

Using Computer Monitor(s) with Laptop Closed

Since the COVID-19 pandemic and the drastic increase in remote work and working from home that came with it, many employees were accustomed to only using a laptop at home, and this habit has carried over to the office setting in some cases. Upon returning to an office setting, some employees have chosen to use a laptop as their primary computer in addition to one or two external monitors, as well as an external keyboard and mouse.

The recommendation for this setup, if an employee chooses to continue using a laptop, is to use the laptop with the screen closed and add external devices (monitor, keyboard, mouse) as opposed to using the laptop as one of your primary viewing monitors. This will help to avoid awkward neck, shoulder and trunk postures that are created by constantly looking down at the laptop screen on your desk. Below are processes for both Windows 10/11 and Mac OS to use a laptop and external monitors with the laptop closed.

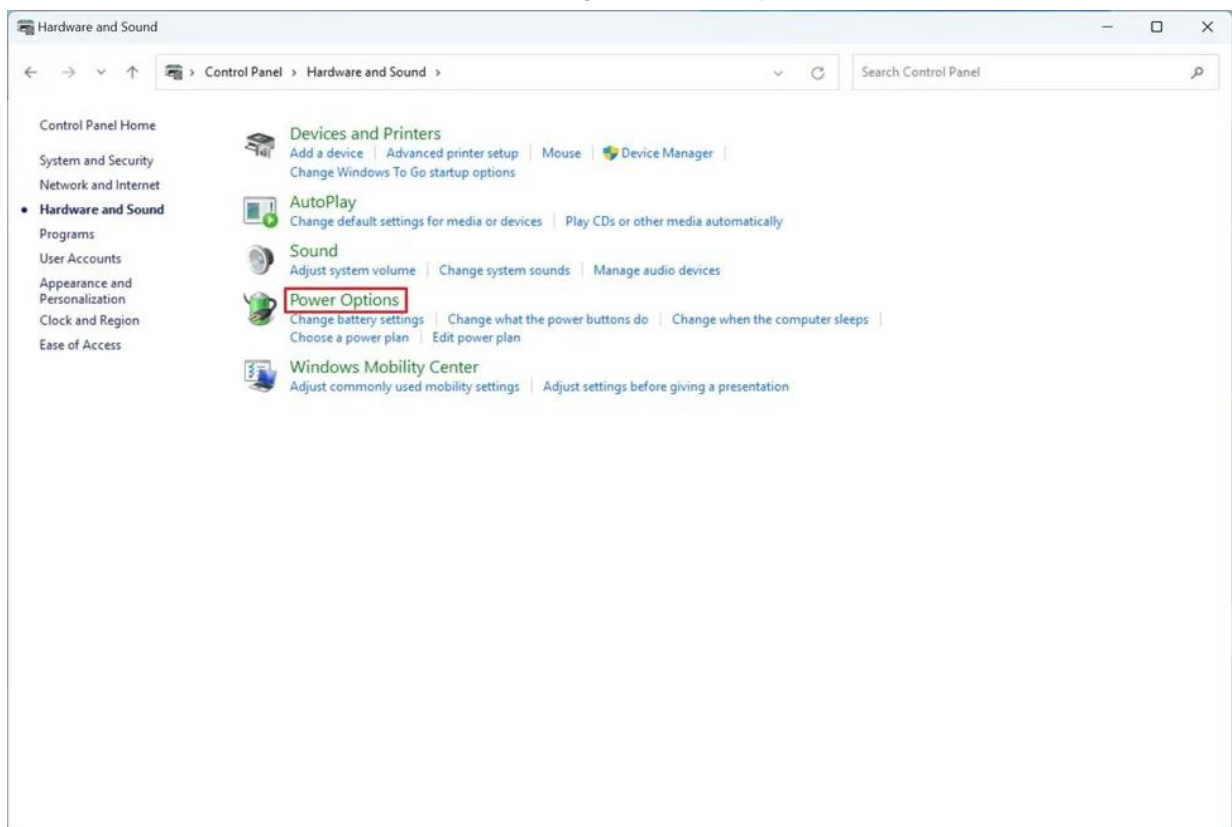
Windows 11 - [Using a Monitor with a Closed Laptop | Windows Learning Center \(microsoft.com\)](#)

Setting up your external monitor with your laptop closed

Plugging in an external monitor is easy, but using your external monitor while your laptop is closed requires a few additional steps. Below are some instructions on how to use an external monitor without having your laptop lid open:

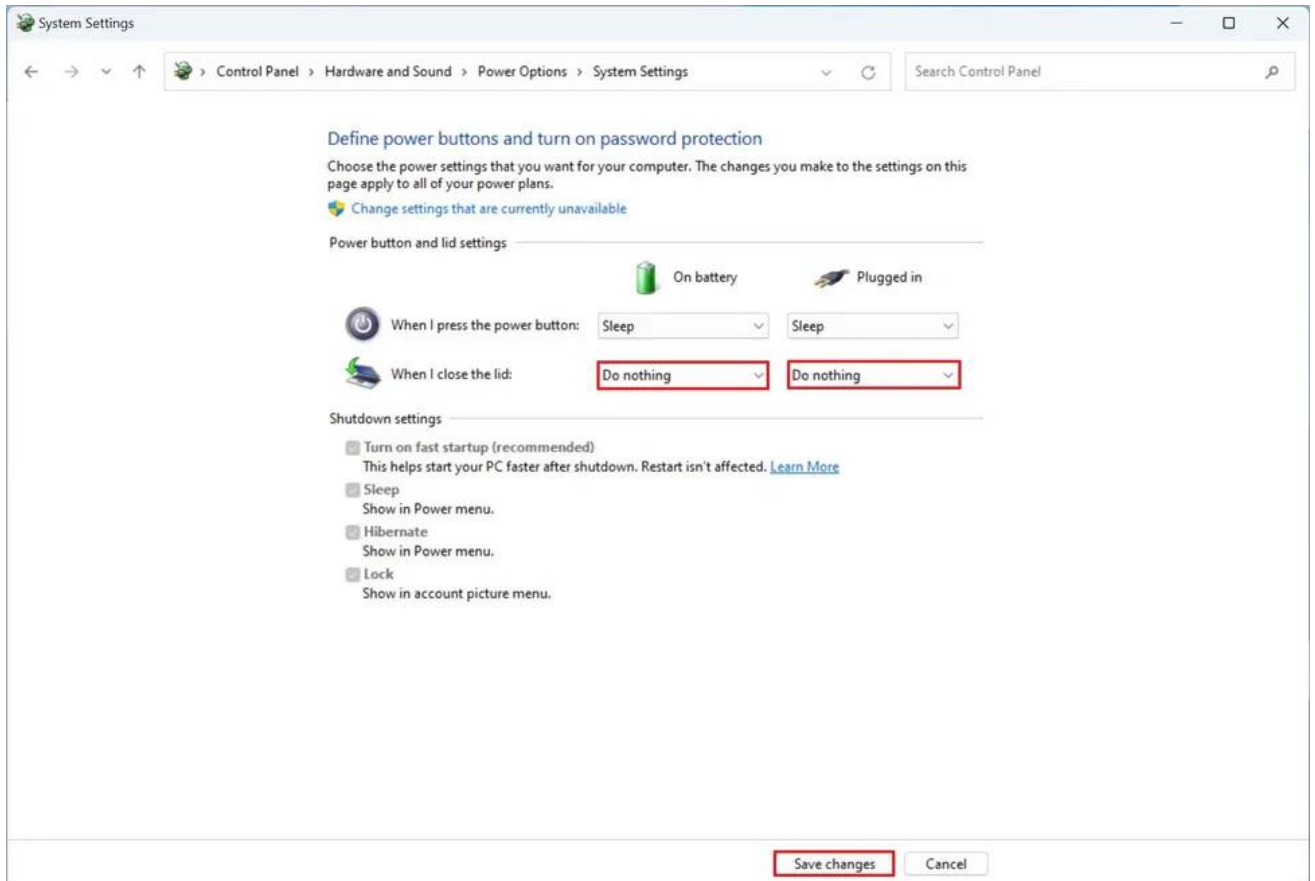
Open your device's [Control Panel](#), which can be used to adjust your settings. To find the control panel on Windows 11, simply search for "control panel" in **Settings** or press the **Windows key + R** to find it.

- Select **Hardware and Sound**, then go to **Power Options**.



On the left-hand side of the screen, you'll see several options. Click **Choose what closing the lid does**.

- Under **Power and sleep buttons and lid settings**, navigate to the bottom where it says **When I close the lid**.
- Choose **Do nothing** for both battery and plug-in options.

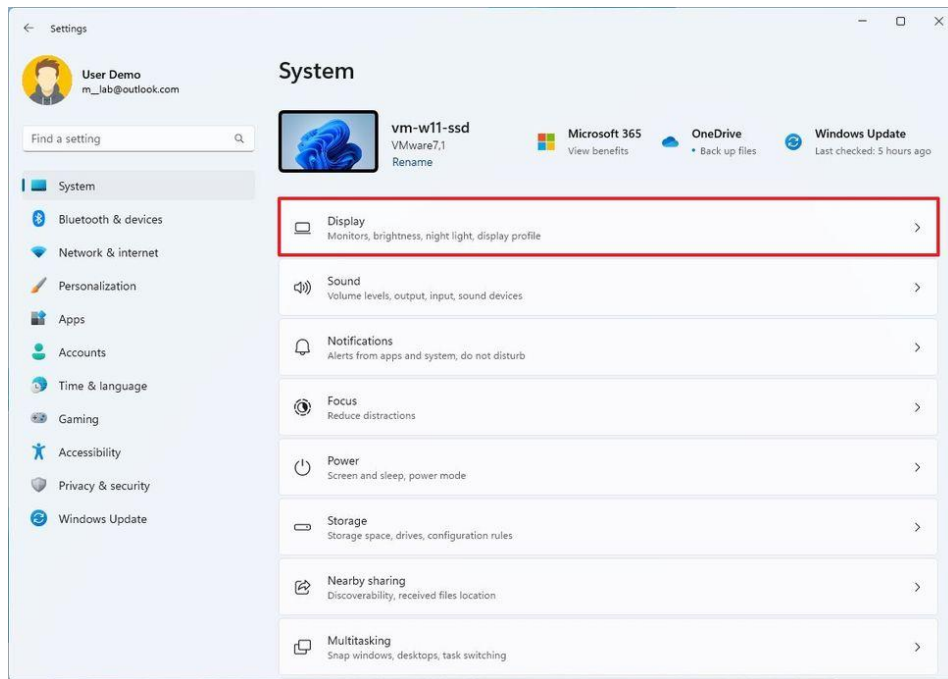


Remember to save your changes before closing the window. If you want to change your settings back, you can repeat the steps listed above and select **Sleep** instead of **Do nothing**.

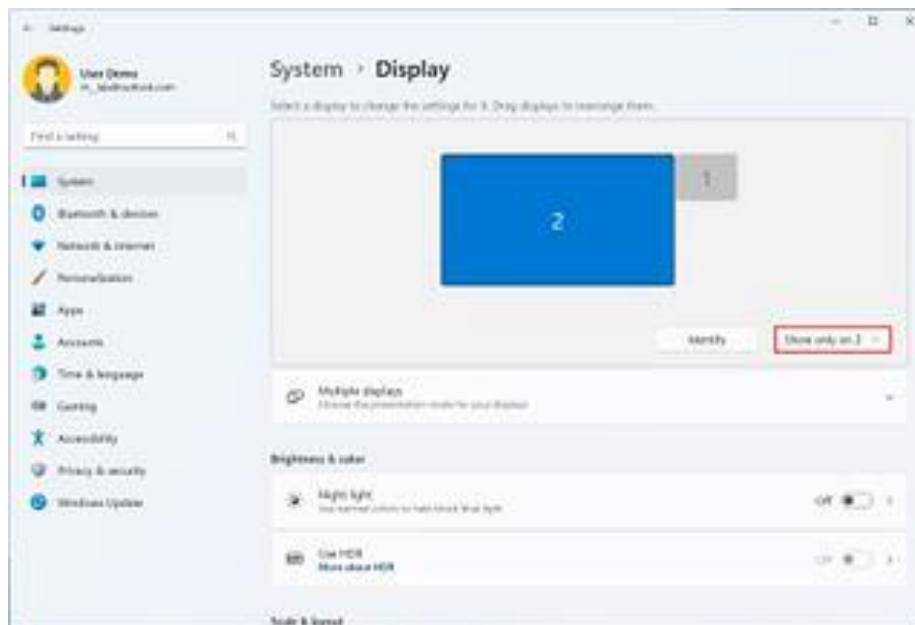
HOW TO CHANGE PRIMARY DISPLAY SETTING ON WINDOWS 11

To configure the laptop to use an external display as the primary monitor, use these steps:

1. Open **Settings**.
2. Click on **System**.
3. Click the **Display** page on the right side.



Use the drop-down menu and select the **"Show only on 2"** option.



Mac OS/MacBook - [How to Use Your MacBook with the Lid Closed in Clamshell Mode](https://www.makeuseof.com/how-to-use-your-macbook-with-the-lid-closed-in-clamshell-mode/)
([makeuseof.com](https://www.makeuseof.com))

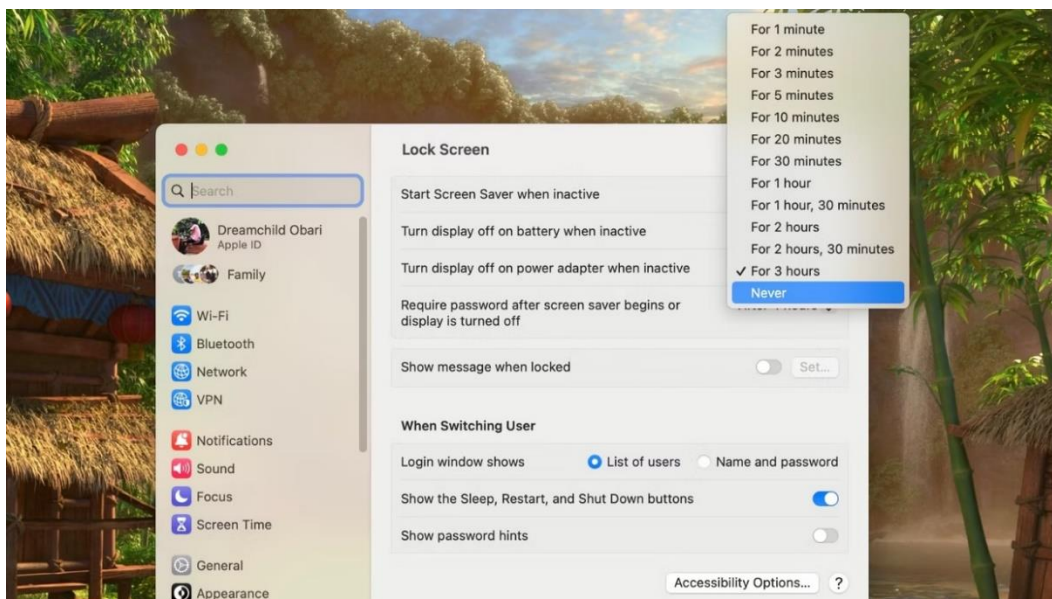
How to Activate Clamshell or Closed-Display Mode on a MacBook

Follow these steps to learn how to close your MacBook to enter clamshell mode and use a monitor instead:

1. Connect your external display to power.
2. Use the AC adapter to plug your MacBook in.
3. Connect the external display to your Mac using the ports. You might need a VGA/HDMI adapter if your MacBook has only USB-C ports. For more info, see [how to connect your MacBook to a monitor](#).
4. Turn on your external display.
5. Open **System Settings**, click **Displays**, and tweak the settings for your external display or monitor.

Change your power settings for your session:

1. In **System Settings**, open the **Displays** tab.
2. Select your **monitor's icon** at the top of the window.
3. Click **Advanced** in the bottom right and make sure the **Prevent automatic sleeping when the display is off** toggle is on.
4. In **System Settings**, click on **Lock Screen** from the left pane.
5. Change the time on **Turn display off on power adapter when inactive** to **Never**.



Additional Tips on Using the Clamshell Mode

We've covered the essentials of using your MacBook with the lid closed, but there are some other tips to keep in mind for the best performance:

- Unplugging your MacBook will stop clamshell mode automatically. You can't use an external display without your MacBook plugged into a power source.
- If you plug your MacBook back in after unplugging it, clamshell mode won't activate unless you wake it up by clicking or moving your mouse.
- Switching between clamshell mode and a separate display will not pause any audio you have playing. Your MacBook will try to continue your audio experience seamlessly.
- While Bluetooth accessories can improve your experience, you don't have to use them if you won't need them. Like when you're watching a movie, for instance.
- Some monitors will not display in clamshell mode until you click or move the mouse.
- You can use multiple displays if your Mac supports it. However, if you're using the 13-inch M1 or M2 MacBook, you can use only one display at a time. (Read more on [Apple Support](#)).
- [Leaving your MacBook plugged in](#) all the time is bad for its battery and can cause it to decay faster. If your MacBook is new, consider using clamshell mode sparingly or risk wasting the battery away much sooner.