



Resolution & Bitrate Reference

Matching a PC screen to your recorder

Screen2ipcam

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MW-TN-001

Screen2ipcam publishes a PC screen as a standard ONVIF / RTSP camera. Unlike a fixed camera, its resolution is set by **the PC's screen** — so the right bitrate changes from machine to machine. Find the screen resolution below.

Screen resolution	Megapixels	Recorder camera class	Main bitrate	Sub width
1024 × 768	0.79 MP	Below 1 MP	768	480
1280 × 720	0.92 MP	1 MP · 720p	1024	480
1280 × 1024	1.31 MP	1.3 MP	1280	640
1366 × 768	1.05 MP	1 MP	1024	640
1440 × 900	1.30 MP	1.3 MP	1280	640
1600 × 900	1.44 MP	1.3 – 2 MP	1536	640
1680 × 1050	1.76 MP	Close to 2 MP	1792	640
1920 × 1080	2.07 MP	2 MP · 1080p	2048	640
1920 × 1200	2.30 MP	Just above 2 MP	2304	640
2560 × 1080	2.76 MP	2 – 3 MP	2560	800
2560 × 1440	3.69 MP	4 MP · QHD	4096	800
3440 × 1440	4.95 MP	5 MP · ultrawide	5120	960
3840 × 2160	8.29 MP	8 MP · 4K	8192	1280

Bitrates are in kbps at the default **10 fps**. At 25 fps multiply by **1.8** — not 2.5: screen content repeats heavily between frames. Defaults (2000 kbps, sub 640) are chosen for 1920 × 1080, so most installations need no tuning.

Tune the bitrate to the content

Point of sale, invoices, forms	–30%
Dashboards with changing figures	as listed
Scrolling tables, browsing	+50%
Video or continuous motion	× 2
<i>Text soft or shimmering</i>	<i>too low</i>
<i>No sharper, storage fills fast</i>	<i>too high</i>

Settings and limits

Main stream width	0 · 0 or 320–7680
Sub stream width	640 · 160–1920
Bitrate (kbps)	2000 · 256–16384
Frame rate (fps)	10 · 1–60
Ports required	554 TCP · 8000 TCP
Ports optional	8080 TCP · 3702 UDP

Sub-stream plays, main stream does not — the most common field issue

The table says what is **ideal**. The recorder decides what is **permitted**. Many entry-level and hybrid recorders cap the resolution an IP channel may use, often below a modern PC screen. Because the main stream defaults to the full screen, this is exactly the symptom you get.

Fix — set **Main stream width = 1280** (gives 1280 × 720; height follows the aspect ratio automatically). This sits below almost every ceiling in use, and a till or dashboard stays entirely legible.

Then delete the channel on the recorder and add it again. A recorder reads a camera's capabilities **once**, when the channel is created. Leave the channel in place and it keeps the old figures — this is the usual reason a change appears to do nothing.

To find a recorder's real ceiling: try 1280; if it plays, step up to 1600 then 1920. If 1280 fails, step down to 1024 then 960. Re-add the channel each time; the first width that fails is the limit. **If resolution is not the cause**, hold the width at 1280 and drop the bitrate to 1024 — some recorders stop at bitrate instead. The codec is never the cause: both streams come from the same encoder and differ only in size.

Recorder model, firmware, screen resolution and what you tried — and we will usually give you the working figures straight away. We keep a record of tested models.

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