

SUNDAY + PLUS™

Computer and Video Guide

For Windows

Welcome

Thank you for your interest in SundayPlus! We know you'll enjoy using the leading presentation software for churches and we want to get you started quickly and smoothly.

This document will tell you the computer requirements for SundayPlus and how install and set up multiple displays. This guide should be read and followed completely and carefully to assure that your SundayPlus experience is full and enjoyable. Once SundayPlus is up and running, you can learn more about how to use it from the Operator's Field Guide and the Help File within the program.

Regarding computers

It is essential to have the right hardware on which to run SundayPlus, both in speed and capability. In other words, you can put jet fuel into a 1974 Pinto, but it won't fly any faster!

Central to the requirements for hardware is the ability to use two different displays at once. One display is the "Operator Screen". This is your normal display with icons and a desktop pattern of some sort. Every computer has one of these. The second display is the "Congregation Screen". Even without launching SundayPlus this would show the same desktop pattern as the first screen, but no icons. It is an "extended desktop" and that means it's basically more desktop space. SundayPlus opens the window with the "slide" for the congregation here.

This uncommon use for a computer can cause much consternation for both the user and their favorite computer store. While SundayPlus can be used on a standard single display computer for preparing or even displaying presentations, the real power becomes apparent when you add that second output to either a monitor or a projector. Setting this up really isn't as confusing as it might seem at first glance.

We'll break it down into two types of computers: desktops (sometimes called "towers") and laptops (sometimes called "notebooks").

Desktop Considerations

Desktop computers are built in a "modular" fashion with the ability to adjust its capabilities by changing or adding parts. Some of these parts need experienced technicians to install them because they have internal wiring and mounting to worry about. Examples of this type of module are disc drives.

Other parts are easy to install even though they are inside the case of the computer because they are on a "card" that you can simply plug into a "slot". This does both the wiring and mounting for you.

There are two kinds of slots in a desktop computer: A single "AGP" slot that is only used for graphic (display) cards... and multiple "PCI" slots for multiple cards. PCI slots are general-purpose slots that can hold a graphics card but can be used for other kinds of cards such as modems, audio cards, etc.

On top of the flexibility of parts, there are other considerations that make a desktop computer attractive as a choice for running SundayPlus.

- You can get a fast hard drive. Laptops are optimized for extended battery life, which precludes the installation of parts that use a lot of power. If you are specifying a new desktop system, get as fast a hard drive as you can. 7200 RPM drives are common, but not automatically included on desktops. Hard drives are like closet space; they fill up no matter how big, so get as large a drive as you can afford.
- They are less expensive than laptops. You can get the same capabilities that are in a laptop for about 60% of the price.

At the end of this section are the Minimum Specifications for a system to run SundayPlus. Just remember, there are no Maximum Specifications. As with any program, the more speed and memory available to SundayPlus, the better the performance will be. It's that jet fuel in the Pinto thing again; you'll still get there in a Pinto, but it's better to have the jet.

Integrated Graphics

Video chips can be "integrated" onto the main circuit board of the computer (the motherboard). If your computer has this kind of video, there will be no AGP slot. Additionally, when you plug in a PCI graphics card to one of these, it may disable the on-board graphics leaving you with only the one new PCI display graphics output. So if you have integrated graphics (or are considering buying a computer with integrated graphics), be sure to save the receipt on any single-output PCI card you buy, in case you need to buy a dual-output card. We talk more about dual-output cards later.

Graphics Cards

As mentioned above, there are two types of Graphics Cards and their associated slots. Either kind of slot can hold a single card with between one and four display outputs. A graphics output is sometimes termed a "head". So if you come across a "dual head" card, you'll know that means two different outputs – just like we need for SundayPlus – on a single card. Windows 98 and later can run up to nine video outputs at once! SundayPlus only uses two. Aren't you glad?

To add to the confusion, each "head" may have several different formats that it supplies. VGA, S-Video, Composite Video, and DVI are some examples of formats available. These outputs will only mirror the outputs from the same "head", so several connectors on the back of a graphics card does not necessarily mean that you'll get two different outputs from it. When looking to buy a dual-head card, be sure its system specification contains words such as "Drive two displays simultaneously with independent resolutions and refresh rates" (these were from the specifications for the ATI Radeon™ 9800 Series on their website).

A word of caution; if you are using Windows 2000, one "head" is better than dual. Windows 2000 treats each slot as a monitor and therefore treats dual cards as one big happy screen. This means that your Task Bar will stretch across both screens, and all applications (including, you guessed it, SundayPlus) will open half on one screen, half on the other (the center of this "big screen"). This is not the desired effect. Using 2 single cards prevents this Windows 2000/Dual Graphics card problem because it will recognize each slot as a separate screen. All other Windows varieties recognize dual-head cards as two separate screens.

AGP and PCI cards can be used together on all Windows Operating Systems with no problem. It is wise to use the same brand for both to avoid any conflicts in the drivers.

Laptop Considerations

Laptops don't have AGP or PCI slots. They only have integrated graphics chips that are built right onto the motherboard of the laptop. They may be single or dual-head in design. The flip-up LCD panel of the laptop is hard-wired to one output and the VGA connector on the back of the laptop is either tapped off the first and only output, or wired to the second. You can't add a second output to a laptop. Well, there is a PCMCIA card that adds one, but we don't recommend it because it is a slower card with too little RAM.

While AGP and PCI cards are built by the same folks who manufacture the graphics chips found on them, laptops are built by computer manufacturers. This means that any software to drive them is also supplied by the laptop maker, not the graphics chip company. Dual display is a function of both hardware and software, so the same chipset may exist on two different manufacturer's laptops, but may or may not have the ability to output dual screens. This ability may also vary with different Windows Operating Systems. Check the specifications to be sure.

Remember: "Mirrored outputs" does not equal "dual displays". Just about every laptop has the ability to show the same output on two screens. The true power of SundayPlus is seen when the congregation is only seeing the "slide" and the operator can be using a different display to type in a new one or adjust the sequence of the presentation without the congregation watching.

Laptops with dual outputs are similar to the dual-head video cards described in the section on desktop systems. The same warning applies to Windows 2000 users here: Windows 2000 is different from other "flavors" of Windows and does not operate in a way conducive to SundayPlus use. SundayPlus operates in Windows 2000 just fine, but the displays (which are set up by the Operating System) will not. If you have a dual screen laptop that uses Windows 2000, you will need to change to a different Windows Operating System.

Minimum System Requirements

CPU Speed: 500 MHz PIII Computer or equivalent

RAM: 512 Mb

Hard Drive: 1 Gb disk space

Windows 98

Two graphics cards, or a single dual-head card or dual-head laptop

CD-ROM Drive

System Recommendations (For Movie Playback)

CPU Speed: As fast as you can afford.

RAM: 512 Mb - or greater. Again, the more the merrier!

Hard Drive: 1 Gigabyte of disk space - or greater on a 7200 RPM drive

Windows 98, ME, 2000, NT, XP. *Watch out for Windows 2000 if you have a laptop or a dual-head graphics card.*

Graphics: Two graphics cards, or a single dual-head card or

**dual-head laptop (128 Mb of Dedicated RAM)

Graphics card #2 with at least 64mb RAM. You can get up to 256 Mb!

DVD-ROM drive. Some drives allow for read/write of both CD and DVD.

Display Configuration

Before you run SundayPlus you should configure your displays. Notice we haven't even started up SundayPlus yet! This is a Windows OS setup. This is a good test to use on a computer you are considering for SundayPlus use to see if you can configure it for dual displays.

- Right-click on the desktop
- Select "Properties"
- Select the "Settings" tab
- If you have two video outputs, you'll see icons for two monitors
- Click on monitor 2 to enable it
- Check the box labeled "Extend my Windows desktop onto this monitor."
- Choose a resolution setting (SundayPlus is native 1024X768 pixels)
- Under "Colors" Select "16-bit".
- Click "Apply"
- Click on monitor 1 to select it
- Under "Colors" Select "16-bit".
- Click "OK"

Now you're ready to go!

You're ready to use SundayPlus.

Have fun!

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