Dell Pro Max 18 Plus

MB18250

External Display Connection Guide

Regulatory Model: P53E
Regulatory Type: P53E001
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Notes, cautions, and warnings

NOTE: A NOTE indicates important information that helps you make better use of your product.

CAUTION: A CAUTION indicates either potential damage to hardware or loss of data and tells you how to avoid the problem.

WARNING: A WARNING indicates a potential for property damage, personal injury, or death.

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Before you begin

Before you begin, ensure that you:

- Check the graphics options on your computer.
- Check the ports available on your external displays and decide the Mode of connection.

Check the graphics options on your computer

The number of external displays that are supported depends on the type of graphics card available on your computer:

- The integrated graphics card can support a maximum of four displays.
- The discrete graphics card can support a maximum of four displays.

NOTE:

- Dell Docking Station—WD19DCS, SD25TB5, and WD25TB5 display behavior follows the host, the Thunderbolt (USB Type-C) port.
- The HDMI 2.1 FRL port and Thunderbolt 5 (USB Type-C) port on the WD19DCS, SD25TB5, and WD25TB5 docking stations cannot support dual monitors simultaneously.

For more information about the graphics card available on your computer, run Dell SupportAssist on your computer, or scan your hardware at Dell Support Site.

The following are the graphic options that may be installed in your computer:

- Intel Graphics (Integrated graphics)
- NVIDIA RTX PRO 1000 Blackwell (Discrete graphics)
- NVIDIA RTX PRO 2000 Blackwell (Discrete graphics)
- NVIDIA RTX PRO 3000 Blackwell (Discrete graphics)
- NVIDIA RTX PRO 4000 Blackwell (Discrete graphics)
- NVIDIA RTX PRO 5000 Blackwell (Discrete graphics)

External display connection mode

The external display connection mode that is selected in the BIOS defines the number of displays that your computer supports.

The different external display connection modes that are supported are as follows:

- Hybrid Graphics mode
- Hybrid Graphics mode with Direct Output
- Multi-adapter mode

Table 1. External display connection mode and BIOS selection

BIOS selection and display connection		Hybrid Graphics mode (default shipping)	Direct Output Mode	Multi-adapter Mode
BIOS selection	Enable Hybrid Graphics	ON (Selected)	ON (Selected)	OFF (Not selected)
	Discrete Graphics Controller Direct Output Mode	OFF (Not selected)	ON (Selected)	Gray out
Display connection	Laptop display	Integrated GPU/ Discrete GPU	Integrated GPU/ Discrete GPU	Discrete GPU
	Thunderbolt 5	Integrated GPU	Discrete GPU	Discrete GPU

Table 1. External display connection mode and BIOS selection (continued)

BIOS selection and display connection		Hybrid Graphics mode (default shipping)	Direct Output Mode	Multi-adapter Mode
	Thunderbolt 5	Integrated GPU	Discrete GPU	Discrete GPU
	Thunderbolt 4	Integrated GPU	Integrated GPU	Integrated GPU
	HDMI	Discrete GPU	Discrete GPU	Discrete GPU

Hybrid Graphics mode

To enable Hybrid Graphics mode in the computer BIOS:

1. Restart the computer and immediately press **F2** to enter the BIOS.
2. On the BIOS screen, select **Video**.
3. Select **Switchable Graphics**.
4. Select **Enable Switchable Graphics**.
5. Save the changes and exit the computer BIOS.

For more information about accessing and configuring the BIOS, see the *Owner's Manual* of your computer at Dell Support Site.

Hybrid Graphics mode with Direct Output

To enable **Hybrid Graphics mode with Direct Output** in the computer BIOS:

1. Restart the computer and immediately press **F2** to enter the BIOS.
2. On the BIOS screen, select **Video**.
3. Select **Switchable Graphics**.
4. Select **Enable Switchable Graphics**.
5. Select **Discrete Graphics Controller Direct Output Mode**.
6. Save the changes and exit the computer BIOS.

For more information about accessing and configuring the BIOS, see the *Owner's Manual* of your computer at Dell Support Site.

Multi-adapter mode

To enable **Multi-adapter Mode** in the computer BIOS:

1. Restart the computer and immediately press **F2** to enter the BIOS.
2. On the BIOS screen, select **Video**.
3. Select **Switchable Graphics**.
4. Clear **Enable Switchable Graphics**.
5. Save the changes and exit the computer BIOS.

For more information about accessing and configuring the BIOS, see the *Owner's Manual* of your computer at Dell Support Site.

Turn off the internal display

There may be instances where you may want to turn off the computer internal display to connect more external displays.

You can turn off the LCD display of your computer using the Intel HD Graphics Command Center.

Follow these steps to turn off the display:

1. In the Windows search bar, type **Intel Graphics Command Center** and press **Enter**.
2. Accept the **Intel Graphics Command Center** software license agreement.
3. Click **Display** in the **Intel Graphics Command Center** window.
4. Click the ellipsis (**...**) in the upper right corner of your primary display, then click **Extend > Display 2**.
5. Click the ellipsis (**...**) in the upper right corner of display 2, then click **Make Display Primary**.

6. Click the ellipsis (**...**) in the upper right corner of your computer display, then click **Disable**.

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Connecting the external display

Depending on the connectors available on your external display, connect the display to Thunderbolt (USB-C) ports or HDMI port on your computer using:

- Thunderbolt cables, adapters, or docking stations
- USB Type-C cables, adapters, or docking stations
- HDMI cables or adapters

NOTE: To experience the full resolution supported by your external displays, use appropriate cables. For example, use DisplayPort or HDMI cables for 4K and above resolution.

Supported display

Table 2. Supported display using host display port under different modes

Graphics card mode	Connect to external displays			
	One external display	Two external displays	Three external displays	Four external displays (Internal display off)
UMA	HDMI: 7680 x 4320 at 60 Hz	• HDMI: 7680 x 4320 at 60 Hz • Type-C: 7680 x 4320 at 60 Hz **NOTE:** You can connect two external displays with 8K resolution when the internal display is off.	• HDMI: 7680 x 4320 at 60 Hz • Type-C: 3840 x 2160 at 60 Hz • Type-C: 3840 x 2160 at 60 Hz	• HDMI: 3840 x 2160 at 60 Hz • Type-C: 3840 x 2160 at 60 Hz • Type-C: 3840 x 2160 at 60 Hz • Type-C: 3840 x 2160 at 60 Hz
Hybrid Graphics mode	HDMI/Type-C: 7680 x 4320 at 60 Hz	• HDMI: 7680 x 4320 at 60 Hz • Type-C: 7680 x 4320 at 60 Hz	• HDMI: 7680 x 4320 at 60 Hz • Type-C: 7680 x 4320 at 60 Hz • Type-C: 7680 x 4320 at 60 Hz **NOTE:** You can connect three external displays with 8K resolution through the Type-C port when the internal display is off.	• HDMI: 7680 x 4320 at 60 Hz • Type-C: 7680 x 4320 at 60 Hz • Type-C: 3840 x 2160 at 60 Hz • Type-C: 3840 x 2160 at 60 Hz **NOTE:** You can connect one external display with 8K resolution and two external displays with 4K resolution through Type-C port when the internal display is off.
Hybrid Graphics mode with Direct Output	HDMI/Type-C: 7680 x 4320 at 60 Hz	• HDMI: 7680 x 4320 at 60 Hz • Type-C: 7680 x 4320 at 60 Hz	• HDMI: 7680 x 4320 at 60 Hz • Type-C: 7680 x 4320 at 60 Hz • Type-C: 7680 x 4320 at 60 Hz	• HDMI: 7680 x 4320 at 60 Hz • Type-C: 7680 x 4320 at 60 Hz • Type-C: 7680 x 4320 at 60 Hz

Table 2. Supported display using host display port under different modes (continued)

Graphics card mode	Connect to external displays			
	One external display	**Two external displays**	**Three external displays**	**Four external displays (Internal display off)**
			NOTE: You can connect three external displays with 8K resolution through the Type-C port when the internal display is off.	• Type-C: 7680 x 4320 at 60 Hz
Multi-adapter mode	HDMI/Type-C: 7680 x 4320 at 60 Hz	• HDMI: 7680 x 4320 at 60 Hz • Type-C: 7680 x 4320 at 60 Hz	• HDMI: 7680 x 4320 at 60 Hz • Type-C: 7680 x 4320 at 60 Hz • Type-C: 7680 x 4320 at 60 Hz **NOTE:** You can connect three external displays with 8K resolution through the Type-C port when the internal display is off.	• HDMI: 7680 x 4320 at 60 Hz • Type-C: 7680 x 4320 at 60 Hz • Type-C: 7680 x 4320 at 60 Hz • Type-C: 7680 x 4320 at 60 Hz

When you are using the docking station, additional external displays can be connected under Hybrid mode (with internal display off).

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Getting help and contacting Dell Technologies

Self-help resources

You can get information and help on Dell Technologies products and services using these self-help resources:

Table 3. Self-help resources

Self-help resources	Resource location
Information about Dell Technologies products and services	Dell Site
Contact Support	In Windows search, type `Contact Support`, and press Enter.
Online help for operating system	Windows Support Site
Access top solutions, diagnostics, drivers and downloads, and learn more about your computer through videos, manuals, and documents.	Your Dell Technologies computer is uniquely identified using a Service Tag or Express Service Code. To view relevant support resources for your Dell Technologies computer, enter the Service Tag or Express Service Code at Dell Support Site. For more information about how to find the Service Tag for your computer, see Instructions on how to find your Service Tag or Serial Number.
Dell Technologies knowledge base articles	1. Go to Dell Support Site. 2. On the menu bar at the top of the Support page, select **Support** > **Support Library**. 3. In the Search field on the Support Library page, type the keyword, topic, or model number, and then click or tap the search icon to view the related articles.

Contacting Dell Technologies

To contact Dell Technologies for sales, technical support, or customer service issues, see Contact Support at Dell Support Site.

NOTE: Availability of the services may vary depending on the country or region, and product.

NOTE: If you do not have an active Internet connection, you can find contact information about your purchase invoice, packing slip, bill, or Dell Technologies product catalog.

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Revision history

Tracks all updates that are made to the document. It typically includes the date of change, version number, and a brief description of the modification. This log helps maintain transparency, accountability, and a clear timeline of progress.

Table 4. Revision history

Revision	Date	Description
A00	07-17-2025	Original publish date.