Windows 8 (8.1)- IMPROVE DISPLAY READABILITY ⓒ

This sheet explains how to make the Text, Icons, Pointers, & Cursors bigger, bolder, and easier to read on a typical Display. *NOTE: If your monitor is running at a resolution higher than 1366x768, you will need to set all my recommended values to a higher number to get the best effect. Experiment and see what looks best to you.*

NOTE: These directions are assuming that the Control Panel is set to "Large Icons"

CHOOSE A THEME: *(Control Panel > Personalization > Theme).* Choose the desired theme before continuing. *NOTE: Themes affect visuals, sounds, and other system elements as well as the speed that the PC runs.* Click "Save theme", name your theme and click "Save".

MAKE EVERYTHING LARGER - (SCREEN RESOLUTION): *(Control Panel > Display > Adjust resolution).* By lowering the resolution you can make EVERYTHING larger.
> ***WARNING 1: This change affects all Users on this PC!***

> ***WARNING 2: Doing this can worsen the clarity and shape of everything.***

MAKE ALL TEXT LARGER - DPI : *(Control Panel > Display).*
- Click to check the box for: "☑ Let me choose one scaling level for all my displays".

- Click "Set custom sizing Options" and drag the Ruler until it reads no more than 110% (or 106 DPI) (for a resolution of around 1366x768). *NOTE: Displays running at higher resolutions can have it set as high as 140% for good readability.*
  WARNING 1: This change affects all Users on this PC!

> ***WARNING 2: If you make this value too large, it will cause text box in some programs to only display the first few words of the sentence.***

MAKE SOME TEXT LARGER: Increase the size and boldness of some individual text items.
(Right-click on the Desktop > Personalize > Display).

Note1: Windows 8 severely limits the available options as compared to Windows 7, Vista, or XP.

Note2: The look of these settings will vary depending on your chosen Theme or Color Scheme.

Note3: The suggested values are for a display set for 1366x768. If your monitor is set for a higher resolution, you will need to set the values to a higher number for good effect.)

- **ITEMS THAT CAN BE CHANGED:**
  a. **Title bar**s. Font size = 12-14. Click to check the "☑ Bold" button. *(Note: This does not affect the Taskbar size).*

  b. **Menu**. Font Size = 9-12, (Click to check the "☑ Bold" button, if desired).

  c. **Message Box**. Font Size = 9-12. *Do not make the "Message Box" text bold!* (NOTE: This does not have any effect in Windows 7 RC1)

  d. **Icons:** Font Size = 9-12. Click to check the "☑ Bold" button. *Note: "Drop shadows" have a big effect on the readability of Icon Text. To enable/disable Drop Shadows; (Control Panel > System > Advanced system settings > Advanced tab > Performance; "Settings" button > Visual Effects tab).* "☑ Use Drop Shadows for icon labels on the desktop". Try it both ways to see what's best

  e. **ToolTips:** Font Size = 9-11, click to check the "☑ Bold" button. *(Note: This does not affect the Taskbar Tooltips)*

f. Click on <Apply> to see the changes after each item or click <OK> to exit.

g. It's a good idea to reboot, and re-check all changes to make sure they "took" correctly.

TUNE YOUR CLEARTYPE: If you are using an LCD or Plasma Monitor, you should turn on ClearType. *(Control Panel > Display > Adjust ClearType text).* Check: "☑ Turn on ClearType", click "Next", & follow the instructions for "ClearType Tuning".

INCREASE CURSOR VISIBILITY: *(Control Panel > under "Ease of Access", click "Make the computer e asier to see").* Scroll way down until you see "Set the thickness of the blinking cursor". Set the width as wide as you need. A setting of "4" works for me.

MOUSE POINTER: *(Control Panel > Mouse).*
- **Pointers** Tab.
  - ✓ Choose the "Magnified (system scheme) Pointer Scheme, then if desired find a custom "Normal Select" pointer using the <Browse> button.
  - ✓ <u>Un-check</u> the box for Enable Pointer shadow.
  - ✓ <u>Un-check</u> the box for "❑ Allow Themes to change mouse pointers".
  - ✓ Click Apply.
- **Pointer Options** Tab: Check the box for "☑ Automatically move the pointer to the default button in a dialog box. Check the box for "☑ Show location of pointer when I press the <Ctrl> key. Click OK to exit.

SAVE YOUR "CUSTOMIZED" THEME: *(Control Panel > Personalization).* Click "Save theme", name your theme and click "Save". *Now, if you make any changes in the future that make you unhappy, you can put things back in one click.*

FIREFOX:
- There are some add-ons like NoSquint that improve the readability of websites.
- Also, The key combination of <Ctrl> and + keys will make most web content larger each time your press it. To go smaller, hold <Ctrl> and press the "-" Key (minus/dash key).