



Automatic optimization for external display in Windows virtual machine

- Parallels Desktop for Mac Standard Edition
- Parallels Desktop for Mac Pro Edition
- Parallels Desktop for Mac Business Edition

Question

After Windows virtual machine start I've got a notification that Windows was optimized for external displays, what does it mean?

Information

Parallels Desktop 15 brings a brand new feature which automatically detects the external display(s) connected to a Mac with Retina display and switches your graphics configuration from Best for Retina to Best for external displays mode.

The optimization takes place because of a difference between the computer's built-in Retina display and the external display's resolution to provide the most optimal settings for each user's setup.

As a result, with **Best for external displays** option you get a sharp picture, crisp fonts and better performance.

Note: Automatic optimization for external displays is **not available in Coherence** view mode.

The feature manifests according to the chosen view mode, please see the tab below:

Aspect	Best for Retina	Best for external displays
Custom scaling size in Windows	Fixed 200%	Scaling is managed by Windows
Scaling in small window with Windowed mode	Fixed 200%, text size is convenient	100%, text size is too small
Picture quality in Full screen on the external display	Blurry	Sharp
Memory usage and performance in Full Screen	High memory usage	Average memory usage and better performance
Windows resolution on non-Retina display	x2 higher resolution (downscaling)	True monitor resolution

Important: it is required to sign out and sign in to your Windows profile to apply changes and make the feature work correctly.

For more information about other video modes comparison in Parallels Desktop please see [KB 124744](#).

