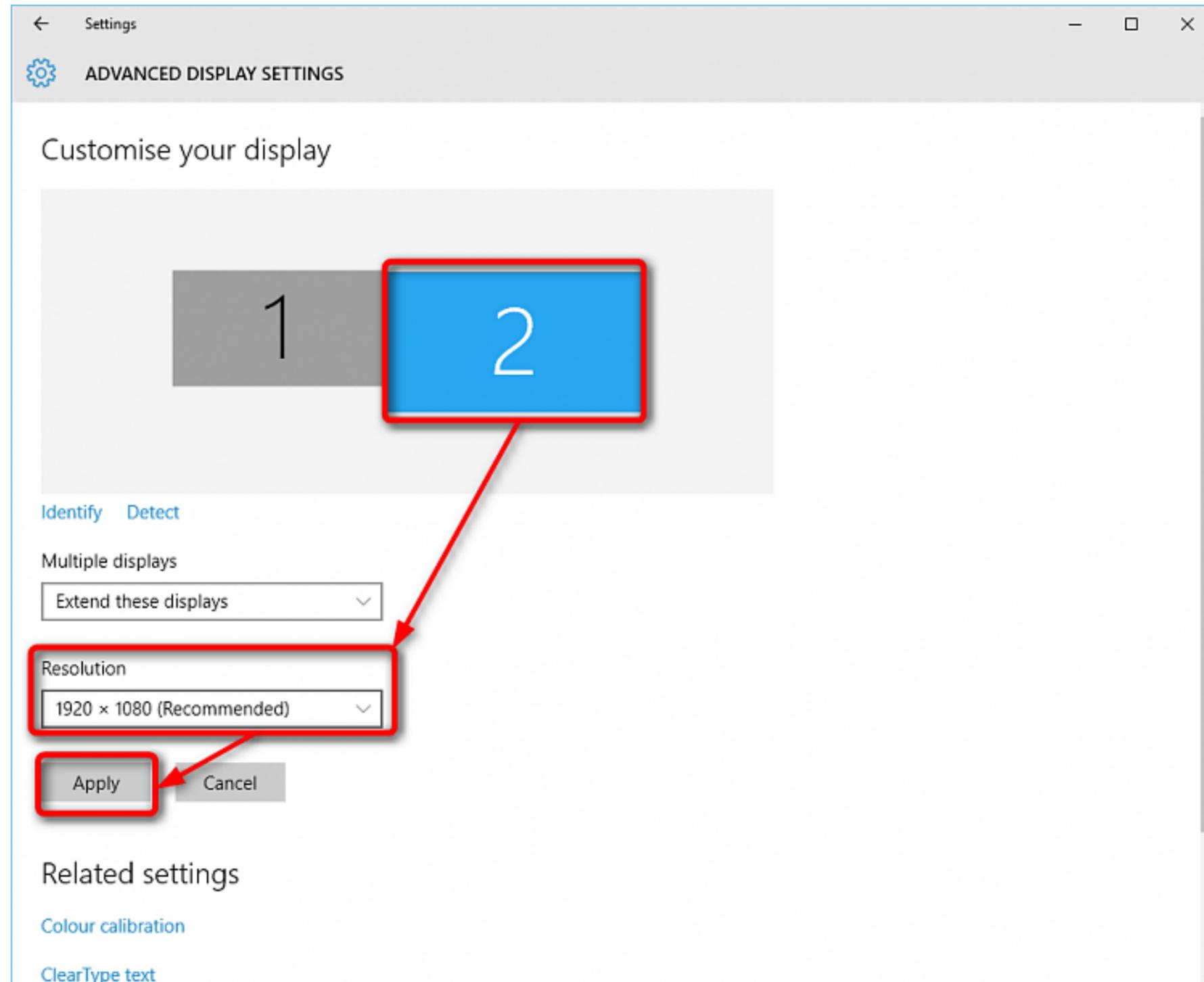
1.) In **Extended** mode you can set and change the **resolution** independently for each display, in **Duplicate** mode changing the resolution changes it on all displays.

Select a display then **Advanced display settings** link on bottom of the **Display Settings** page:



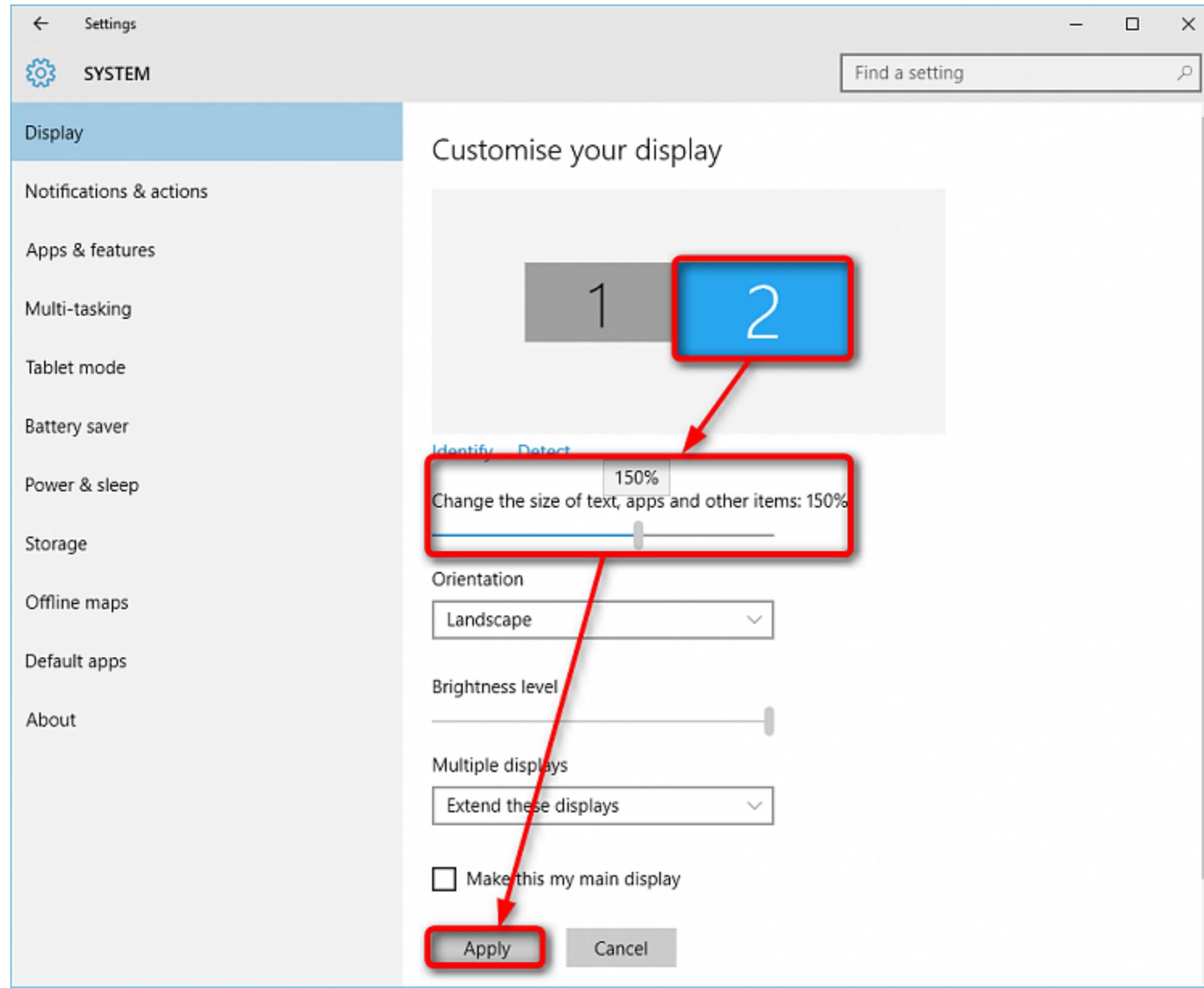
2.) Windows shows the best resolution for your hardware as **Recommended**.

This is usually the max resolution for your current display allowed by your video hardware, but in some cases it might be a smaller resolution.

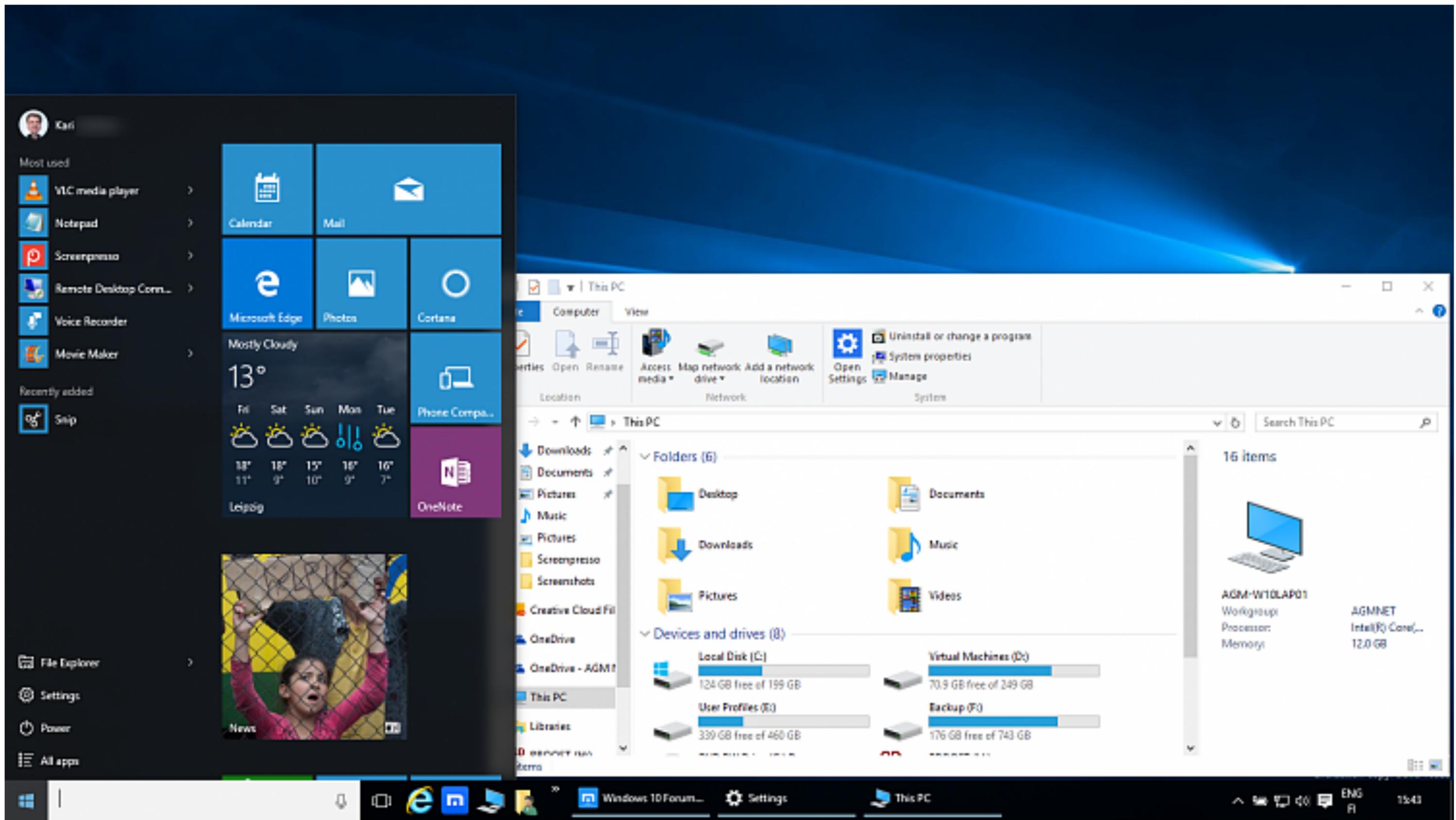


Part Four: Change the size of items on screen

1.) Change **item size** on a display by first selecting a display, then using the Item size slider:



2.) An example, here's a 1600*900 display with default 100% item size:



The same display with 150% item size:

The image shows a Windows 10 desktop environment with a 150% zoom level. The Start menu is open, displaying a grid of application tiles. The tiles are significantly larger than in the standard view. The tiles include:

- Calendar
- Mail
- Microsoft Edge
- Photos
- Cortana
- Weather (Leipzig): 18°
- Phone Companion
- OneNote

The File Explorer window is open to 'This PC', showing a search bar and a list of 16 items. The items are also larger. The system tray at the bottom shows the taskbar with icons for the Start menu, search bar, and several open applications.

File Explorer details:

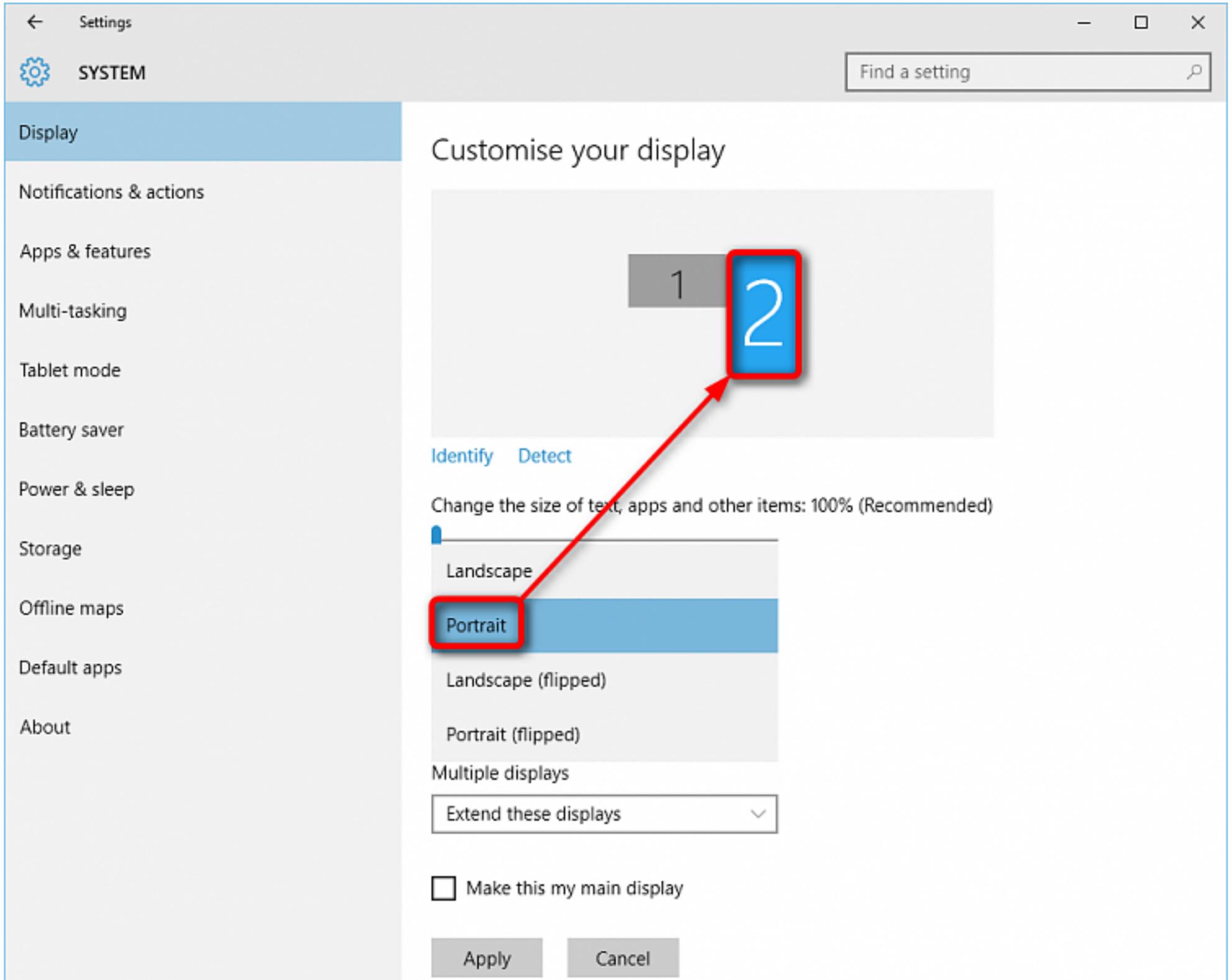
- Search: Search This PC
- 16 items
- AGM-W10LAP01
- Workgroup: AGMNET
- Processor: Intel(R) Core(TM) i5...
- Memory: 12.0 GB

Taskbar:

- Windows logo
- Search bar: Ask me anything
- Taskbar icons: Edge, Mail, File Explorer, Settings, This PC
- System tray: Network, Volume, Notification Area Icon, Language (ENG FI), Time (16:20)

Part Five: Change the display orientation

1.) Change the **orientation** of a display by selecting a display, then selecting either **Landscape** (default) or **Portrait**:



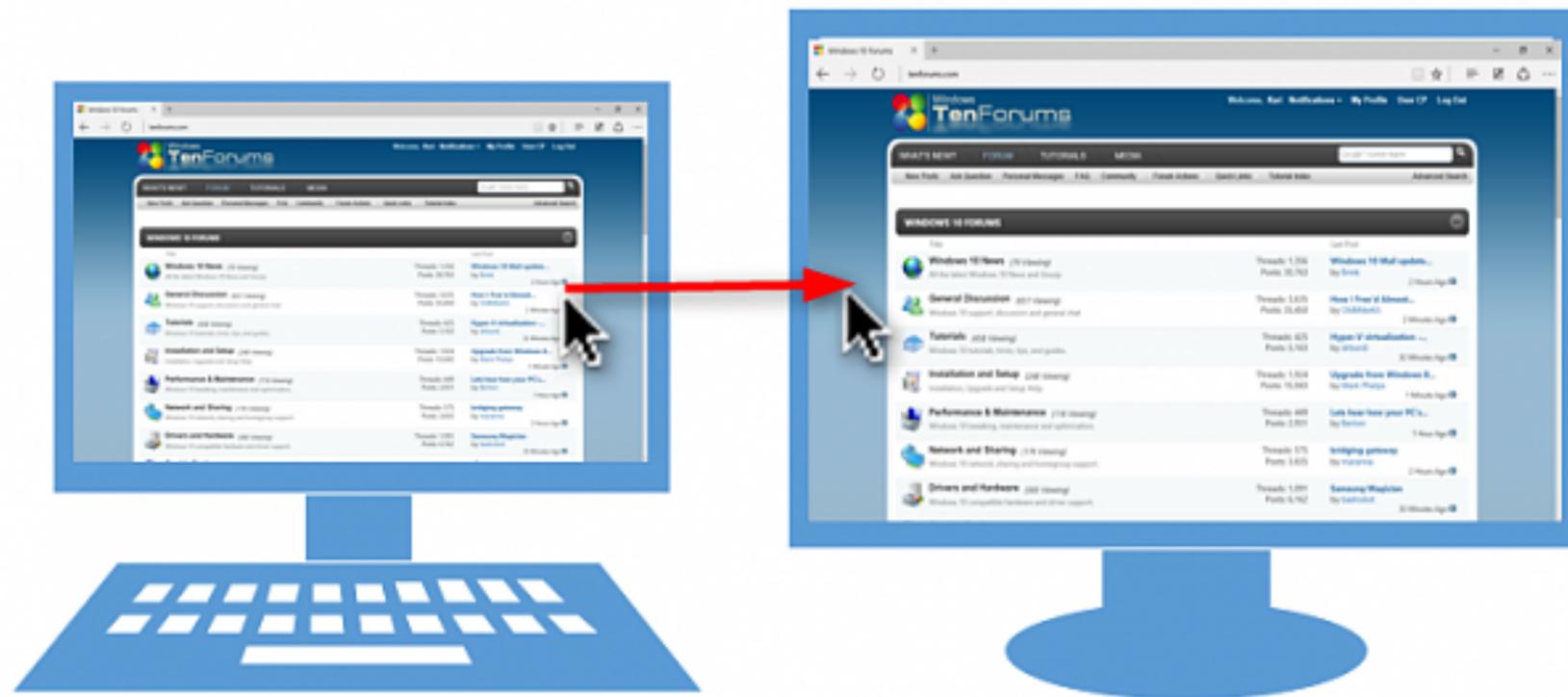
Part Six: Display layout

1.) By default **Display Settings** shows your primary display on left and your secondary display on right.

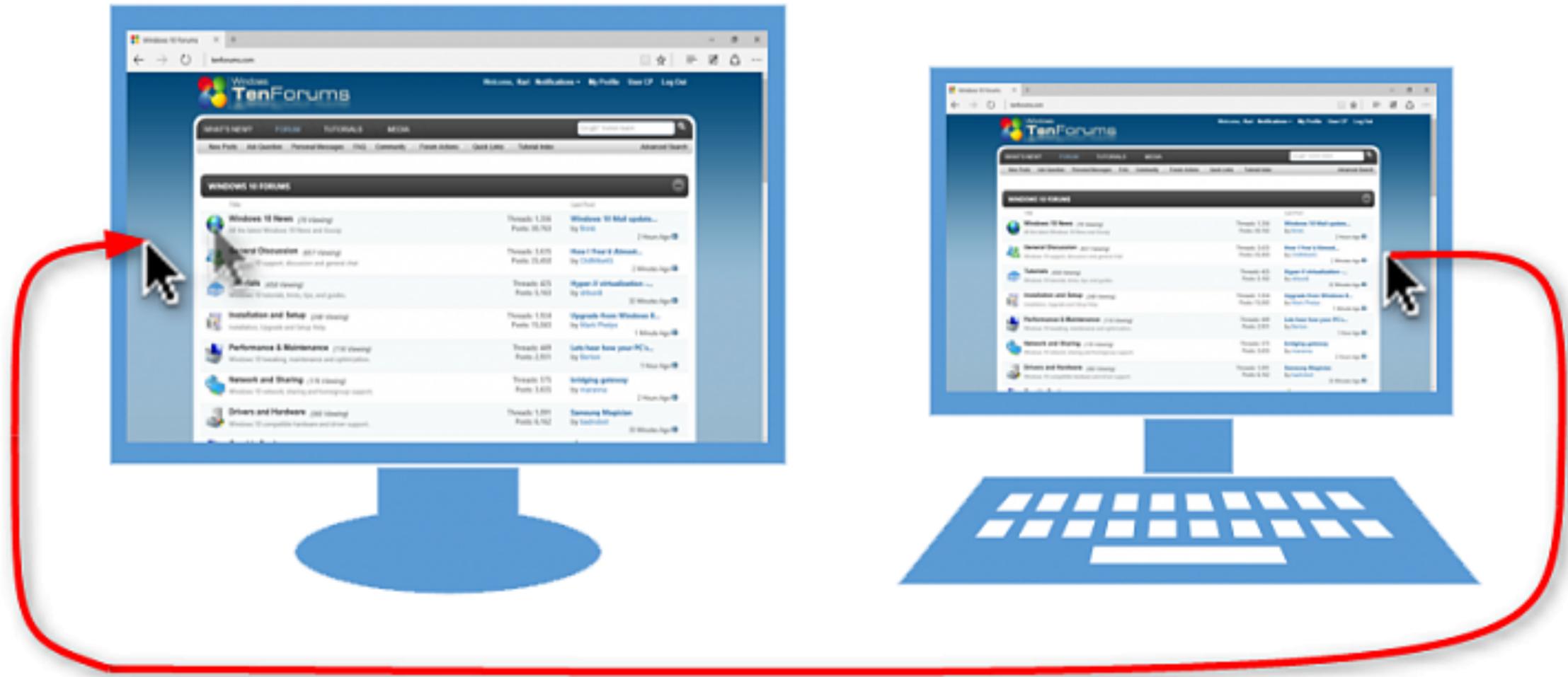
If your displays are set the same way on your desk, everything is OK.

Moving the pointer or dragging an item now over the right edge of the main display, it will enter from the left edge on the secondary display.

Red arrow in below image shows how the pointer moves from display #1 to display #2:

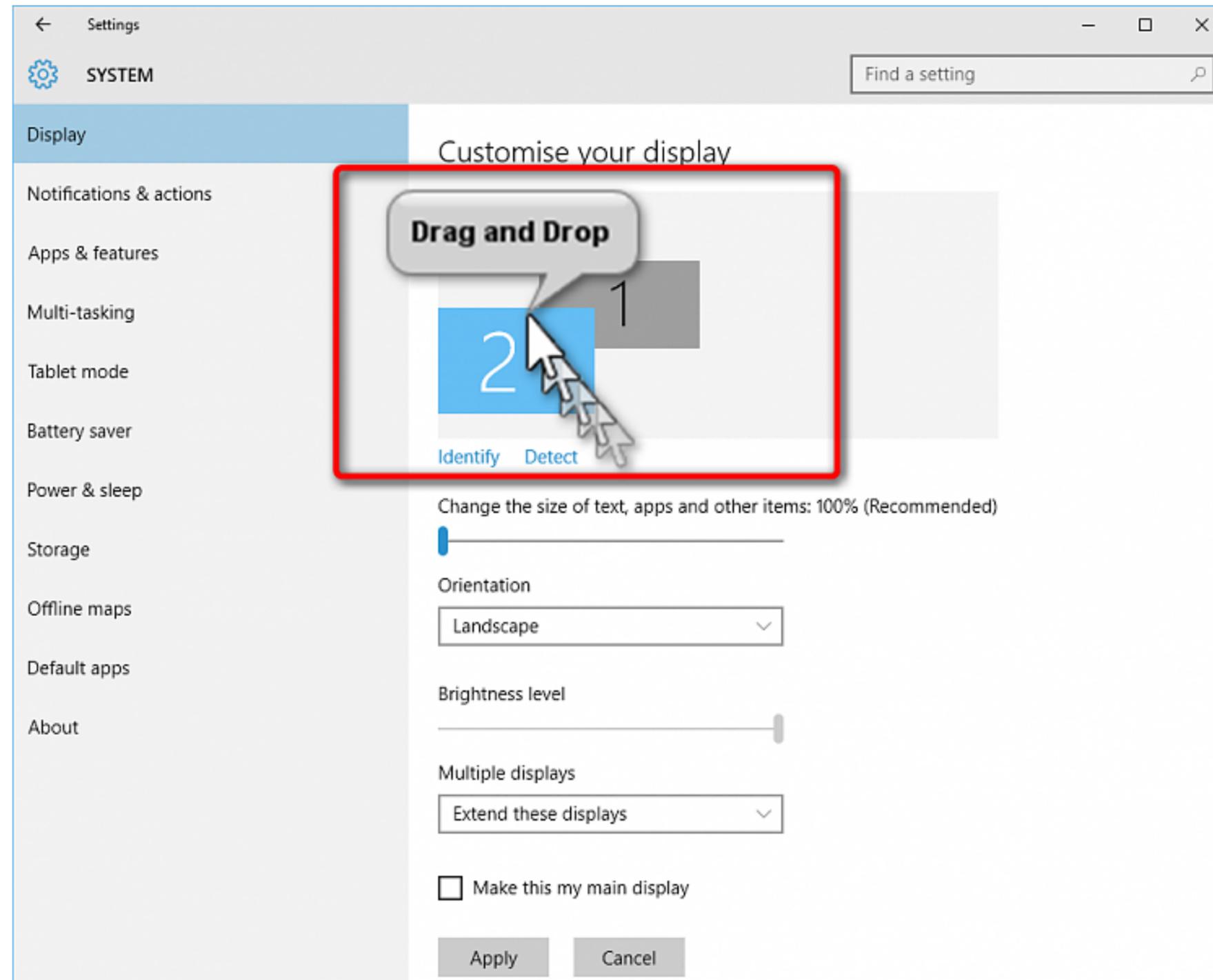


2.) If you reorganize your desk or for any reason prefer the secondary display being on left of the primary display, the pointer will still leave the display #1 from right and enter display #2 from left:



3.) You would in this case of course prefer the pointer to move between the displays over the left edge of the display #1 and right edge of the display #2.

To do this, to change the **Display Settings** to match your physical display layout and to get pointer movements logical, simply drag and drop the secondary display to where you have it on your desk:

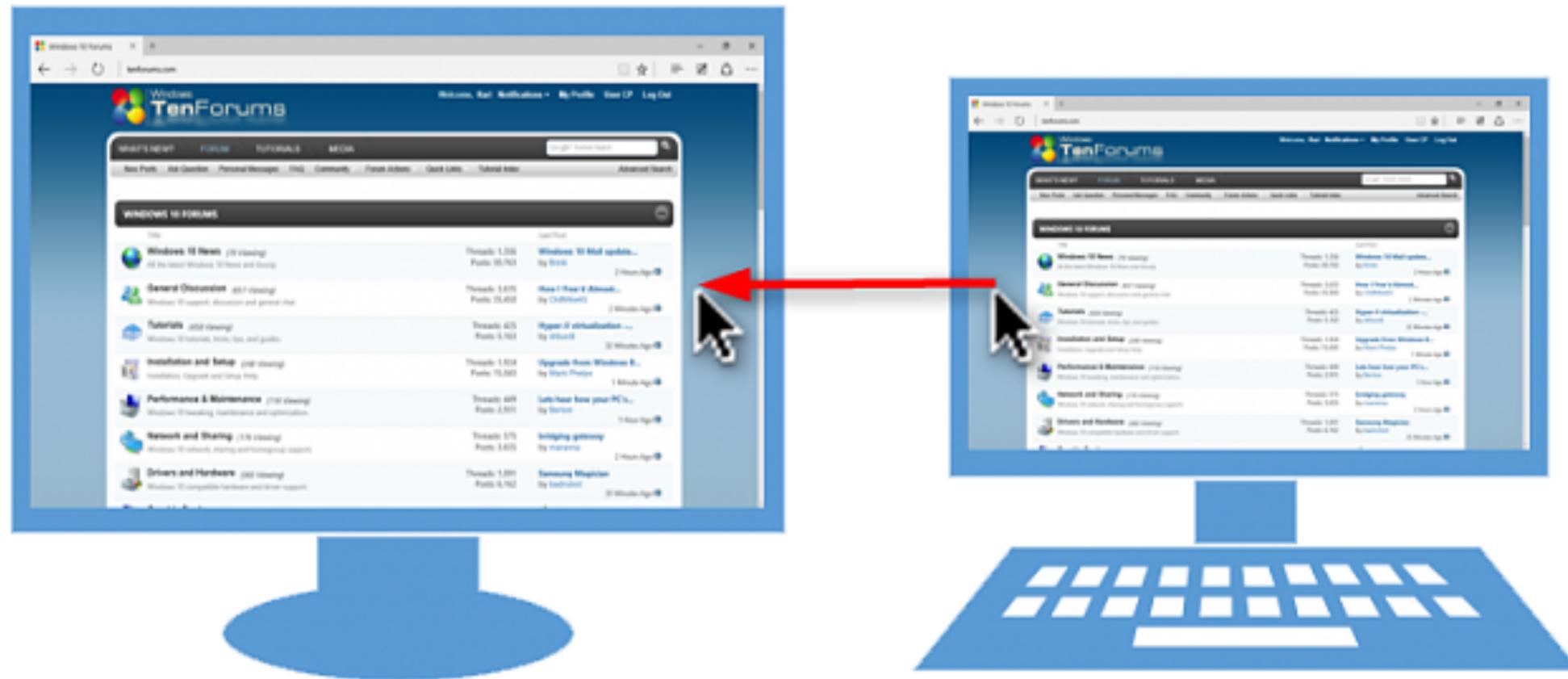


4.) Place the secondary display thumbnail where you want to. Notice that the exit and entry area of the pointer between the displays is determined here; how you have set the displays or move them on your desk has none whatsoever effect in pointer exit & entry area or direction.

Be sure to set the display thumbnails correctly, in below screenshots the mouse exit & entry area is shown in few example cases:



5.) When done you can move the pointer logically from one display to another, **Display Settings** layout matching your physical layout on your desk:



Windows 10 Keyboard shortcuts offer a quick way to navigate and operate the experience and features using one or multiple key combos, which otherwise would take several clicks and more time to do the same with a mouse.

Here's the list of the essential keyboard shortcuts that every Windows 10 user should know.

Keyboard shortcut	Action
Ctrl + A	Select all content.
Ctrl + C (or Ctrl + Insert)	Copy selected items to clipboard.
Ctrl + X	Cut selected items to clipboard.
Ctrl + V (or Shift + Insert)	Paste content from clipboard.
Ctrl + Z	Undo an action, including undelete files (limited).
Ctrl + Y	Redo an action.
Ctrl + Shift + N	Create new folder on desktop or File Explorer.
Windows key + P	Open Project settings.
Windows key + I	Open Settings app.
Windows key + E	Open File Explorer.
Windows key + A	Open Action center.
Windows key + D	Display and hide the desktop.
Windows key + L	Lock device.
Windows key + V	Open Clipboard bin.
Windows key + Period (.) or semicolon (;)	Open emoji panel.
Windows key + PrtScn	Capture full screenshot in the "Screenshots" folder.
Windows key + Shift + S	Capture part of the screen with Snip & Sketch.

Command Prompt shortcuts

If you use Command Prompt on Windows 10, these keyboard shortcuts will help to work a little more efficiently.

Keyboard shortcut	Action
Ctrl + A	Select all content of the current line.
Ctrl + C (or Ctrl + Insert)	Copy selected items to clipboard.
Ctrl + V (or Shift + Insert)	Paste content from clipboard.
Ctrl + M	Starts mark mode.
Ctrl + Up arrow key	Move the screen up one line.
Ctrl + Down arrow key	Move screen down one line.
Ctrl + F	Open search for Command Prompt.
Left or right arrow keys	Move cursor left or right in the current line.
Up or down arrow keys	Cycle through command history of the current session.
Page Up	Move cursor one page up.
Page Down	Move cursor one page down.
Ctrl + Home	Scroll to the top of the console.
Ctrl + End	Scroll to the bottom of the console.