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# O&O DeskInfo Documentation

Welcome to the official documentation for **O&O DeskInfo** — the free system information display for the Windows desktop by O&O Software GmbH.

## What is O&O DeskInfo?

O&O DeskInfo shows the most important information about your computer directly on your desktop. The display appears **in front of your wallpaper but behind your desktop icons**, so it is always visible during your work without ever getting in the way.

You always know what is going on inside your PC: which Windows version and build is installed, how much memory is still free, how busy the processor and the graphics card are, which IP address the active network adapter uses, and how full your drives are. And when you contact a help desk, a single click copies all of that information into the clipboard.

## Key Benefits

- **Everything at a glance** — machine, user, operating system, CPU, RAM, GPU, hardware, system status, battery, network and drives.
- **Live monitoring** — history graphs for CPU, RAM, GPU and network traffic, plus a live CPU graph inside the tray icon.
- **No installation required** — O&O DeskInfo is a portable application; unpack it and run it.
- **Standard user rights are enough** — no administrator privileges are needed for normal operation.
- **Fully configurable** — from the tray icon menu for everyday changes, and from a single XML configuration file for everything else.
- **Completely free** — O&O DeskInfo is freeware. There is no paid edition and no feature is held back.

## Freeware — and it stays that way

O&O DeskInfo is **freeware and free of charge**. You may use it on any number of computers, privately and commercially, and you may pass it on unchanged. There is no trial period, no license key and no premium version to upgrade to.

### Info

O&O DeskInfo does not require an installation and therefore never brings other software with it. If you received a copy that came with an installer or with additional software, that is a violation of our terms of use. Please let us know the source so that we can take action.

## How to Use This Documentation

Use the sidebar navigation to explore the application:

- **Getting Started** explains what O&O DeskInfo does, what it needs, and how to get it running in a few minutes.
- **Features** describes the desktop display, the available system information, the performance graphs, drive monitoring and the display profiles.
- **Settings** is the reference section: the complete tray icon menu, the complete configuration file, the command line parameters and the options for managed deployments.
- **FAQ** answers the questions we are asked most often.

Settings that can *only* be changed in the configuration file are marked with a **CONFIG FILE** badge.

## Other free tools from O&O Software

O&O DeskInfo is part of a family of Windows tools made in Berlin. You can reach them directly from the tray icon menu via **Explore more O&O products...**:

- **O&O ShutUp10++** — free privacy control for Windows 10 and 11.
- **O&O AppBuster** — free app manager that removes pre-installed Windows apps and bloatware.
- **O&O Syspectr** — cloud-based monitoring and management for all your PCs and servers.

A complete overview is available on the O&O Software product page.

# Overview

O&O DeskInfo is a small, portable Windows application that permanently displays system information on your desktop. This page explains what the application consists of, how it behaves on your screen, and which typical scenarios it was built for.

## The three parts of the user interface

O&O DeskInfo has no classic main window with menus and toolbars. Instead it consists of three elements:

| Element             | Purpose                                                                                                                                                                         |
|---------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| The desktop display | The actual information panel. It is drawn on the desktop and updates itself continuously.                                                                                       |
| The tray icon       | An icon in the Windows notification area that draws a live graph of the current CPU load. It is the entry point to every setting.                                               |
| The tray icon menu  | The right-click menu of the tray icon. It contains all settings you normally need — profiles, position, monitor, appearance, graphs, update speed and more. See Tray Icon Menu. |

Anything that is not in the menu — margins, exact colors, graph dimensions, help desk messages, restrictions for managed PCs — can be set in the configuration file.

## Two display modes

O&O DeskInfo can present its information in two different ways. You switch between them from the tray menu via **View settings** → **Show integrated with the Desktop**.

### Integrated with the desktop (default)

The information panel becomes part of your desktop background. It is placed **in front of the wallpaper and behind the desktop icons**, so icons, open windows and taskbar always stay on top. The panel is click-through: mouse clicks pass to the desktop underneath, so your normal desktop usage is unaffected.

Windows offers two technical ways to achieve this, and O&O DeskInfo selects the right one for your system automatically:

- **Standard mode** places the window behind the desktop icons. This is used on Windows 10 and on most Windows 11 systems.
- **Fallback mode** places the window on the lowest layer — behind all other windows but still in front of the wallpaper. This is used on Windows 11 systems with the newer “raised desktop” composition model where the standard mode is not available.

If Windows Explorer restarts (for example after a crash or after changing display settings), O&O DeskInfo restores its position on the desktop automatically.

## Sliding window

If desktop integration is switched off, the information is shown in a small window with a colored tab button at the edge of the screen. Clicking the tab or the tray icon slides the window in and out. In this mode you can additionally

- keep the window **always on top** of other windows,
- choose the **background opacity** of the panel,
- choose the **button color** of the tab,
- and hide the tab button entirely (the tray icon still toggles the window).

## Typical use cases

**Help desk and IT support.** The most common reason to deploy O&O DeskInfo. Users can read the machine name, the Windows build, the IP address or the serial number right off their desktop, and **Copy info to clipboard** hands over everything at once — no command prompt, no `msinfo32`, no walking users through system dialogs. Add your own contact details with the `InfoMessage` setting.

**Performance observation.** The history graphs for CPU, RAM, GPU and network traffic make load patterns visible over time and help identify bottlenecks. A double-click on the tray icon opens the Windows Task Manager for a deeper look.

**Machine inventory.** Manufacturer, model, serial number, mainboard, BIOS version, TPM version, Secure Boot state, domain membership and Windows activation status are all available and can be copied out.

**Kiosk, lab and classroom PCs.** With a prepared configuration file you can define exactly what is displayed, pin the position, and lock the whole application down so that users cannot change anything. See Enterprise Deployment.

## Freeware

O&O DeskInfo is **freeware**. There is no paid edition, no trial period, no license key and no functionality reserved for a premium version. You may use it on any number of computers, privately and commercially, and pass it on unchanged.

### Tip

If you manage more than a handful of PCs, have a look at **O&O Syspectr** — our cloud-based management and monitoring service. It collects the same kind of system information from all your machines centrally, and is free for a number of computers as well.

# System Requirements

O&O DeskInfo is deliberately lightweight. It needs no installation, no database and no background service.

## Supported operating systems

| Requirement      | Details                                                                                             |
|------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Operating system | Windows 11 and Windows 10, Windows Server 2016 or later                                             |
| Architecture     | x86, x64 and ARM                                                                                    |
| Framework        | .NET 8 Runtime — included in the self-contained build; the portable build prompts for it if missing |
| Installation     | None. O&O DeskInfo is a portable application.                                                       |
| Privileges       | Standard user rights are sufficient for all normal operation.                                       |
| Internet access  | Only needed for the end user license agreement, the online help and the optional update check.      |

## Resource usage

O&O DeskInfo is designed to stay out of your way:

- **Efficiency Mode** is enabled by default. Windows then treats the process with low priority and, on supported systems, parks it on efficiency cores. You can toggle it from the tray menu via **Use Efficiency Mode**.
- The **update speed** determines how often values are refreshed. *Normal* (every 5 seconds) is the default; *Fast* (1 second) and *Slow* (10 seconds) are available too. See Update speed.
- When Windows goes to **standby or hibernation**, all timers and performance counters are suspended and resumed automatically on wake-up.

## Where O&O DeskInfo stores its data

| Content                      | Location                                                   |
|------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| Configuration file           | %LocalAppData%\00 Software\00 DeskInfo\00DeskInfo.cfg      |
| Log files (when enabled)     | %LocalAppData%\00 Software\00 DeskInfo\Logs\00DeskInfo.log |
| Temporary export for Notepad | %Temp%\DeskInfo.txt and %Temp%\ProductKey.txt              |

If a file named `00DeskInfo.cfg` is placed **next to** `00DeskInfo.exe`, that file is used instead of the one in the user profile. This makes fully portable operation from a USB stick possible — see Configuration File.

## Multi-monitor support

All monitor configurations are supported, including mixed DPI scaling. You can

- place the display on a specific monitor,
- or show it on **all monitors** simultaneously.

Newly connected and disconnected monitors are detected at runtime. See Desktop Display.

## Languages

The user interface is available in **English, German and French**. Additional localizations (Spanish, Italian, Russian, Japanese, Chinese) are prepared in the application and appear in the language menu when available. By default O&O DeskInfo follows your Windows display language; you can override it from the tray menu, with the `/lang` parameter, or with the `Language` setting.

This documentation is available in English and German.

# First Steps

O&O DeskInfo is ready to use within a minute. This page walks you through the first start and the handful of settings that are worth looking at right away.

## 1. Download and unpack

1. Download O&O DeskInfo from the product page.
2. Extract the archive to any folder you like — for example `C:\Tools\00DeskInfo`, or a USB stick if you want to carry it with you.
3. No installation is performed and nothing is written to the Windows registry apart from the optional autostart entry.

## 2. Start the application

Run `00DeskInfo.exe`. Two things happen:

- The information panel appears in the **top-right corner of your primary monitor**.
- An icon appears in the Windows notification area (the system tray) showing a live graph of the current CPU load.

### Tip

If you cannot see the tray icon, it may be hidden behind the small arrow in the notification area. Drag it onto the visible part of the taskbar so that it is always at hand — it is your access point to every setting.

## 3. The welcome wizard

On the very first start, a short wizard greets you. It has three steps:

1. **Welcome** — a brief introduction to what O&O DeskInfo does and how desktop integration works on your Windows version.
2. **Quick setup** — the settings most people want to change immediately:
  - **Application start** — whether O&O DeskInfo should start automatically with Windows.
  - **Display profile** — how much information is shown (*Default*, *Full* or *Minimum*).
  - **Monitor selection** — which monitor the display should appear on.
  - **Window position** — which of the four screen corners to use, with a live preview.
  - **Appearance** — text size and text opacity, so the display stays readable on your wallpaper.



3. **Explore more O&O products** — a short overview of the other O&O tools for Windows.

The wizard is shown only once. You can reopen the quick setup at any time from the tray menu via **Quick setup...**, and the product overview via **Explore more O&O products...**

## 4. Choose what is displayed

Right-click the tray icon and open **Information displayed**. Four ready-made profiles are available:

| Profile            | Content                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Default</b>     | The recommended selection: user and machine, operating system, CPU and RAM, graphics card, hardware, system status, battery, network (basic and advanced), virtual machine, all drives, system utilization and network utilization. |
| <b>Full</b>        | Everything the Default profile shows, arranged in a single column.                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>Minimum</b>     | Only the essentials: information message, user and machine, operating system.                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>Drives only</b> | Only the drives, without labels — a compact drive activity display.                                                                                                                                                                 |

If none of them fits, build your own with **Edit Custom Profile...** See Display Profiles.

## 5. Position and appearance

All of this is in the tray menu:

- **Position** — one of the four screen corners.
- **Monitor** — a specific monitor, or *All monitors* for a simultaneous display on every screen.
- **View settings** → **Text color** — *Automatically* (the default: black text over bright wallpapers, white over dark ones) or a fixed color.
- **View settings** → **Font size** — *Small (10pt)*, *Regular (12pt)* or *Large (14pt)*.
- **View settings** → **Opacity of the display** — 100 %, 80 % or 40 %.

A complete description of every entry is in Tray Icon Menu.

## 6. Start with Windows

Enable **Start with Windows** in the tray menu so that O&O DeskInfo is available after every logon. This writes a single autostart entry for the current user and needs no administrator rights.

For automated rollouts use the `SetAutoRun` setting instead — it configures autostart without asking the user.

## 7. Try the clipboard function

Right-click the tray icon and select **Copy info to clipboard**. All currently displayed information is copied as plain text, and you are offered to open it in Notepad right away. This is the fastest way to send a complete system overview to a colleague or to a help desk. See Clipboard and Support.

### What next?

- Learn how the desktop display works and what you can do with it: Desktop Display
- See every value O&O DeskInfo can show: System Information
- Fine-tune everything the menu does not cover: Configuration File
- Roll it out across your company: Enterprise Deployment

# Desktop Display

The desktop display is the heart of O&O DeskInfo. This page describes how it is positioned, how it adapts to your screen, and how you change its appearance.

## Display modes

### Integrated with the desktop

This is the default. The information panel is attached to the desktop background: it is drawn **in front of the wallpaper and behind the desktop icons**. Open windows, the taskbar and your icons always stay on top, and mouse clicks pass through the panel to the desktop underneath.

O&O DeskInfo picks the right technique for your Windows version automatically:

- **Standard mode** — the window is parented to the desktop icon layer. Used on Windows 10 and on most Windows 11 systems.
- **Fallback mode** — the window is placed on the lowest layer, behind all other windows but in front of the wallpaper. Used on Windows 11 systems with the newer “raised desktop” composition model.

If Windows Explorer is restarted, the panel is automatically restored to its place on the desktop.

Switch the mode from the tray menu: **View settings** → **Show integrated with the Desktop**. Changing it rebuilds the display; the collected graph history is preserved.

### Sliding window

With desktop integration switched off, the information appears in a small window with a colored tab button at the screen edge. Click the tab — or the tray icon — to slide the window in and out.

This mode unlocks four additional options that make no sense for a desktop-integrated panel:

| Option                        | Where         | Description                                                                                    |
|-------------------------------|---------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Always on top</b>          | View settings | Keeps the window above all other windows.                                                      |
| <b>Show button on desktop</b> | View settings | Shows or hides the tab button. With the button hidden, use the tray icon to toggle the window. |
| <b>Background opacity</b>     | View settings | Opacity of the panel background: 100 %, 80 % or 40 %.                                          |
| <b>Button color</b>           | View settings | Color of the tab button: blue (default), white, black, red, green or orange.                   |

The vertical position of the tab button can be dragged with the mouse and is remembered in `ButtonYPosition` .

## Position

The panel can sit in any of the four screen corners. Choose one under **Position** in the tray menu:

- Left top
- Right top
- Left bottom
- Right bottom

In sliding-window mode the choice is reduced to **Left** and **Right**, because the window always slides in horizontally.

The default is **Right top**. The corresponding configuration setting is `PanelPosition` .

## Distance from the screen edges

### CONFIG FILE

In desktop-integrated mode you can add a margin between the panel and the screen edges — useful if a taskbar, a dock or a wallpaper element is in the way. The four values are given in pixels:

```
<Settings>
  <TopMargin>40</TopMargin>
  <RightMargin>24</RightMargin>
  <BottomMargin>0</BottomMargin>
  <LeftMargin>0</LeftMargin>
</Settings>
```

## Monitor selection

If more than one monitor is connected, the tray menu contains a **Monitor** submenu:

- **All monitors** — the information is displayed on every connected screen simultaneously. All screens share the same profile, position and appearance.
- **Monitor 1, Monitor 2, ...** — the display appears on the selected monitor only. The primary monitor is marked accordingly. The numbering follows the monitor numbers Windows itself uses in its display settings.

Switching the monitor restarts the application so that it can be positioned correctly on the new screen.

Connecting or disconnecting a monitor is detected at runtime and the menu is updated.

The corresponding configuration settings are `Monitor` and `ShowOnAllMonitors`.

### Note

Desktop integration requires the primary monitor to start at a non-negative X coordinate. If your monitors are arranged so that a screen lies to the *left* of the primary monitor (negative coordinates), Windows cannot map the panel onto the desktop background reliably. In that case rearrange the monitors in the Windows display settings, or use the sliding-window mode.

## Text appearance

### Text color

**View settings** → **Text color** offers:

- **Automatically** (default) — O&O DeskInfo evaluates the brightness of your wallpaper and chooses black text over bright backgrounds and white text over dark ones. The evaluation follows wallpaper changes, so a slideshow background stays readable.
- A fixed color: **White** (default fixed color), **Light gray**, **Gray**, **Dark gray**, **Black**, **Red**, **Green** or **Blue**.

Picking any fixed color switches the automatic adjustment off. Any other color can be set in the configuration file with `TextColor`; the menu then shows an additional **Custom** entry.

### Font size

**View settings** → **Font size** offers three presets:

| Entry             | Size  |
|-------------------|-------|
| Small             | 10 pt |
| Regular (default) | 12 pt |
| Large             | 14 pt |

Any other value can be set with `TextSize` in the configuration file. The menu then shows a **Custom** entry so you can see that a non-standard value is active.

## Opacity of the display

**View settings** → **Opacity of the display** controls how transparent the whole information panel is: **100 %**, **80 %** (default) or **40 %**. Lower values let the wallpaper show through more strongly — pleasant to look at, but harder to read on busy backgrounds.

Do not confuse this with **Background opacity**, which only affects the panel background of the sliding window.

## Column layout

The information is distributed across up to four columns so that the panel stays compact instead of growing into a long vertical list.

## Automatic balancing

By default O&O DeskInfo balances the columns using a weight-based algorithm:

- every label row and every drive entry counts as weight 1,
- a performance graph counts proportionally to its height (typically three to five times a label row),
- groups are never split, so related information stays together.

The result is a visually balanced panel without any manual adjustment. The behaviour is controlled by `UseBalancedColumnDistribution`.

When the columns cannot be made exactly equal, the alignment mode decides which column is allowed to be shorter — set with `BalancedColumnAlignment` :

| Value                                | Behaviour                             | Recommended for                                                    |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <code>RightBound</code><br>(default) | The leftmost column becomes shorter.  | Right-aligned positions ( <i>Right top</i> , <i>Right bottom</i> ) |
| <code>LeftBound</code>               | The rightmost column becomes shorter. | Left-aligned positions ( <i>Left top</i> , <i>Left bottom</i> )    |

## Manual column assignment

If you want full control, assign each information category to a fixed column in the profile editor or in the profile definition. See Display Profiles.

## Interaction

The desktop display itself is click-through and cannot be clicked. All interaction happens through the tray icon:

| Action                            | Result                                                                                                   |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Left-click</b> the tray icon   | Shows or hides the sliding window. No effect in desktop-integrated mode.                                 |
| <b>Double-click</b> the tray icon | Opens the Windows Task Manager. Can be switched off with <b>Launch Task Manager by double-clicking</b> . |
| <b>Right-click</b> the tray icon  | Opens the tray icon menu.                                                                                |
| <b>Hover</b> over the tray icon   | Shows a tooltip with the current CPU, RAM and network values.                                            |

In sliding-window mode the performance graphs are interactive: hovering over a graph shows a tooltip with current, minimum, maximum and average values.

# System Information

This page is the complete reference of everything O&O DeskInfo can display. The information is organised in **categories**; a display profile is nothing more than a list of categories (or of individual values) in the order you want to see them.

The **Key** column contains the name you use in a display profile or in the configuration file. Keys are not case-sensitive.

## Tip

You do not have to memorise any of this. The profile editor (**Information displayed** → **Edit Custom Profile...**) lets you assemble a profile by clicking checkboxes. The keys below are only needed if you prefer to write the configuration file by hand — for example when preparing a rollout.



## Category overview

| Category key    | Name in the profile editor  | Contents                                                                                  |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| InfoMessage     | Information                 | Your own message, e.g. help desk contact details                                          |
| UserAndMachine  | User and machine            | User name, computer name, domain membership                                               |
| OS              | Operating system            | Edition, version, build, code name, install date, last update, pending reboot, activation |
| CPU             | CPU and RAM                 | Processor, cores, installed memory, system type                                           |
| GPU             | Graphics card               | All graphics adapters with memory and live utilization                                    |
| Hardware        | Hardware information        | Manufacturer, model, serial number, mainboard, BIOS                                       |
| SystemStatus    | System status               | Uptime, last boot, Secure Boot, TPM, page file                                            |
| Battery         | Battery information         | Status, charge, remaining time, battery health                                            |
| VirtualMachine  | Virtual machine information | Whether the system is virtual, and details about the platform                             |
| NetworkBasic    | Network (basic)             | Adapter, connection type, MAC address, IPv4 and IPv6 address                              |
| NetworkAdvanced | Network (advanced)          | Subnet mask, gateways, DHCP, DNS and WINS servers                                         |
| Performance     | System utilization          | CPU, RAM and GPU utilization with history graphs                                          |
| NetworkTraffic  | Network utilization         | Sent and received traffic with history graphs                                             |
| LocalDrives     | Local drives                | Internal drives with capacity and fill level                                              |
| RemovableDrives | Removable drives            | USB sticks, memory cards, external drives                                                 |
| NetworkDrives   | Network drives              | Mapped network drives with status                                                         |
| DriveLED        | Drives only                 | All three drive categories combined                                                       |

A - (single hyphen) inserts a **separator**, i.e. vertical spacing between two groups.

## Information message

| Key         | Label       | Description                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|-------------|-------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| InfoMessage | Information | A free-text line displayed above the system information. Set it with <code>InfoMessage</code> in the configuration file. Typically used for help desk contact details or a notice for the user. |

## User and machine

| Key              | Label        | Description                                                                                                                                                     |
|------------------|--------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| UserName         | User name    | The Windows user name of the logged-on user.                                                                                                                    |
| MachineName      | Machine name | The computer name.                                                                                                                                              |
| DomainMembership | Domain       | The Active Directory domain name, the Azure AD join status ( <i>Azure AD joined</i> , <i>hybrid Azure AD joined</i> ) or the workgroup the computer belongs to. |

## Operating system

| Key                | Label            | Description                                                                                                                |
|--------------------|------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| OSEdition          | Operating system | The installed Windows edition, e.g. <i>Windows 11 Pro</i> .                                                                |
| OSVersion          | Version          | The Windows version, e.g. <i>24H2</i> .                                                                                    |
| OSBuild            | Build            | The build number of the installed Windows version.                                                                         |
| OSCodename         | Codename         | The internal code name of the Windows release.                                                                             |
| OSInstallDate      | Install date     | The date Windows was installed.                                                                                            |
| OSLastUpdate       | Last update      | The most recently installed Windows update together with its installation date.                                            |
| OSPendingReboot    | Reboot pending   | Whether Windows is waiting for a restart to finish installing updates.                                                     |
| OSActivationStatus | Activation       | The Windows activation status: <i>Activated</i> , <i>Grace period</i> , <i>Notification mode</i> or <i>Not activated</i> . |

## Product keys

These two values are **not part of any predefined profile** for privacy reasons. Add them to a custom profile only if you really want the key on your desktop.

| Key             | Label           | Description                                                                                                  |
|-----------------|-----------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| OSProductKey    | Product key     | The Windows product key of the current installation.                                                         |
| OSOEMProductKey | OEM product key | The OEM product key stored in the computer's BIOS by the manufacturer for the original Windows installation. |

### Tip

Instead of putting the key on the desktop, use **Show Windows Product Key** in the tray menu. It opens a dialog from which you can copy the keys to the clipboard when you need them. See [Clipboard and Support](#).

## CPU and RAM

| Key                 | Label       | Description                                                                                                            |
|---------------------|-------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Processor           | CPU         | Model designation of the processor.                                                                                    |
| CPUCoreCount        | CPU cores   | Number of processor cores.                                                                                             |
| TotalPhysicalMemory | RAM         | Installed main memory.                                                                                                 |
| SystemType          | System type | Address width of the processor and of the operating system, e.g. <i>64-bit operating system, x64-based processor</i> . |

## Graphics card

| Key                    | Label                  | Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <code>GPUs</code>      | GPUs                   | A list of all graphics adapters in the system, each with its memory and its live utilization. For discrete graphics cards the <b>dedicated</b> video memory is shown, for integrated GPUs the <b>shared</b> system memory — whichever is meaningful for the adapter. |
| <code>GPUName</code>   | GPU                    | Designation of a single graphics adapter.                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <code>GPUMemory</code> | GPU RAM<br>(dedicated) | Dedicated video memory of a single graphics adapter.                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |

## Hardware information

| Key                                  | Label                    | Description                                                                    |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <code>SystemManufacturer</code>      | System manufacturer      | Manufacturer of the computer system.                                           |
| <code>SystemModel</code>             | System model             | Model designation of the computer system.                                      |
| <code>SystemSerialNumber</code>      | Serial number            | Serial number of the computer system — useful for inventory and support cases. |
| <code>MotherboardManufacturer</code> | Motherboard manufacturer | Manufacturer of the mainboard.                                                 |
| <code>MotherboardModel</code>        | Motherboard model        | Model and product designation of the mainboard.                                |
| <code>BIOSVersion</code>             | BIOS version             | Version of the installed BIOS or UEFI firmware.                                |
| <code>BIOSReleaseDate</code>         | BIOS release date        | Release date of the installed firmware.                                        |

## System status

| Key               | Label          | Description                                        |
|-------------------|----------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| SystemUptime      | System uptime  | Time elapsed since the last system start.          |
| LastBootTime      | Last boot time | Date and time of the last system start.            |
| SecureBootEnabled | Secure Boot    | Whether Secure Boot is enabled.                    |
| TPMVersion        | TPM version    | Version and status of the Trusted Platform Module. |
| PageFileSize      | Page file size | Configuration of the virtual memory page file.     |

## Battery information

These values are only displayed on devices that actually have a battery. On desktop PCs the rows hide themselves.

| Key                  | Label                  | Description                                                                                                                          |
|----------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| BatteryStatus        | Battery status         | Current status: <i>Discharging, On AC, Charging, Fully charged, Partially charged, Low, Critical</i> and so on.                      |
| BatteryChargePercent | Battery charge         | Charge level in percent.                                                                                                             |
| BatteryEstimatedTime | Battery time remaining | Estimated remaining runtime. Shows <i>Calculating...</i> until Windows has enough data.                                              |
| BatteryHealth        | Battery health         | The battery's health: full charge capacity compared with its design capacity, shown as a percentage together with both values in Wh. |

## Virtual machine information

| Key                 | Label              | Description                                                           |
|---------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| VMStatus            | Virtual machine    | Whether the system runs on a virtual machine or on physical hardware. |
| VMVendor            | VM vendor          | Vendor of the virtual machine or of the hypervisor.                   |
| VMProduct           | VM product         | Product name and platform of the virtual machine.                     |
| VMVersion           | VM version         | Version of the VM platform or of the guest tools.                     |
| VMHypervisorPresent | Hypervisor present | Whether a hypervisor is present on the system.                        |
| VMGuestTools        | Guest tools        | Guest extensions or tools installed inside the virtual machine.       |

## Network (basic)

All network values refer to the **active network adapter**. O&O DeskInfo selects it automatically, but you can pin a specific adapter with **Network adapter** in the tray menu — see Tray Icon Menu.

| Key              | Label            | Description                                                                                                                       |
|------------------|------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| NetworkInterface | Network adapter  | Designation of the network adapter.                                                                                               |
| ConnectionType   | Connection type  | Type of connection — <i>Ethernet</i> or <i>WiFi</i> — and whether it is <i>unlimited</i> or <i>limited</i> (e.g. <i>mobile</i> ). |
| PhysicalAddress  | Physical address | The adapter's MAC address.                                                                                                        |
| IPv4AddressLocal | IPv4 address     | Local IPv4 address.                                                                                                               |
| IPv6AddressLocal | IPv6 address     | Local IPv6 address.                                                                                                               |

## Network (advanced)

| Key                  | Label                   | Description                                       |
|----------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| IPv4SubnetMask       | IPv4 Subnet Mask        | IPv4 subnet mask of the adapter.                  |
| IPv4DefaultGateway   | IPv4 Default Gateway    | IPv4 default gateway.                             |
| IsDHCPEnabled        | DHCP enabled            | Whether the adapter obtains its address via DHCP. |
| IPv4DHCPServers      | IPv4 DHCP Servers       | List of IPv4 DHCP servers.                        |
| IPv4DNSServers       | IPv4 DNS Servers        | List of IPv4 DNS servers.                         |
| IPv4WINSServers      | IPv4 WINS Servers       | List of IPv4 WINS servers.                        |
| IPv6AddressLinkLocal | Link-local IPv6 address | Link-local IPv6 address.                          |
| IPv6DefaultGateway   | IPv6 Default Gateway    | IPv6 default gateway.                             |
| IPv6DHCPServers      | IPv6 DHCP Servers       | List of IPv6 DHCP servers.                        |
| IPv6DNSServers       | IPv6 DNS Servers        | List of IPv6 DNS servers.                         |
| IPv6WINSServers      | IPv6 WINS Servers       | List of IPv6 WINS servers.                        |

## System utilization

Each of these values comes in two flavours: a **numeric row** with current, minimum and maximum values, and a **history graph**. Both can be used independently — see Performance Graphs.

| Key                  | Label | Description                                                                           |
|----------------------|-------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| CPUUtilization       | CPU   | Current processor load with minimum, maximum and average values.                      |
| CPUUtilizationGraph  | CPU   | History graph of the processor load.                                                  |
| RAMAvailability      | RAM   | Currently available main memory with minimum, maximum and average values.             |
| RAMAvailabilityGraph | RAM   | History graph of the available main memory.                                           |
| GPUUtilization       | GPU   | Current load of the busiest graphics engine with minimum, maximum and average values. |
| GPUUtilizationGraph  | GPU   | History graph of the graphics load.                                                   |

**Note**

GPU utilization is not available in every environment — some remote desktop sessions do not report the required data. In that case the GPU rows hide themselves automatically, regardless of your profile.

## Network utilization

| Key                         | Label            | Description                                                                             |
|-----------------------------|------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| BytesSentPerSecond          | Traffic sent     | Outgoing transfer rate of the network adapter with minimum, maximum and average values. |
| BytesSentPerSecondGraph     | Traffic sent     | History graph of the outgoing traffic.                                                  |
| BytesReceivedPerSecond      | Traffic received | Incoming transfer rate of the network adapter with minimum, maximum and average values. |
| BytesReceivedPerSecondGraph | Traffic received | History graph of the incoming traffic.                                                  |

The unit can be switched between **megabits per second** (Mb/s, the default) and **bytes per second** (MB/s) via **Show graphs** → **Network traffic in Mb/s**.

## Drives

| Key             | Label            | Description                                                                   |
|-----------------|------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| LocalDrives     | Local drives     | All internal drives with capacity and free space, including a fill level bar. |
| RemovableDrives | Removable drives | USB sticks, memory cards and external drives.                                 |
| NetworkDrives   | Network drives   | Mapped network drives with capacity, free space and reachability status.      |

Details on colors, activity indicators and unresponsive network drives are in Drives and USB Devices.



# Performance Graphs

O&O DeskInfo does not only show current values — it keeps a history and draws it as a graph. That makes load patterns visible that a single number can never reveal: a processor that peaks every few seconds, a memory leak that slowly eats your RAM, or a backup job saturating the network.

## What is measured

Four metrics are recorded continuously:

| Metric           | Unit         | Notes                                      |
|------------------|--------------|--------------------------------------------|
| CPU utilization  | %            | Load across all cores.                     |
| RAM availability | Bytes        | Available (not used) main memory.          |
| GPU utilization  | %            | Load of the busiest graphics engine.       |
| Network traffic  | Mb/s or MB/s | Sent and received, as two separate graphs. |

Each metric exists as a numeric row and as a graph, and both can be shown together or separately. See the keys in System Information.

## Numeric values with minimum, maximum and average

The numeric rows show the current value plus the extremes observed since the application was started:

- ▼ marks the minimum,
- ▲ marks the maximum,
- Ø marks the average.

The average only appears once enough samples have been collected, so that it does not jump around during the first seconds. The threshold is 32 samples by default and can be changed with

`PerformanceAverageMinSampleCount` .

## The graphs

Each graph draws a scrolling timeline that moves from right to left, with the newest sample on the right.

- Dynamic scaling.** Network graphs scale themselves to the largest value in the visible history. Traffic patterns therefore stay visible whether you are transferring kilobytes or gigabytes per second.

- **Scale indicator.** The current maximum of the visible range is printed in the top-right corner of the graph, for example `125 MB/s` .
- **Reference line.** A dashed horizontal line at 50 % height gives the eye an anchor.
- **Tooltips.** In sliding-window mode, hovering over a graph shows current, minimum, maximum and average values with formatted units.
- **Distinct colors.** Each metric uses its own color so that stacked graphs stay distinguishable.

## Switching graphs on and off

Use **Show graphs** in the tray menu:

| Entry                   | Effect                                                                                            |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| CPU usage graph         | Shows or hides the CPU history graph.                                                             |
| RAM usage graph         | Shows or hides the RAM history graph.                                                             |
| GPU usage graph         | Shows or hides the GPU history graph.                                                             |
| Network traffic graphs  | Shows or hides both network graphs (sent and received).                                           |
| Network traffic in Mb/s | Switches the unit between megabits per second (enabled, default) and bytes per second (disabled). |

These switches act as a filter on top of your profile: a graph is only drawn if the profile contains it **and** the corresponding switch is enabled. This lets you keep a profile with all graphs and turn individual ones off temporarily without editing the profile.

The corresponding configuration settings are `ShowCPUGraph` , `ShowRAMGraph` , `ShowGPUGraph` , `ShowNetworkGraph` and `ShowNetworkTrafficInBitsPerSecond` .

## Graph dimensions

### CONFIG FILE

The size of the graphs can only be changed in the configuration file:

```
<Settings>
  <PerformanceGraphHeight>48</PerformanceGraphHeight>
  <PerformanceGraphMinWidth>200</PerformanceGraphMinWidth>
</Settings>
```

- `PerformanceGraphHeight` — height of every graph in pixels (default 48). Taller graphs make small fluctuations easier to see.
- `PerformanceGraphMinWidth` — minimum width in pixels (default 200). Graphs grow beyond this to fill the available column width.

Note that graph height also influences the column balancing: a taller graph carries more weight and therefore attracts fewer other rows into its column.

## The tray icon

The tray icon is a graph in itself. It continuously draws the recent CPU load, so you have a load indicator in your taskbar even when the desktop is covered by application windows.

Hovering over the icon shows a tooltip with the current CPU, RAM and network values. A double-click opens the Windows Task Manager — this can be switched off with **Launch Task Manager by double-clicking** in the tray menu.

## Update speed

**Update speed** in the tray menu controls how often values are refreshed. It affects three different intervals at once:

| Setting                 | Information display | Drive activity | CPU/RAM counters |
|-------------------------|---------------------|----------------|------------------|
| <b>Fast</b>             | every 1 s           | every 1 s      | every 2 s        |
| <b>Normal</b> (default) | every 5 s           | every 2 s      | every 10 s       |
| <b>Slow</b>             | every 10 s          | every 5 s      | every 20 s       |

Faster updates mean smoother graphs and slightly higher CPU usage; slower updates are gentler on battery-powered devices. Any other value in seconds can be set with `UpdateSpeed` ; the menu then shows a **Custom** entry.

## History length

### CONFIG FILE

O&O DeskInfo keeps up to 1024 samples per metric by default — at typical update intervals that is roughly 17 to 34 minutes of history, considerably more than the visible width of a graph. The extra samples are what makes the minimum, maximum and average values meaningful.

```
<Settings>
  <MaxHistoryItems>1024</MaxHistoryItems>
  <PerformanceAverageMinSampleCount>32</PerformanceAverageMinSampleCount>
</Settings>
```

Increase `MaxHistoryItems` if you want extremes over a longer period; reduce it to lower memory usage.

## Standby and hibernation

When Windows suspends the system, all timers and performance counters are stopped. On resume they are restarted and the display is refreshed. This prevents the graphs from being distorted by a huge gap and keeps the minimum and maximum values meaningful across a standby cycle.

## Efficiency Mode

**Use Efficiency Mode** in the tray menu (enabled by default) asks Windows to treat O&O DeskInfo as a background process: lower thread priority and, on supported hardware, execution on efficiency cores. This measurably reduces the energy footprint of the monitoring. The entry is hidden on Windows versions that do not support Efficiency Mode.

# Drives and USB Devices

O&O DeskInfo distinguishes three kinds of drives and displays each group separately, so you can decide exactly which ones belong on your desktop.

## Drive categories

| Category         | Key             | Contains                                      |
|------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| Local drives     | LocalDrives     | Internal, fixed drives.                       |
| Removable drives | RemovableDrives | USB sticks, memory cards and external drives. |
| Network drives   | NetworkDrives   | Mapped network drives.                        |

Each drive is shown with its drive letter, its label, its total capacity and the free space remaining, plus a fill level bar.

## The fill level bar

The bar visualises how full the drive is and changes color as space runs out:

| Fill level         | Color  | Meaning                          |
|--------------------|--------|----------------------------------|
| below 90 %         | green  | Normal                           |
| 90 % to below 95 % | yellow | Warning — space is getting tight |
| 95 % and above     | red    | Critical                         |

All four colors (normal, warning, critical and the bar background) can be changed in the configuration file with `FillColorNormal`, `FillColorWarning`, `FillColorCritical` and `FillColorBackground`.

## Drive activity indicators

**Show drive activity** in the tray menu adds a small read/write activity indicator to every drive — a software equivalent of the hard disk LED that modern PCs no longer have. Read and write activity are signalled separately, so you can tell at a glance whether a drive is being written to or only read from.

The polling interval of the activity indicators follows the update speed: 1 second in *Fast* mode, 2 seconds in *Normal* mode and 5 seconds in *Slow* mode.

Switching this option restarts the application because the underlying performance counters have to be re-initialised. The corresponding configuration setting is `ShowDriveActivity`.

**Tip**

The **Drives only** profile combines all three drive categories into a compact display without labels. Together with a corner position this turns your desktop into a permanent drive activity panel.

## Unresponsive network drives

Network drives are a classic source of hangs: if the server behind a mapped drive is unreachable, querying it can block for a long time. O&O DeskInfo queries drives in the background and marks a drive that does not answer with a cross instead of a fill level bar. The rest of the display keeps updating normally.

The drive tables are refreshed in place rather than rebuilt, so rows do not jump around and column widths stay stable even when a very long drive name appears once.

## Warning about unknown USB devices

**Warn of unknown USB devices** in the tray menu (disabled by default) makes O&O DeskInfo watch for newly connected USB storage devices. When a device is connected that you have not seen before, a notification appears with the device description, its capacity and the drive letters it provides.

The notification offers two answers:

| Button                 | Effect                                                                                              |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Trust only once</b> | The device is accepted for this connection. You will be asked again the next time it is plugged in. |
| <b>Always trust</b>    | The device is remembered and never triggers a notification again.                                   |

The rationale is simple: USB storage from an unknown source may carry malicious files. If you do not recognise a device, do not open anything on it.

Permanently trusted devices are stored in the configuration file under `TrustedUSBDevices`. To make a device trigger the warning again, remove its entry from that list. To reset all decisions, remove the whole element.

The corresponding configuration setting for the feature itself is `ShowUnknownUSBDeviceNotification`.

# Display Profiles

A display profile decides **which information is shown, in which order, and in which column**. O&O DeskInfo ships with four ready-made profiles and lets you build any number of your own.

Switch profiles from the tray menu under **Information displayed**.

## The predefined profiles

### Default

The recommended profile and the one that is active after the first start. It contains, in this order:

Information · User and machine · Operating system · CPU and RAM · Graphics card · Hardware information · System status · Battery information · Network (basic) · Network (advanced) · Virtual machine information · Local drives · Removable drives · Network drives · System utilization · Network utilization

The categories are pre-assigned to three columns so that the panel keeps a balanced shape:

| Column | Categories                                                                                                       |
|--------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1      | Information, User and machine, Operating system, CPU and RAM, Graphics card, Hardware information, System status |
| 2      | Battery information, Network (basic), Network (advanced), Virtual machine information                            |
| 3      | Local drives, Removable drives, Network drives, System utilization, Network utilization                          |

### Full

The same categories as *Default*, but without fixed column assignments — O&O DeskInfo distributes everything automatically using the balanced column algorithm.

### Minimum

Only the essentials: Information · User and machine · Operating system. Ideal if you want the machine name and the Windows version on screen and nothing else.

### Drives only

All three drive categories in one compact block, **without labels**. This turns the display into a pure drive panel — useful in combination with drive activity indicators.

## The profile editor

Open **Information displayed** → **Edit Custom Profile...** to build your own profile.

### Building a profile

1. **Profile name** — the name that will appear in the tray menu. If you leave it empty, the profile is simply called *Custom*.
2. **Select categories to display** — tick every category you want. The category overview explains what each one contains.
3. **Order** — move a selected category up or down with the ▲ and ▼ buttons. The order in the list is the order on the desktop.
4. **Column** — for each category, choose where it goes:
  - **Auto** (default) — O&O DeskInfo places the category automatically for an optimal layout.
  - **1 to 4** — the category always goes into this column.
5. Confirm with **OK**. The profile is saved and applied immediately.

Two helper buttons make editing easier:

| Button                      | Effect                                                                                                                                                                              |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Load current profile</b> | Loads the profile that is currently active as a template, so you can start from <i>Default</i> or <i>Full</i> instead of an empty list. Unsaved changes in the editor are replaced. |
| <b>Clear</b>                | Clears all selections and resets the profile.                                                                                                                                       |

You need at least one category and a non-empty profile name; otherwise the editor asks you to complete your input.

### Column assignment

Mixing **Auto** and fixed columns is allowed and often the most practical approach: pin the two or three categories whose position matters to you, and let the rest be distributed automatically.

Typical reasons to assign columns manually:

- keeping related categories side by side, e.g. all network information in one column,
- making sure a long list of drives has a column of its own,
- putting the information message at the top of the first column where it cannot be overlooked.

### Import and export

Profiles can be moved between computers:

- **Export...** writes the current profile — including its column assignments — to an XML file.



- **Import...** loads a profile from a previously exported XML file and restores its column assignments.

This is the simplest way to prepare a profile on one machine and distribute it, and it pairs well with a prepared configuration file for rollouts.

## Defining a profile in the configuration file

Everything the editor does can also be written directly into the configuration file. This is the usual approach for automated deployments.

```
<Settings xmlns="https://www.oo-software.com">
  <SelectedProfile>Custom</SelectedProfile>
  <CustomProfile>
    <Name>Custom</Name>
    <DisplayName>IT Support Profile</DisplayName>
    <ShowLabels>true</ShowLabels>
    <Keys>
      <Item>InfoMessage</Item>
      <Item>-</Item>
      <Item>UserAndMachine</Item>
      <Item>-</Item>
      <Item>OS</Item>
      <Item>-</Item>
      <Item>CPU</Item>
      <Item>-</Item>
      <Item>NetworkBasic</Item>
      <Item>-</Item>
      <Item>Performance</Item>
      <Item>-</Item>
      <Item>LocalDrives</Item>
    </Keys>
    <ColumnAssignments>InfoMessage:0;UserAndMachine:0;OS:0;Performance:1;LocalDrives:2</ColumnAssignments>
  </CustomProfile>
</Settings>
```

## The elements in detail

| Element           | Description                                                                                                    |
|-------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Name              | Internal name of the profile. Use <code>Custom</code> unless you have a reason not to.                         |
| DisplayName       | The name shown in the tray menu. If empty, <i>Custom</i> is used.                                              |
| ShowLabels        | <code>true</code> (default) shows the label in front of every value; <code>false</code> shows the values only. |
| Keys              | The list of entries, each one in an <code>&lt;Item&gt;</code> element.                                         |
| ColumnAssignments | Optional. Fixed column assignments — see below.                                                                |

## The Keys list

Every `<Item>` contains either

- a **category key** such as `UserAndMachine`, `OS` or `Performance` — see the category overview,
- an **individual value key** such as `MachineName` or `IPv4AddressLocal` — see System Information,
- or a single `-`, which inserts a separator (vertical spacing).

Category keys and individual keys can be freely mixed, which lets you build very specific profiles — for example only the machine name, the IP address and the fill level of drive C:.

Consecutive separators are collapsed into one, so you do not have to worry about producing double spacing.

## The ColumnAssignments string

`ColumnAssignments` is a single string of `Category:ColumnIndex` pairs separated by semicolons. The **column index is zero-based**: `0` is the first column, `1` the second, and so on up to `3`.

```
InfoMessage:0;UserAndMachine:0;OS:0;Performance:1;LocalDrives:2
```

Categories that are not listed are distributed automatically — exactly like the **Auto** setting in the editor.

## Selecting the profile

The active profile is chosen with `SelectedProfile`:

| Value           | Profile                                                          |
|-----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Default         | Default profile (also used when the setting is missing or empty) |
| Full            | Full profile                                                     |
| Minimum         | Minimum profile                                                  |
| DriveLED        | Drives only                                                      |
| any other value | The profile defined in CustomProfile                             |

**Note**

The predefined profiles are built into the application and cannot be modified. To start from *Default* and change a detail, open the profile editor, click **Load current profile**, adjust what you need and save it as your own profile.

# Clipboard and Support

Reading values off the screen is fine for a quick look. When you have to *hand them over* — to a colleague, to your IT department, to a support ticket — O&O DeskInfo can package everything for you.

## Copy info to clipboard

Right-click the tray icon and choose **Copy info to clipboard**. All information from the currently active display profile is written to the clipboard as plain text, with the labels aligned into neat columns so it stays readable in an e-mail or a web form.

A dialog then confirms the copy and offers to open the text in Notepad right away. Answer **Yes** and a temporary file is created and opened; answer **No** and the text simply stays in the clipboard, ready to be pasted with `Ctrl+V`.

What you get:

- Every value of the active profile, in the profile's order, including the separators as blank lines.
- The version of O&O DeskInfo, so the recipient knows which build produced the report.
- **No graphs** — history graphs are visual and are skipped in the text output. The corresponding numeric values (current, minimum, maximum) are included.

### Tip

Choose the **Full** profile before copying if you want the most complete report you can get in one click, then switch back to your usual profile afterwards.

The temporary file used for the Notepad export is `%Temp%\DeskInfo.txt`.

## Windows product key

**Show Windows Product Key** in the tray menu opens a small dialog with the product keys found on the system:

- the **product key** of the current Windows installation,
- and, if present, the **OEM product key** stored in the computer's BIOS by the manufacturer for the original Windows installation.

**Copy all keys to the clipboard** copies them out — again with an offer to open them in Notepad. Keep the result in a safe place; you will need it if you ever have to reinstall Windows.

The menu entry is hidden automatically when no valid key can be read from the system. The temporary file used for the Notepad export is `%Temp%\ProductKey.txt`.

### Note

The product keys are deliberately **not** part of any predefined display profile — a key permanently visible on the desktop is a security risk, especially in shared offices or during screen sharing. If you still want them on screen, add the `OSProductKey` and `OSOEMProductKey` keys to a custom profile.

## Your own message on the desktop

### CONFIG FILE

The `InfoMessage` setting places a free-text line above the system information. In managed environments this is the single most useful setting O&O DeskInfo has: it puts your help desk contact details permanently in front of the user.

```
<Settings>
  <InfoMessage>IT Help Desk: helpdesk@example.com | Phone: +49 30 1234-5678</InfoMessage>
</Settings>
```

The message is only displayed if the active profile contains the `InfoMessage` key — all predefined profiles do, in their first position. Details are in Enterprise Deployment.

## Quick setup

**Quick setup...** reopens the setup step of the welcome wizard at any time. It bundles the settings people change most often into one dialog:

- Application start (start with Windows)
- Display profile
- Monitor selection
- Window position, with a live preview
- Text size and text opacity

This is handy when you have moved to a different monitor setup or changed your wallpaper and want to readjust everything in one go instead of walking through the menu.

## About and online help

| Menu entry                   | Purpose                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Online help                  | Opens this documentation in your browser.                                                                                                                                                 |
| About                        | Shows the version of O&O DeskInfo, a summary of your Windows version, a link to the end user license agreement, a link to the online help and a link to check online for a newer version. |
| Explore more O&O products... | Opens an overview of the other O&O tools for Windows.                                                                                                                                     |

The About dialog is also where you can confirm that O&O DeskInfo is **freeware**: you may use it on any number of computers and pass it on. If your copy arrived with an installer or bundled with other software, that is a violation of our terms of use — please tell us the source.

## Logging

### CONFIG FILE

For troubleshooting, O&O DeskInfo can write a detailed log:

```
<Settings>
  <LogEnabled>true</LogEnabled>
</Settings>
```

The log is written to `%LocalAppData%\00 Software\00 DeskInfo\Logs\00DeskInfo.log`. Enable it only when you are chasing a problem — and attach the file when you contact O&O Support, it usually shortens the conversation considerably.

## Getting help

- **Support portal:** [www.oo-software.com/en/support](http://www.oo-software.com/en/support)
- **E-mail:** [support@oo-software.com](mailto:support@oo-software.com)

When you report a problem, the output of **Copy info to clipboard** plus the log file is exactly the information we need.

# Tray Icon Menu

O&O DeskInfo has no window with a menu bar. Everything you need for everyday use is in the **context menu of the tray icon** — right-click the icon in the Windows notification area to open it.

This page describes every entry, in the order in which it appears. Every change takes effect immediately and is written to the configuration file.

## Note

Some entries only appear when they are relevant. The **Monitor** and **Network adapter** submenus are hidden when there is only one monitor or only one adapter, the sliding-window options are hidden while desktop integration is active, **Show Windows Product Key** is hidden when no key can be read, and **Use Efficiency Mode** is hidden on Windows versions without Efficiency Mode.

## Information displayed

Selects the active display profile.

| Entry                         | Description                                                                                                     |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Full</b>                   | All information categories, distributed automatically across the columns.                                       |
| <b>Default</b>                | The recommended selection, pre-assigned to three columns.                                                       |
| <b>Minimum</b>                | Information message, user and machine, operating system.                                                        |
| <b>Drives only</b>            | All drives without labels — a compact drive panel.                                                              |
| <b>Custom</b>                 | Your own profile. Only visible once you have created one; the entry then carries the name you gave the profile. |
| <b>Edit Custom Profile...</b> | Opens the profile editor. See Display Profiles.                                                                 |

## Position

Places the display in one of the four corners of the screen.

| Entry                                             | Availability                                                                 |
|---------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Left / Right                                      | Only in sliding-window mode, where the window always slides in horizontally. |
| Left top / Right top / Left bottom / Right bottom | Only in desktop-integrated mode.                                             |

The default is **Right top**.

## Network adapter

All network values — adapter name, IP addresses, gateways, DNS servers and the network traffic graphs — refer to one adapter. This submenu selects it.

| Entry               | Description                                                                                   |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Automatically       | O&O DeskInfo picks the adapter that Windows currently uses for outbound traffic. Recommended. |
| <i>adapter name</i> | Pins a specific adapter. Adapters that are currently up are marked as <i>(active)</i> .       |

Loopback adapters are not listed. Changing the adapter restarts the application so that all network values can be re-read.

## Monitor

| Entry                     | Description                                                                                                                                                          |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| All monitors              | Shows the information on every connected monitor simultaneously. Only present when more than one monitor is connected.                                               |
| Monitor 1, Monitor 2, ... | Shows the information on this monitor only. The primary monitor is marked as <i>(Primary)</i> . The numbers match the ones Windows uses in its own display settings. |

Changing the monitor restarts the application. Connecting or disconnecting a monitor updates the menu automatically.

## View settings

Everything that concerns the look of the display.



| Entry                                   | Description                                                                                                                                   |
|-----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Show integrated with the Desktop</b> | Switches between the desktop-integrated panel (checked, default) and the sliding window. See Display modes.                                   |
| <b>Always on top</b>                    | Sliding-window mode only. Keeps the window above all other windows.                                                                           |
| <b>Show button on desktop</b>           | Sliding-window mode only. Shows or hides the tab button at the screen edge. With the button hidden, click the tray icon to toggle the window. |

## Text color

| Entry                              | Description                                                                                                                                                        |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Automatically</b>               | Default. Chooses black or white text depending on the brightness of your wallpaper, and follows wallpaper changes.                                                 |
| <b>White (default)</b>             | Fixed white text.                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>Light gray, Gray, Dark gray</b> | Fixed gray tones for a more discreet look.                                                                                                                         |
| <b>Black, Red, Green, Blue</b>     | Fixed colors.                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>Custom</b>                      | Only visible when the configuration file contains a color that is not in this list. Selecting it does nothing — it merely indicates that a custom color is active. |

Choosing any fixed color switches the automatic adjustment off.

## Button color

Sliding-window mode only. Color of the tab button at the screen edge: **Blue (default)**, **White**, **Black**, **Red**, **Green**, **Orange** — plus a **Custom** entry when the configuration file specifies a different color.

## Background opacity

Sliding-window mode only. Opacity of the panel background: **Full (100%)**, **Medium (80%)** (default) or **Low (40%)**. A **Custom** entry appears for other values from the configuration file.

## Font size

| Entry          | Size                                                      |
|----------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| Small (10pt)   | 10 pt                                                     |
| Regular (12pt) | 12 pt — default                                           |
| Large (14pt)   | 14 pt                                                     |
| Custom         | Indicates a different size set in the configuration file. |

## Opacity of the display

Opacity of the entire information panel: **Full (100%)**, **Medium (80%)** (default) or **Low (40%)**, plus **Custom** for other values. Lower values let the wallpaper show through more strongly.

## Quick setup...

Reopens the setup step of the welcome wizard: application start, display profile, monitor, position (with preview), text size and text opacity — all in one dialog. See Clipboard and Support.

## Start with Windows

Adds or removes an autostart entry for the **current user**, so O&O DeskInfo is available after every logon. No administrator rights are needed.

For unattended deployments use `SetAutoRun` instead.

## Show drive activity

Adds read/write activity indicators to every drive — a software replacement for the hard disk LED. Switching this option restarts the application because the underlying performance counters have to be re-initialised. See Drives and USB Devices.

## Warn of unknown USB devices

Off by default. When enabled, connecting a USB storage device you have not seen before shows a notification in which you can trust the device **once** or **always**. See Warning about unknown USB devices.

## Show graphs

| Entry                          | Description                                                                                |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>CPU usage graph</b>         | Shows or hides the CPU history graph.                                                      |
| <b>RAM usage graph</b>         | Shows or hides the RAM history graph.                                                      |
| <b>GPU usage graph</b>         | Shows or hides the GPU history graph.                                                      |
| <b>Network traffic graphs</b>  | Shows or hides both network graphs (sent and received).                                    |
| <b>Network traffic in Mb/s</b> | Checked (default): traffic in megabits per second. Unchecked: traffic in bytes per second. |

These switches work as a filter on top of the active profile: a graph is drawn only if the profile contains it *and* the switch is enabled.

## Update speed

How often the values are refreshed.

| Entry         | Information display                                           | Drive activity | CPU/RAM counters |
|---------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|------------------|
| <b>Fast</b>   | every 1 s                                                     | every 1 s      | every 2 s        |
| <b>Normal</b> | every 5 s                                                     | every 2 s      | every 10 s       |
| <b>Slow</b>   | every 10 s                                                    | every 5 s      | every 20 s       |
| <b>Custom</b> | Indicates a different interval set in the configuration file. |                |                  |

**Normal** is the default. Faster updates give smoother graphs at slightly higher CPU cost.

## Use Efficiency Mode

Enabled by default. Asks Windows to run O&O DeskInfo as a background process with reduced thread priority and, on supported hardware, on efficiency cores. The entry is hidden on Windows versions that do not offer Efficiency Mode.

## Launch Task Manager by double-clicking

Enabled by default. Determines whether a double-click on the tray icon opens the Windows Task Manager.

## Show Windows Product Key

Opens a dialog with the Windows product key and, if available, the OEM product key from the BIOS, together with a button to copy both to the clipboard. The entry is hidden when no valid key can be read. See Windows product key.

## Copy info to clipboard

Copies all information of the active profile to the clipboard as aligned plain text and offers to open it in Notepad. See Copy info to clipboard.

## Language

| Entry                | Description                                    |
|----------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| Use system language  | Default. Follows the Windows display language. |
| <i>language name</i> | Sets a fixed language for the user interface.  |

The interface is fully translated into **English, German and French**; further localizations appear as they become available. Changing the language rebuilds the display immediately — no restart is required. The corresponding configuration setting is `Language`, and the command line offers `/Lang`.

## Online help

Opens this documentation in your browser.

## About

Shows the version of O&O DeskInfo, a summary of your Windows version, and links to the end user license agreement, the online help and an online check for a newer version.

## Explore more O&O products...

Opens an overview of the other O&O tools for Windows — including the free ones such as O&O ShutUp10++ and O&O AppBuster.

## Quit

Closes O&O DeskInfo. The display disappears and the tray icon is removed. All settings have already been saved.

## Hiding or restricting the menu

### CONFIG FILE

In managed environments the whole menu can be reduced or removed with the `TrayMenu` setting, and configuration changes can be blocked entirely with `IsRestricted`. See Enterprise Deployment.

# Configuration File

Everything O&O DeskInfo knows about itself lives in a single XML file. The tray icon menu covers the settings needed in everyday use; the configuration file covers **all** of them — including margins, exact colors, graph dimensions, history length, your own help desk message and the restrictions for managed workstations.

This page is the complete reference.

## Where the configuration file is stored

The file is always called `00DeskInfo.cfg`. O&O DeskInfo looks for it in this order:

1. **The path given with the `/cfg` parameter**, if one was passed on the command line.
2. **Next to `00DeskInfo.exe`** — if a file named `00DeskInfo.cfg` exists in the program folder, that file is always used. This is what makes fully portable operation from a USB stick possible: settings travel with the application.
3. **In the user profile** — otherwise `%LocalAppData%\00 Software\00 DeskInfo\00DeskInfo.cfg` is used and created if it does not exist.

### Tip

The easiest way to get a valid file to edit: start O&O DeskInfo once, quit it, and open the file that has been created in `%LocalAppData%\00 Software\00 DeskInfo\`. It contains every setting with its current value.

## Structure and rules

```
<?xml version="1.0"?>
<Settings xmlns:xsi="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema-instance" xmlns:xsd="http://www.w3
  <Language>en</Language>
  <PanelPosition>RightTop</PanelPosition>
  <TextSize>12</TextSize>
</Settings>
```

A few rules to keep in mind:

- The root element is `<Settings>` and it must **not** declare a default XML namespace.
- Element names are **case-sensitive** and must match the names in this reference exactly.
- **Boolean** values are `true` or `false` (lowercase).

- **Colors** are either an English color name ( `White` , `Black` , `Red` , `Green` , `Orange` ) or a hex value in the form `#RRGGBB` or `#AARRGGBB` .
- Every element is **optional**. A missing element means the default value is used, so a minimal file with two settings is perfectly valid.
- The order of the elements does not matter, but keeping the order the application writes makes files easier to compare.

## Changes are applied automatically

O&O DeskInfo watches its configuration file. Save a change and it is picked up about a second later and applied — no restart needed. This makes trying out values quite pleasant: keep the file open in an editor next to your desktop and watch the effect.

The one-second pause is deliberate. Editors often write a file in several steps, so O&O DeskInfo waits until the file has been quiet for a moment before reading it — that way a half-written file is never applied.

Most changes are applied by rebuilding the display in place, which keeps the collected graph history. Four settings reach further into the system and restart the application instead, because they depend on resources that are only set up once per process:

- `Monitor`
- `ShowOnAllMonitors`
- `NetworkAdapter`
- `ShowDriveActivity`

Settings you change from the tray menu take effect immediately as well and are written to the file right away.

### Note

A running instance saves its own settings to the file — for example the cached column layout. If you edit the file while O&O DeskInfo is running, that is fine; but do not edit a copy you took earlier and write it back, because you would be putting stale values back in.

### Warning

If the file cannot be parsed — a missing closing tag, an invalid value, a stray character — O&O DeskInfo creates a **timestamped backup copy** next to it with the extension `.invalid` and then starts over with default settings. Your broken file is never silently deleted, so you can find the mistake and copy your values back.

## General

### Language

Type: text · Default: empty (system language)

The language of the user interface. Use an empty element or `system` to follow the Windows display language.

| Value                          | Language                 |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|
| (empty) or <code>system</code> | Windows display language |
| <code>en</code>                | English                  |
| <code>de</code>                | German                   |
| <code>fr</code>                | French                   |

Also available in the tray menu and as the `/lang` command line parameter.

```
<Language>en</Language>
```

### LogEnabled

Type: boolean · Default: `false`

Writes a detailed log to `%LocalAppData%\00 Software\00 DeskInfo\Logs\00DeskInfo.log`. Enable this only for troubleshooting, and attach the log when you contact support.

### ShowWelcome

Type: boolean · Default: `true`

Whether the welcome wizard is shown at startup. It is set to `false` automatically after the wizard has been completed once. Set it back to `true` to show the wizard again on the next start — or set it to `false` in a prepared file so that users on a managed machine never see it.

### UpdateSpeed

Type: number (seconds) · Default: `5`

How often the displayed values are refreshed. The tray menu offers `1` (Fast), `5` (Normal) and `10` (Slow); any other value is accepted here and shown as *Custom* in the menu. The intervals for drive activity and for the CPU/RAM counters are derived from this value — see Update speed.

### UseEfficiencyMode

Type: boolean · Default: `true`



Asks Windows to run O&O DeskInfo as a background process with reduced priority and, on supported hardware, on efficiency cores. Has no effect on Windows versions without Efficiency Mode.

## LaunchTaskManager

Type: *boolean* · Default: `true`

Whether a double-click on the tray icon opens the Windows Task Manager.

## Position and monitors

### PanelPosition

Type: `LeftTop` | `RightTop` | `LeftBottom` | `RightBottom` · Default: `RightTop`

The screen corner the display occupies.

### Monitor

Type: *number* · Default: `0`

Zero-based index of the monitor the display appears on. `0` is the first monitor. Ignored when `ShowOnAllMonitors` is `true`.

### ShowOnAllMonitors

Type: *boolean* · Default: `false`

`true` shows the information on every connected monitor simultaneously, using the same profile, position and appearance everywhere.

### TopMargin, RightMargin, BottomMargin, LeftMargin

Type: *number (pixels)* · Default: `0`

Distance between the display and the screen edges, in desktop-integrated mode. Useful when a taskbar, a dock or a wallpaper element is in the way.

```
<TopMargin>40</TopMargin>
<RightMargin>24</RightMargin>
<BottomMargin>0</BottomMargin>
<LeftMargin>0</LeftMargin>
```

### IsIntegratedWithDesktop

Type: *boolean* · Default: `true`

`true` draws the display onto the desktop background, behind the desktop icons. `false` switches to the sliding window.

## DisplayAlwaysOnTop

Type: *boolean* · Default: `false`

Sliding-window mode only: keeps the window above all other windows.

## ShowButtonOnDesktop

Type: *boolean* · Default: `true`

Sliding-window mode only: shows the tab button at the screen edge. With `false`, the window is toggled from the tray icon.

## ButtonYPosition

Type: *number* · Default: `175`

Vertical position of the tab button in pixels. Normally set by dragging the button with the mouse.

# Appearance

## AutoAdjustTextColor

Type: *boolean* · Default: `true`

`true` chooses the text color automatically from the brightness of the wallpaper — black over bright backgrounds, white over dark ones — and ignores `TextColor`. Set it to `false` to use a fixed color.

## TextColor

Type: *color* · Default: `white`

The fixed text color. Only effective when `AutoAdjustTextColor` is `false`. Any color is allowed; the tray menu marks values outside its own list as *Custom*.

The colors offered in the menu are:

| Menu entry | Value   |
|------------|---------|
| White      | White   |
| Light gray | #F2F2F2 |
| Gray       | #D9D9D9 |
| Dark gray  | #838383 |
| Black      | Black   |
| Red        | Red     |
| Green      | Green   |
| Blue       | #3082CF |

## TextSize

Type: number (points) · Default: 12

Font size of the display. The menu offers 10 , 12 and 14 ; other values are accepted and shown as *Custom*.

## DisplayOpacity

Type: number (percent) · Default: 80

Opacity of the whole information panel. The menu offers 100 , 80 and 40 .

## Opacity

Type: number (percent) · Default: 80

Sliding-window mode only: opacity of the panel background. The menu offers 100 , 80 and 40 .

## PanelColor

Type: color · Default: #3082CF (blue)

Sliding-window mode only: color of the tab button. The menu offers blue ( #3082CF ), White , Black , Red , Green and orange ( #FF6A00 ).

## FillColorNormal

Type: color · Default: #FF82BC1D (green)

Color of the drive fill level bar below 90 % occupancy.

## FillColorWarning

Type: color · Default: `#FFFFBC00` (yellow)

Color of the drive fill level bar from 90 % to below 95 % occupancy.

## FillColorCritical

Type: color · Default: `#FFDD4A17` (red)

Color of the drive fill level bar from 95 % occupancy.

## FillColorBackground

Type: color · Default: `#FF838383` (gray)

Background color of the drive fill level bar.

## Column layout

### UseBalancedColumnDistribution

Type: boolean · Default: `true`

`true` distributes the information across the columns using a weight-based algorithm: every label row and drive entry counts as 1, a performance graph counts proportionally to its height, and groups are never split. `false` falls back to a simple sequential distribution.

### BalancedColumnAlignment

Type: `RightBound` | `LeftBound` · Default: `RightBound`

Decides which column may be shorter when the columns cannot be balanced exactly. `RightBound` shortens the leftmost column (ideal for right-aligned positions), `LeftBound` shortens the rightmost column (ideal for left-aligned positions).

## Graphs and performance monitoring

### ShowCPUGraph

Type: boolean · Default: `true`

Shows the CPU history graph, provided the active profile contains it.

### ShowRAMGraph

Type: boolean · Default: `true`

Shows the RAM history graph, provided the active profile contains it.

## ShowGPUGraph

Type: *boolean* · Default: `true`

Shows the GPU history graph, provided the active profile contains it. GPU rows hide themselves anyway on systems that do not report GPU data.

## ShowNetworkGraph

Type: *boolean* · Default: `true`

Shows both network traffic graphs (sent and received), provided the active profile contains them.

## ShowNetworkTrafficInBitsPerSecond

Type: *boolean* · Default: `true`

`true` displays network traffic in bits per second with decimal prefixes (b/s, Kb/s, Mb/s, Gb/s). `false` displays it in bytes per second with binary prefixes (B/s, KB/s, MB/s, GB/s).

## PerformanceGraphHeight

Type: *number (pixels)* · Default: `48`

Height of every performance graph. Taller graphs make small fluctuations easier to see, but carry more weight in the column balancing.

## PerformanceGraphMinWidth

Type: *number (pixels)* · Default: `200`

Minimum width of a performance graph. Graphs grow beyond this to fill the available column width.

## MaxHistoryItems

Type: *number* · Default: `1024`

How many samples are kept per metric. At typical update intervals 1024 samples cover roughly 17 to 34 minutes. Increase for longer-range minimum and maximum values, reduce to save memory.

## PerformanceAverageMinSampleCount

Type: *number* · Default: `32`

How many samples must be collected before an average value is displayed. Prevents a jumpy average right after startup. The value is capped internally at `MaxHistoryItems`.

## Drives and USB devices

### ShowDriveActivity

Type: *boolean* · Default: `true`

Shows read/write activity indicators for every drive.

### ShowUnknownUSBDeviceNotification

Type: *boolean* · Default: `false`

Shows a notification when a USB storage device is connected that has not been trusted before.

### TrustedUSBDevices

Type: *list of text* · Default: *empty*

USB devices that have been permanently trusted. Remove an entry to make the device trigger the warning again, or remove the whole element to reset all decisions.

```
<TrustedUSBDevices>
  <string>USBSTOR\DISK&amp;VEN_SANDISK&amp;PROD_ULTRA&amp;REV_1.00\4C530001...</string>
</TrustedUSBDevices>
```

## Network

### NetworkAdapter

Type: *text* · Default: *empty (automatic)*

Description of the network adapter whose values are displayed. Leave the element out for automatic selection. The exact string must match the adapter description Windows reports — the safest way to obtain it is to pick the adapter once from the tray menu and then read the value out of the file.

## Profiles

### SelectedProfile

Type: *text* · Default: `Default`

Which profile is active.

| Value           | Profile                              |
|-----------------|--------------------------------------|
| Default         | Default profile                      |
| Full            | Full profile                         |
| Minimum         | Minimum profile                      |
| DriveLED        | Drives only                          |
| any other value | The profile defined in CustomProfile |

## CustomProfile

Type: element · Default: none

Your own profile definition. The structure and all available keys are described in Display Profiles.

```
<CustomProfile>
  <Name>Custom</Name>
  <DisplayName>IT Support Profile</DisplayName>
  <ShowLabels>true</ShowLabels>
  <Keys>
    <Item>InfoMessage</Item>
    <Item>-</Item>
    <Item>UserAndMachine</Item>
    <Item>-</Item>
    <Item>OS</Item>
  </Keys>
  <ColumnAssignments>InfoMessage:0;UserAndMachine:0;OS:0</ColumnAssignments>
</CustomProfile>
```

## Deployment and restrictions

These four settings exist for managed environments. Enterprise Deployment describes how to combine them.

### InfoMessage

Type: text · Default: empty

A free-text line displayed above the system information — typically your help desk contact details. It is only shown if the active profile contains the InfoMessage key, which all predefined profiles do.

```
<InfoMessage>IT Help Desk: helpdesk@example.com | Phone: +49 30 1234-5678</InfoMessage>
```

## SetAutoRun

Type: *boolean* · Default: *not set*

Forces the autostart entry without asking the user. `true` creates it, `false` removes it. If the element is absent, the autostart state is left as the user configured it.

## IsRestricted

Type: *boolean* · Default: *not set*

`true` puts O&O DeskInfo into a read-only mode: the configuration file is no longer written and the tray menu is not displayed. Users can neither change nor accidentally destroy the configuration you rolled out.

## TrayMenu

Type: `Full` | `ExitOnly` | `HideMenu` | `HideAll` · Default: `Full`

How much of the tray icon and its menu the user gets.

| Value                 | Tray icon | Menu             |
|-----------------------|-----------|------------------|
| <code>Full</code>     | visible   | complete         |
| <code>ExitOnly</code> | visible   | only <b>Quit</b> |
| <code>HideMenu</code> | visible   | none             |
| <code>HideAll</code>  | hidden    | none             |

## Values managed by the application

These elements appear in the file but are maintained by O&O DeskInfo itself. There is no reason to edit them, and a prepared configuration file for a rollout should simply leave them out.

| Element                                                | Meaning                                                                                                                                    |
|--------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <code>NewsletterSubscribed</code>                      | Whether the newsletter was subscribed from the product overview.                                                                           |
| <code>ScrollViewPosition</code>                        | Scroll position of the display.                                                                                                            |
| <code>SavedColumnLayout</code>                         | The last calculated column layout, cached for a faster start.                                                                              |
| <code>LayoutEnvironmentFingerprint</code>              | Fingerprint of the display environment (monitor, resolution, text size, DPI, profile) used to detect when the layout must be recalculated. |
| <code>WindowPosition</code> , <code>AppViewMode</code> | Inherited from the shared O&O settings base and not used by O&O DeskInfo.                                                                  |



## Complete example

A configuration for a support workstation: German interface, bottom-left corner, large readable text, help desk message, autostart enforced and the user interface locked down.

```
<?xml version="1.0"?>
<Settings xmlns:xsi="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema-instance" xmlns:xsd="http://www.w3
  <!-- General -->
  <Language>de</Language>
  <LogEnabled>>false</LogEnabled>
  <ShowWelcome>>false</ShowWelcome>
  <UpdateSpeed>5</UpdateSpeed>

  <!-- Position -->
  <PanelPosition>LeftBottom</PanelPosition>
  <Monitor>0</Monitor>
  <ShowOnAllMonitors>>false</ShowOnAllMonitors>
  <IsIntegratedWithDesktop>>true</IsIntegratedWithDesktop>
  <TopMargin>0</TopMargin>
  <BottomMargin>48</BottomMargin>
  <LeftMargin>24</LeftMargin>

  <!-- Appearance -->
  <AutoAdjustTextColor>>true</AutoAdjustTextColor>
  <TextSize>14</TextSize>
  <DisplayOpacity>100</DisplayOpacity>
  <UseBalancedColumnDistribution>>true</UseBalancedColumnDistribution>
  <BalancedColumnAlignment>LeftBound</BalancedColumnAlignment>

  <!-- Graphs -->
  <ShowCPUGraph>>true</ShowCPUGraph>
  <ShowRAMGraph>>true</ShowRAMGraph>
  <ShowGPUGraph>>false</ShowGPUGraph>
  <ShowNetworkGraph>>true</ShowNetworkGraph>
  <ShowNetworkTrafficInBitsPerSecond>>true</ShowNetworkTrafficInBitsPerSecond>
  <PerformanceGraphHeight>64</PerformanceGraphHeight>

  <!-- Drives and USB -->
  <ShowDriveActivity>>true</ShowDriveActivity>
  <ShowUnknownUSBDeviceNotification>>true</ShowUnknownUSBDeviceNotification>

  <!-- Profile -->
  <SelectedProfile>Custom</SelectedProfile>
  <CustomProfile>
  <Name>Custom</Name>
  <DisplayName>Support</DisplayName>
  <ShowLabels>>true</ShowLabels>
  <Keys>
  <Item>InfoMessage</Item>
  <Item>-</Item>
  <Item>UserAndMachine</Item>
  <Item>-</Item>
  <Item>OS</Item>
```

```
<Item>-</Item>
<Item>CPU</Item>
<Item>-</Item>
<Item>NetworkBasic</Item>
<Item>-</Item>
<Item>LocalDrives</Item>
<Item>-</Item>
<Item>Performance</Item>
</Keys>
<ColumnAssignments>InfoMessage:0;UserAndMachine:0;OS:0;CPU:0;NetworkBasic:1;LocalDrives
</CustomProfile>

<!-- Deployment -->
<InfoMessage>IT Help Desk: helpdesk@example.com | Phone: +49 30 1234-5678</InfoMessage>
<SetAutoRun>true</SetAutoRun>
<IsRestricted>true</IsRestricted>
<TrayMenu>ExitOnly</TrayMenu>
</Settings>
```

### Note

XML comments ( `<!-- ... -->` ) are allowed while you edit the file, but O&O DeskInfo does not preserve them: as soon as the application writes the file itself, the comments are gone. Keep your commented master copy in your deployment share, not on the client.

# Command Line Parameters

O&O DeskInfo accepts two parameters. Both are aimed at automated deployment: they let you point the application at a prepared configuration and at a fixed interface language without touching the user profile.

```
00DeskInfo.exe [/cfg:<file path>] [/lang:<code>]
```

## /cfg — use a specific configuration file

```
00DeskInfo.exe /cfg:"C:\IT\00DeskInfo.cfg"
```

Loads the configuration from the given path instead of from the default locations. The path must point to an **existing** file; if it does not exist, O&O DeskInfo shows an error message with the usage text and exits.

Enclose paths containing spaces in quotation marks.

### Tip

For a portable installation you do not need this parameter at all. If a file named `00DeskInfo.cfg` sits next to `00DeskInfo.exe`, it is used automatically — see [Where the configuration file is stored](#).

## /lang — set the interface language

```
00DeskInfo.exe /lang:en
```

Sets the language of the user interface. The code is the two-letter language code:

| Code | Language |
|------|----------|
| en   | English  |
| de   | German   |
| fr   | French   |

Without this parameter, O&O DeskInfo uses the language from the `Language` setting, and if that is empty, the Windows display language.

## Combining parameters

Both parameters can be used together, in any order:

```
00DeskInfo.exe /cfg:"C:\IT\00DeskInfo.cfg" /lang:en
```

## Error handling

If a parameter is unknown, malformed, or refers to a file that does not exist, O&O DeskInfo shows a message box with the offending command line and the usage text, and then exits. This is intentional: in an automated rollout a silently ignored parameter is far worse than a visible failure.

## Typical usage in a rollout

A logon script or a shortcut in the startup folder that starts the application with a central configuration:

```
"%ProgramFiles%\00DeskInfo\00DeskInfo.exe" /cfg:"\\filesrv\it$\deskinfo\00DeskInfo.cf
```

More about preparing that configuration is in Enterprise Deployment.

# Enterprise Deployment

O&O DeskInfo was built with IT departments in mind. It needs no installation, no administrator rights and no service, and every setting lives in one readable XML file. That combination makes it unusually easy to roll out — and, if you want, to lock down.

And because O&O DeskInfo is **freeware**, there is no licensing to manage: you may deploy it on any number of workstations, including in commercial environments.

## The rollout in three steps

### 1. Prepare a configuration

Install and configure O&O DeskInfo on one machine exactly the way your users should see it: profile, position, text size, help desk message. Then quit the application and take the resulting `00DeskInfo.cfg` from `%LocalAppData%\00 Software\00 DeskInfo\` as your master file.

Before you distribute it, strip the values that are specific to that one machine — see Values managed by the application — and add the deployment settings described below.

### 2. Distribute the files

Copy `00DeskInfo.exe` and your `00DeskInfo.cfg` into the same folder on the client, for example `C:\Program Files\00DeskInfo\`. Because a configuration file next to the executable always takes precedence, no per-user setup is needed and every user on the machine gets the same configuration.

Alternatively keep the configuration on a share and point the clients at it with the `/cfg` parameter.

### 3. Start it automatically

Set `SetAutoRun` to `true` in the configuration file. O&O DeskInfo then creates the autostart entry for the current user on first start, without asking. Setting it to `false` removes the entry again — handy for a clean uninstall.

```
<Settings>
  <SetAutoRun>true</SetAutoRun>
</Settings>
```

## A message for your users

The single most useful setting for a help desk is `InfoMessage`. It puts a line of your own text above the system information, permanently visible on every desktop:

```
<Settings>
  <InfoMessage>IT Help Desk: helpdesk@example.com | Phone: +49 30 1234-5678</InfoMessage>
</Settings>
```

Users no longer have to look up who to call — and when they do call, they can read their machine name and Windows build straight off the screen, or send you everything at once with **Copy info to clipboard**.

The message is shown as long as the active profile contains the `InfoMessage` key. All predefined profiles have it in first position.

## Locking down the user interface

Two settings control how much the user may change.

### IsRestricted

```
<Settings>
  <IsRestricted>true</IsRestricted>
</Settings>
```

With `IsRestricted` set to `true`, O&O DeskInfo runs in read-only mode:

- the configuration file is **never written**, so your rollout cannot be modified — not even accidentally,
- the tray icon menu is **not displayed**.

This is the right choice for kiosk systems, classroom PCs, production terminals and any machine where the display must stay exactly as you defined it.

### TrayMenu

If you want a middle ground, `TrayMenu` controls the tray icon and its menu separately:

| Value                 | Tray icon | Menu             | Typical use                                    |
|-----------------------|-----------|------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| <code>Full</code>     | visible   | complete         | Normal operation (default)                     |
| <code>ExitOnly</code> | visible   | only <b>Quit</b> | Users may close the display but change nothing |
| <code>HideMenu</code> | visible   | none             | Icon as a CPU indicator, no settings           |
| <code>HideAll</code>  | hidden    | none             | Fully invisible except the desktop display     |

```
<Settings>
  <TrayMenu>ExitOnly</TrayMenu>
</Settings>
```

**Note**

`HideAll` leaves the user no way to interact with O&O DeskInfo at all. Make sure you can still stop the process by other means — for example a script that ends `00DeskInfo.exe` — before you deploy it.

## Skipping the welcome wizard

Set `ShowWelcome` to `false` so that users never see the first-start wizard:

```
<Settings>
  <ShowWelcome>false</ShowWelcome>
</Settings>
```

## A profile for support cases

For help desk work, a profile focused on identification and network data usually beats showing everything. This one puts the identity of the machine in the first column, the network in the second, and drives plus load in the third:



```

<Settings>
  <SelectedProfile>Custom</SelectedProfile>
  <CustomProfile>
    <Name>Custom</Name>
    <DisplayName>Support</DisplayName>
    <ShowLabels>true</ShowLabels>
    <Keys>
      <Item>InfoMessage</Item>
      <Item>-</Item>
      <Item>UserAndMachine</Item>
      <Item>-</Item>
      <Item>OS</Item>
      <Item>-</Item>
      <Item>Hardware</Item>
      <Item>-</Item>
      <Item>NetworkBasic</Item>
      <Item>-</Item>
      <Item>NetworkAdvanced</Item>
      <Item>-</Item>
      <Item>LocalDrives</Item>
      <Item>-</Item>
      <Item>NetworkDrives</Item>
      <Item>-</Item>
      <Item>Performance</Item>
    </Keys>
    <ColumnAssignments>InfoMessage:0;UserAndMachine:0;OS:0;Hardware:0;NetworkBasic:1;Networ
  </CustomProfile>
</Settings>

```

**Hardware** contributes manufacturer, model and **serial number** — the values your inventory and your hardware support contract are based on. All keys are listed in System Information.

### Warning

Do not add **OSProductKey** or **OSOEMProductKey** to a profile that is rolled out. A Windows product key permanently visible on the desktop is a security risk, particularly during screen sharing and remote support sessions. Users who need the key can retrieve it on demand via **Show Windows Product Key** in the tray menu.

## Recommendations for managed environments

| Situation                      | Suggested settings                                                                                                                                                  |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Office workstations            | <code>InfoMessage</code> , <code>SetAutoRun=true</code> , <code>ShowWelcome=false</code> , <code>TrayMenu=Full</code><br>— users keep full control over appearance. |
| Kiosk / classroom / production | Additionally <code>IsRestricted=true</code> and <code>TrayMenu=HideMenu</code> or <code>HideAll</code> .                                                            |
| Laptops                        | <code>UpdateSpeed=10</code> and <code>UseEfficiencyMode=true</code> to minimise the energy footprint.                                                               |
| Terminal servers / VDI         | <code>ShowGPUGraph=false</code> (many sessions do not report GPU data anyway) and <code>ShowOnAllMonitors=false</code> .                                            |
| Server consoles                | Profile <code>Minimum</code> or a custom profile with <code>UserAndMachine</code> , <code>OS</code> , <code>SystemStatus</code> and <code>LocalDrives</code> .      |

## Uninstalling

O&O DeskInfo is portable, so there is nothing to uninstall in the usual sense:

1. Quit the application (or end `00DeskInfo.exe` ).
2. Remove the autostart entry — either by setting `SetAutoRun` to `false` and starting the application once, or by deleting the value from `HKCU\Software\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Run` .
3. Delete the program folder.
4. Optionally delete `%LocalAppData%\00 Software\00 DeskInfo\` to remove the configuration and log files.

## Going further

If you manage more than a handful of machines, collecting this information centrally is usually the next step.

**O&O Syspectr** does exactly that: cloud-based inventory, monitoring and alerting for all your PCs and servers, from one console — and free for a number of computers.

Two more free tools that pair well with a workstation rollout:

- **O&O ShutUp10++** — control the privacy settings of Windows 10 and 11 centrally, with import and export of policy profiles.
- **O&O AppBuster** — remove pre-installed Windows apps and bloatware from your images.

# Frequently Asked Questions

## Licensing and price

### Is O&O DeskInfo really free?

Yes. O&O DeskInfo is **freeware**. There is no trial period, no license key, no registration and no paid edition. You may use it on any number of computers, privately and commercially, and pass it on unchanged.

### Is there a Pro or Premium version with more features?

No. Every feature described in this documentation is part of the free version — there is nothing held back.

If you are looking for centralised management across many machines, that is a different product rather than a bigger DeskInfo: have a look at **O&O Syspectr**, our cloud-based monitoring and management service, which is free for a number of computers as well.

### My download came with an installer or with other software. Is that normal?

No, and it is a violation of our terms of use. O&O DeskInfo needs no installation and never bundles other software. Please download it from [www.oo-software.com](http://www.oo-software.com) and let us know where you got the other copy so that we can take action.

## Installation and start

### Do I need administrator rights?

No. Standard user rights are enough for everything described here, including the autostart entry, which is written for the current user only.

### Where does O&O DeskInfo store its settings?

In `%LocalAppData%\O&O Software\O&O DeskInfo\O&ODeskInfo.cfg` . If a file named `O&ODeskInfo.cfg` exists **next to** `O&ODeskInfo.exe` , that one is used instead — which is how portable operation from a USB stick works. See [Where the configuration file is stored](#).

### Can I run it from a USB stick?

Yes. Copy `O&ODeskInfo.exe` to the stick and, if you want your settings to travel with it, put an `O&ODeskInfo.cfg` next to it.

## Does it start with Windows?

Only if you ask it to. Enable **Start with Windows** in the tray menu, or use `SetAutoRun` for an unattended rollout.

## Display

### The information is not visible on my desktop. What now?

Work through these points in order:

1. **Is the application running?** Look for the tray icon in the notification area — it may be hidden behind the small arrow.
2. **Is it on another monitor?** Check the **Monitor** submenu in the tray menu, or choose **All monitors**.
3. **Is the text invisible against the wallpaper?** Set **View settings** → **Text color** to a fixed color that contrasts with your background, and raise **Opacity of the display** to 100 %.
4. **Is desktop integration failing?** Switch **View settings** → **Show integrated with the Desktop** off. The information then appears in a sliding window that is independent of the desktop.

### The display disappeared after Windows Explorer restarted.

It should come back by itself — O&O DeskInfo detects an Explorer restart and re-attaches to the desktop. If it does not, switching desktop integration off and on again in the tray menu rebuilds the display.

### Why can I not click on the display?

Because that is the point of it. In desktop-integrated mode the panel is click-through, so it never interferes with your desktop icons or your work. All interaction happens through the tray icon. If you want a clickable window, switch to the sliding-window mode.

### Can I move the display anywhere I like?

No — you choose one of the four screen corners. Fine positioning is done with the four margin settings in the configuration file; see Distance from the screen edges.

### The display is cut off or the columns look unbalanced.

Try a smaller font size, or reduce the number of categories in your profile. If you use manual column assignments, remember that a category pinned to a column cannot be moved by the automatic balancing — set the ones you do not care about back to **Auto**. See Column layout.

### My monitors are arranged unusually and desktop integration does not work.

Desktop integration requires the primary monitor to start at a non-negative X coordinate. If a screen sits to the *left* of the primary monitor, Windows cannot map the panel onto the desktop background reliably. Rearrange the

monitors in the Windows display settings, or use the sliding-window mode.

## Information and values

### Why are the battery values missing?

Because the device has no battery. Battery rows hide themselves on systems without one.

### Why is there no GPU utilization?

Some environments — in particular certain remote desktop sessions — do not provide the data O&O DeskInfo needs. The GPU rows then hide themselves regardless of your profile and of the **GPU usage graph** setting.

### Why does the GPU sometimes show dedicated and sometimes shared memory?

Because that is what is meaningful for the adapter. Discrete graphics cards report their **dedicated** video memory; integrated GPUs use **shared** system memory. O&O DeskInfo shows whichever applies.

### A network drive is marked with a cross.

The drive is currently unreachable — the server is offline, the VPN is down, or the credentials have expired. O&O DeskInfo marks it instead of hanging, and picks it up again as soon as it answers.

### Which network adapter do the network values refer to?

To the one O&O DeskInfo considers active, which is normally the adapter Windows uses for outbound traffic. You can pin a specific adapter under **Network adapter** in the tray menu.

### Can I show my Windows product key on the desktop?

You can — add the `OSProductKey` and `OSOEMProductKey` keys to a custom profile — but we recommend against it. A key visible on the desktop is a risk during screen sharing and remote support. Use **Show Windows Product Key** in the tray menu when you actually need it.

## Settings

### I changed the configuration file. Do I have to restart?

No. O&O DeskInfo watches the file and applies your change about a second after you save it. Four settings — `Monitor`, `ShowOnAllMonitors`, `NetworkAdapter` and `ShowDriveActivity` — make the application restart itself, because they depend on resources that are only initialised once per process. Everything else is applied by rebuilding the display, which keeps the graph history.

## I edited the file and now all my settings are gone.

The file could not be parsed, so O&O DeskInfo started over with defaults. Your original is still there: look for a file with a timestamp and the extension `.invalid` in the same folder, find the error — usually a missing closing tag or a misspelled element name — and copy your values back.

## A menu entry shows "Custom". What does that mean?

That the active value does not correspond to any of the presets in the menu, because it was set in the configuration file. The entry is purely informative; clicking it does nothing.

## The tray menu is missing entries, or there is no menu at all.

Then the configuration file restricts it. Check `TrayMenu` and `IsRestricted`. On a company computer this is usually intentional — ask your IT department.

## Why do some changes restart the application?

Changing the monitor, the network adapter or the drive activity indicators requires re-reading system data and re-initialising performance counters. Restarting is faster and more reliable than rebuilding all of that in place. Changing the language or the desktop integration mode only rebuilds the windows, which preserves the collected graph history.

## Performance

### How much does O&O DeskInfo cost in CPU and memory?

Very little. Efficiency Mode is on by default, which asks Windows to run the process at low priority and, on suitable hardware, on efficiency cores. If you want to reduce the load further, set the update speed to *Slow* and switch off the graphs you do not need.

### Do the graphs survive standby?

Yes. All timers and performance counters are suspended when Windows goes to sleep and resumed on wake-up, so the graphs are not distorted by a gap.

### How much history is kept?

1024 samples per metric by default — roughly 17 to 34 minutes at typical update intervals. This can be changed with `MaxHistoryItems`.

## Support

### How do I report a problem?

1. Enable logging with `LogEnabled` and reproduce the problem.
2. Use **Copy info to clipboard** to capture your system data.
3. Send both to O&O Support or to [support@oo-software.com](mailto:support@oo-software.com).

The log is written to `%LocalAppData%\00 Software\00 DeskInfo\Logs\00DeskInfo.log` .

### Which Windows versions are supported?

Windows 11 and Windows 10, as well as Windows Server 2016 and later, on x86, x64 and ARM. See System Requirements.