

Turn a Windows PC screen into a real ONVIF / RTSP IP camera

User guide, version **2.0.7**

November 2026

Windows 7 → 11 · Server **32 & 64-bit** **ONVIF Profile S** **RTSP · H.264** **G.711 audio** **Motion events**



screen2ipcam.com

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1. What you need

- A Windows PC: Windows 7 SP1 up to Windows 11, or Windows Server, 32-bit or 64-bit.
- Nothing else to install: no .NET, no Java, no codec pack, no capture card.
- Your recorder (NVR) or software (VMS) on the **same network** as the PC.
- Any recorder that supports ONVIF or RTSP: Hikvision, Dahua, Nx Witness, Blue Iris and many more.



How it looks on the recorder: the PC screen becomes one more camera, with sound.

2. Install

From the website

1. Download the setup file from **screen2ipcam.com**: **x64** for modern PCs, or **x86** for older, embedded or point-of-sale machines.
2. On the options screen leave the recommended boxes ticked.
3. Finish. Everything the program needs on the PC is set up **automatically**.

Option	Recommended	What it does
Desktop shortcut	Ticked	Shortcut on the desktop.
Start with Windows	Ticked	The camera comes back after a restart on its own.
Install as a Windows service	Ticked	Always on, and starts with Windows.
Antivirus (Defender) exclusion	**Leave empty**	Only tick it if Defender actually removed or blocked the program.

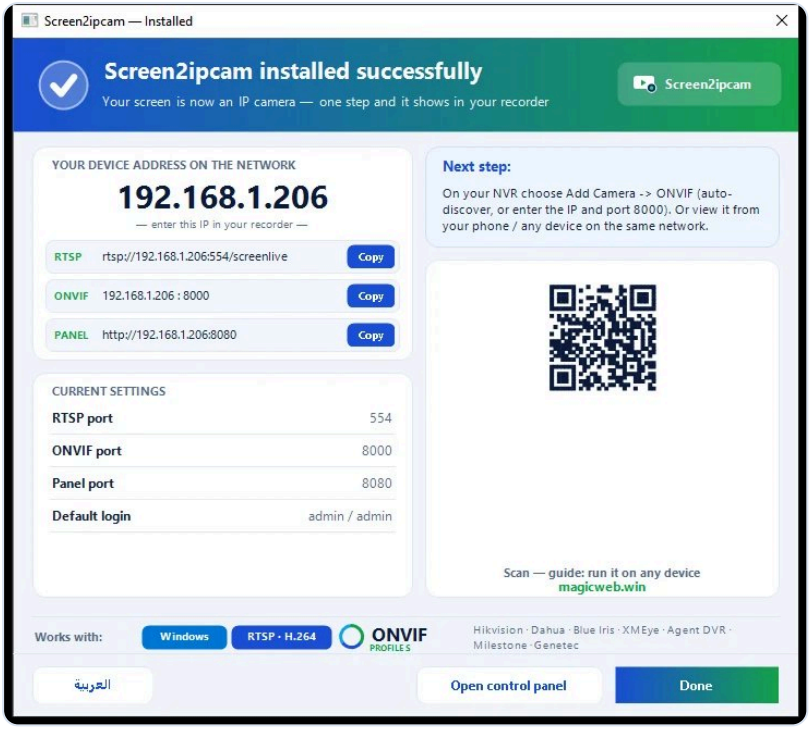
From the Microsoft Store

Search for **Screen2ipcam** in the Microsoft Store and press **Get**. The Store edition is checked and signed by Microsoft and updates itself. Use one edition per PC: the website edition or the Store edition, not both.

> **Tip**
> If Windows asks whether to allow Screen2ipcam on the network, press **Allow access**. That is what lets your recorder reach the camera.

3. The screen you see after installing

This screen has everything you need to add the PC to your recorder. Every line has a **Copy** button next to it.



The address, the ports and the panel link, ready to copy.

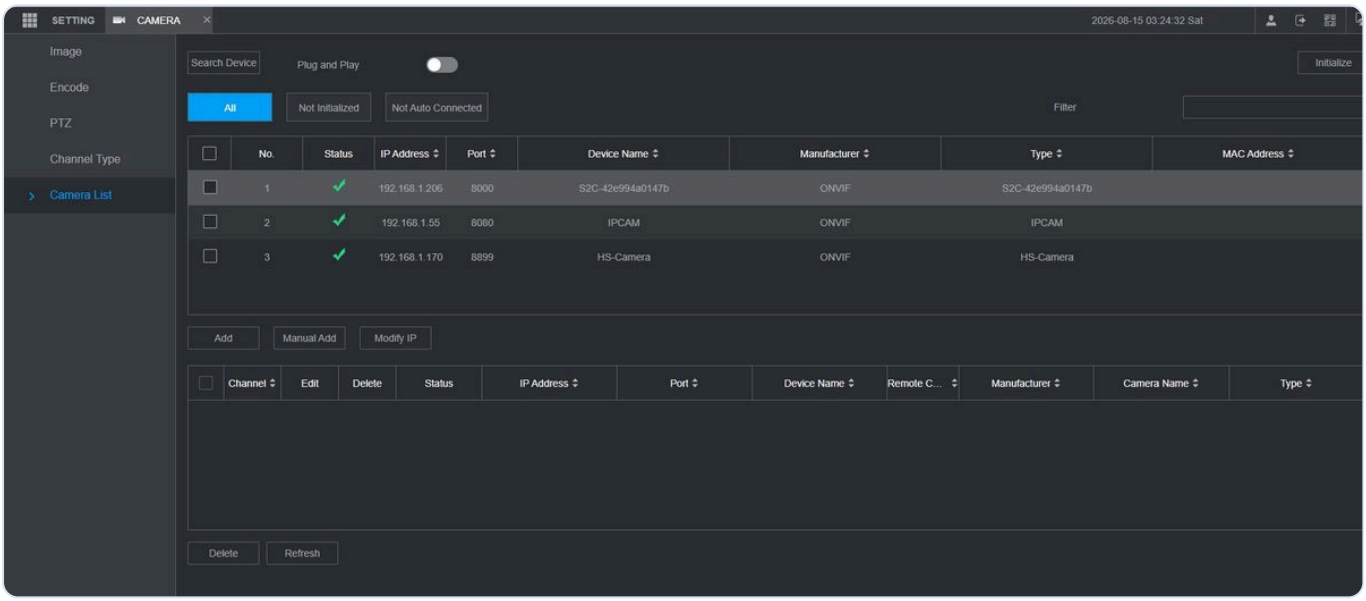
> **Tip**
>
> Write down the IP address shown here. You can bring this screen back at any time: open the program and press **Show info & ports** on the Status tab.

4. Add it to your recorder

There are three ways. Try them in this order.

Way 1: automatic search (easiest)

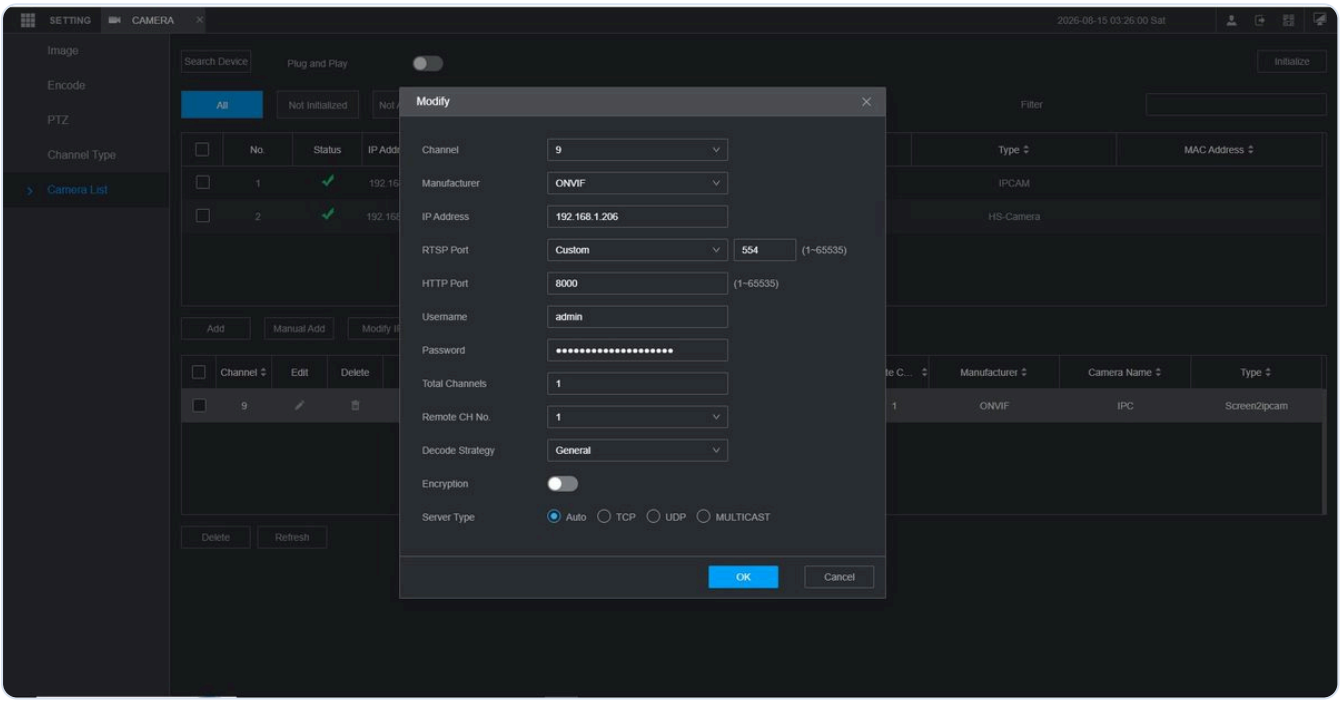
On the recorder open **Add camera** and choose **ONVIF**, then press **Search** or **Auto discover**. The PC appears in the list by its device name.



A real Dahua NVR: the automatic search has found the PC, listed as ONVIF.

Way 2: enter it by hand

Field	Value
Protocol	ONVIF
IP address	the address from the screen above
Port	the ONVIF port from the same screen (8000)
Username / Password	admin / admin (change it later)



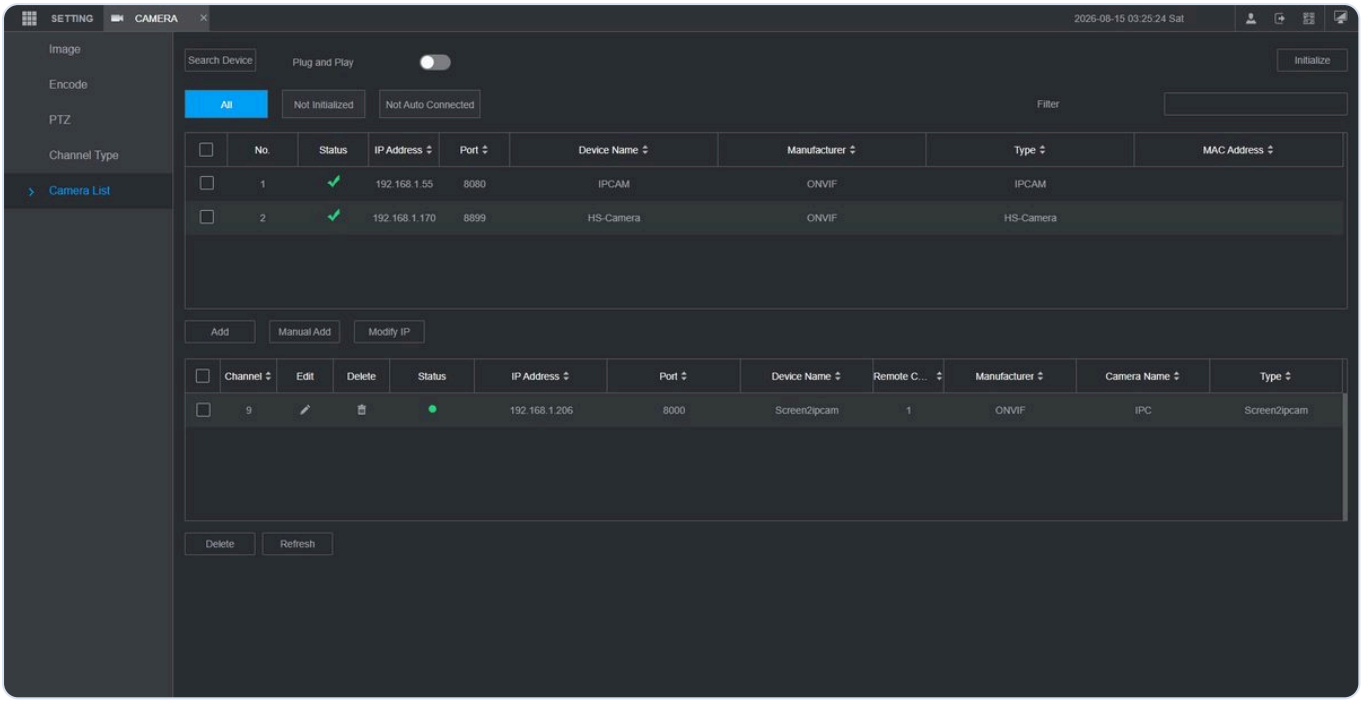
The same values in the recorder's own dialog.

Way 3: direct RTSP link

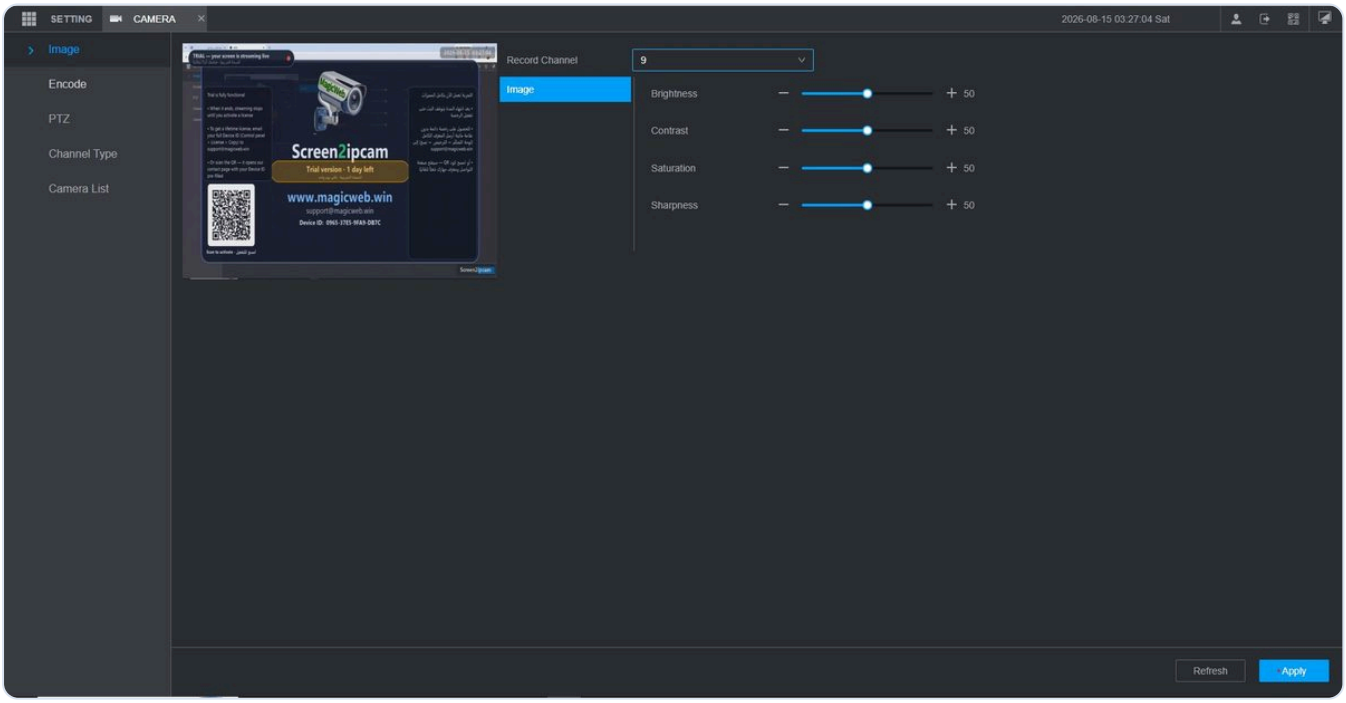
Stream	Address	When to use it
Main (HD)	rtsp://<IP>:554/screenlive	Best picture quality.
Sub (SD)	rtsp://<IP>:554/screensub	Lighter on the network and on disk.

> **Tip**
>
> The **Copy RTSP link** button in the VPN tab copies the exact link for you, ready to paste.

The result



Added: the channel now shows a green dot, with the camera name.



And the recorder is showing the PC screen live.

5. The control panel

Open it from the desktop icon, or from the program icon next to the clock. The default login is **admin / admin**.

Tab	What you do there
Status	See the license, the addresses, and which devices are watching right now.
Video	Resolution, frame rate, quality, and the sub stream.
Source	**New in 2.0.7:** show the full display, part of the screen, or one application.
Network	Ports, device name, the web panel, and protection mode.
VPN	Choose the address the recorder sees, on a PC with a VPN or more than one network.
Stream extras	Audio, camera name and time on the picture, and the privacy alert.
Events	Motion detection on the screen, sent to the recorder.
Users	Change the panel password, or recover it.
License	Your Device ID, and activating your license.

> **Important**
> Change the default password from the **Users** tab before you use this on a real site. Anyone on the network who knows the address can otherwise open the panel.

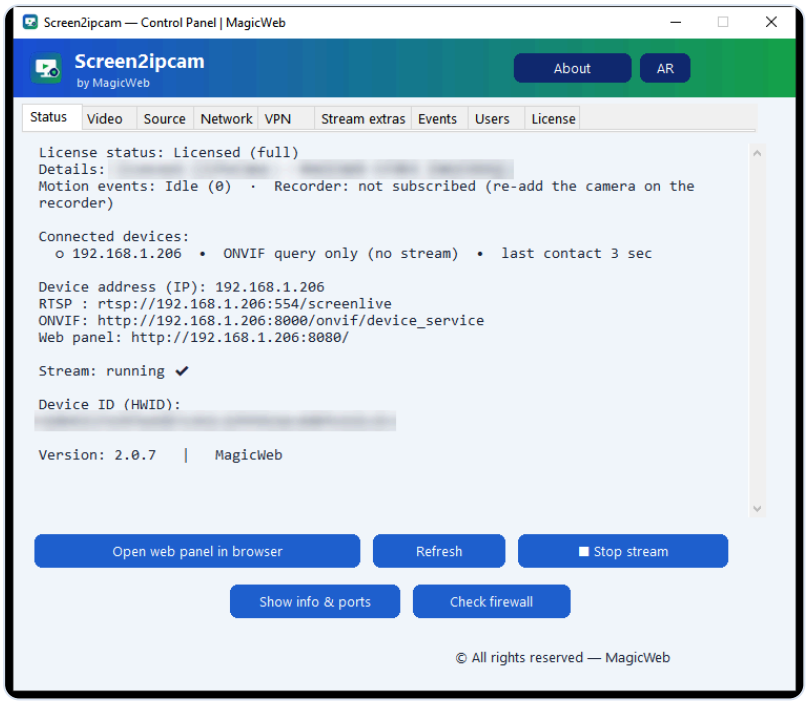
> **Note**
> **Save** stores your settings. **Apply and restart** makes them take effect on the live stream. Changing picture or network settings restarts the stream for a moment.

6. A tour of the panel

Nine tabs, and this is what each one is for.

Status

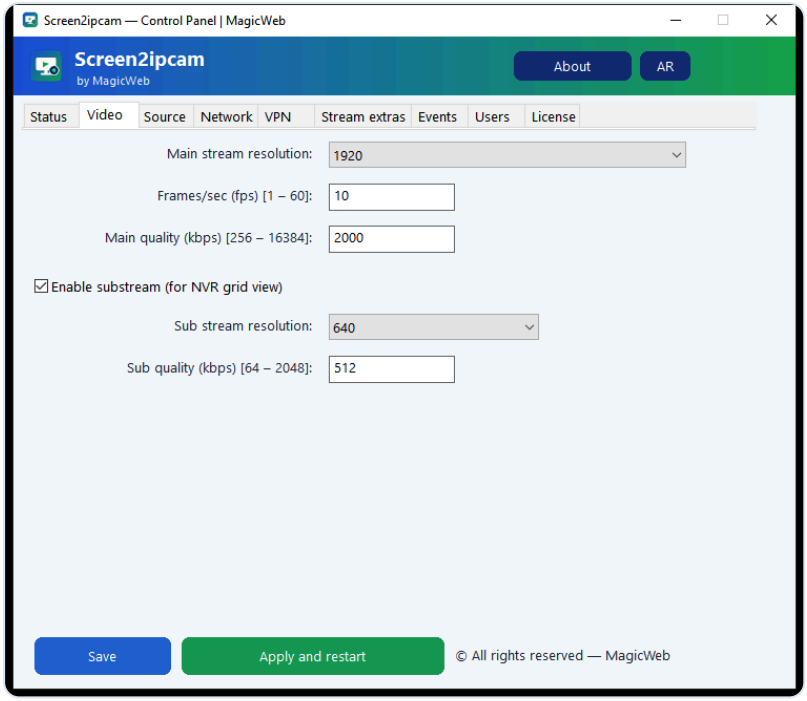
Your license, your addresses, and who is connected. The buttons at the bottom open the web panel, refresh the page, and stop or start the stream. **Show info & ports** brings back the screen you saw after installing.



Status: license, connected devices, addresses, and the Device ID.

Video

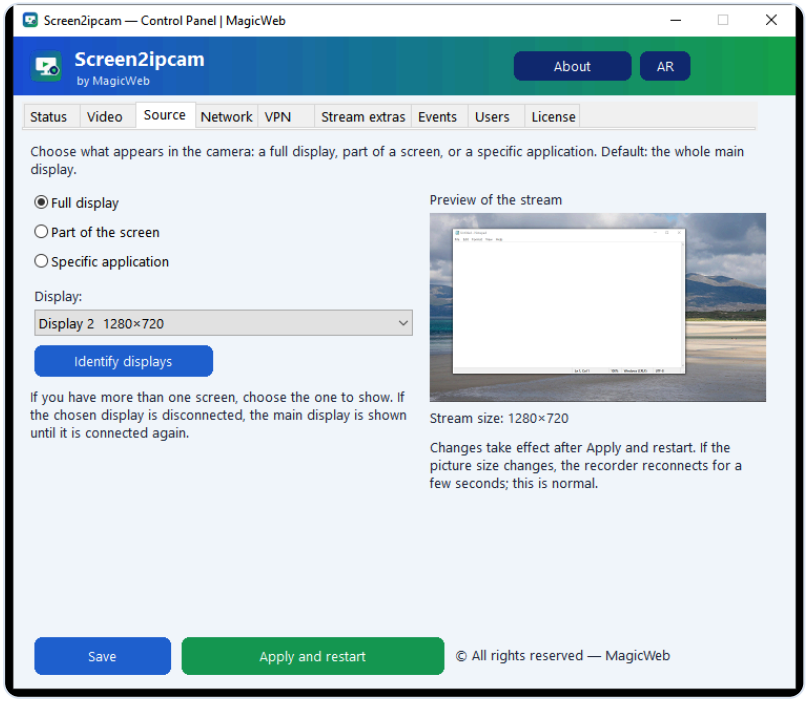
The picture itself. **Main stream resolution** can stay on full size or be scaled down. **Frames/sec** and **Main quality** decide how heavy the stream is. The **substream** is the small copy that recorders use for the grid view, and it is worth keeping on.



Video: resolution, frames per second, quality, and the sub stream.

Source

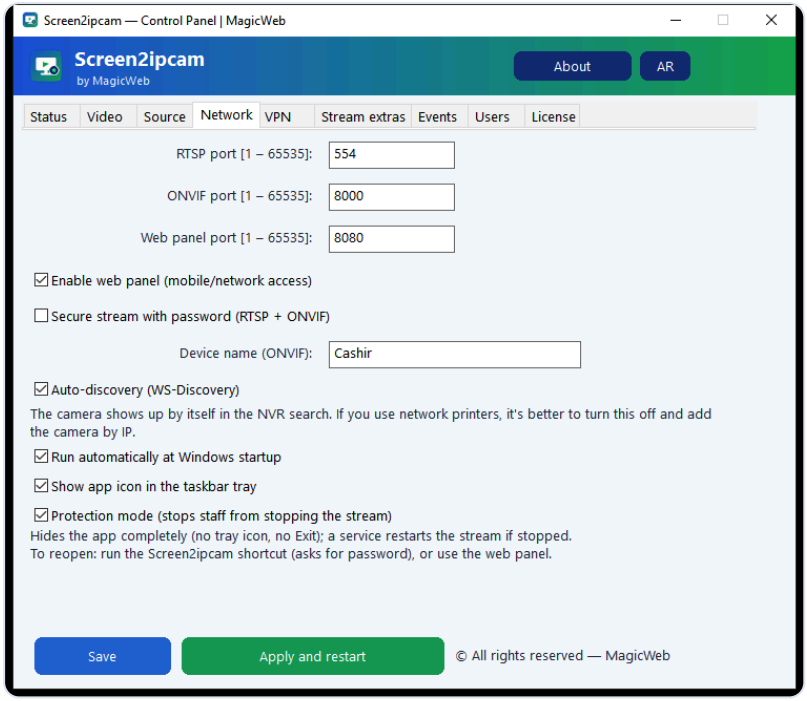
Choose what appears in the camera: the **full display**, **part of the screen**, or a **specific application**. On a PC with more than one screen, **Identify displays** shows a big number on each screen so you know which is which. The preview shows exactly what the recorder will receive.



Source: full display, part of the screen, or one application, with a live preview.

Network

The three ports, the device name that the recorder shows, and the web panel switch. **Auto-discovery** is what lets the recorder find the PC by itself. **Protection mode** hides the program completely so nobody at the PC can stop the stream.

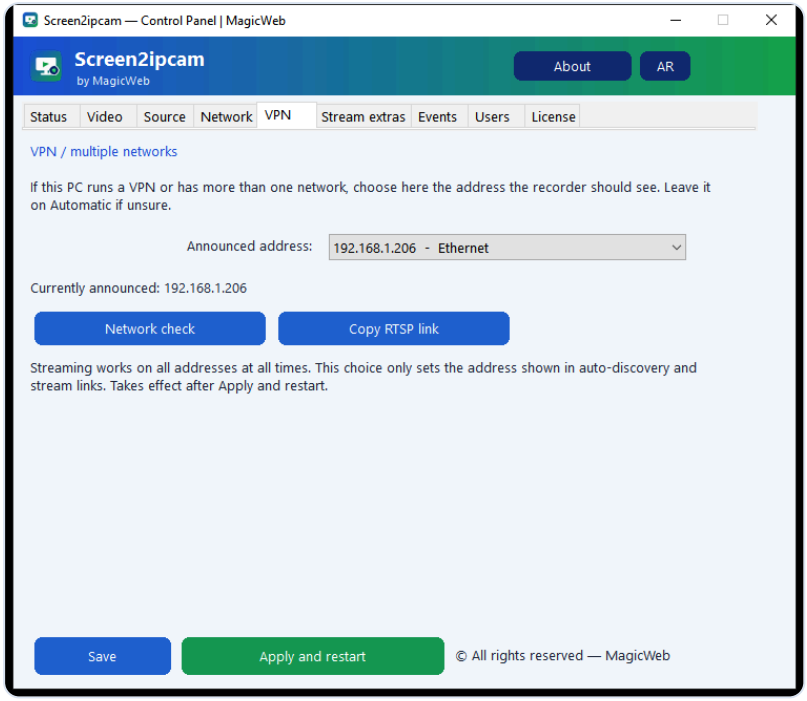


Network: ports, device name, web panel, discovery, and protection mode.

> **Important**
>
> Turn on **Secure stream with password** before you use this outside a closed network. Without it anyone who knows the address can view the stream.

VPN

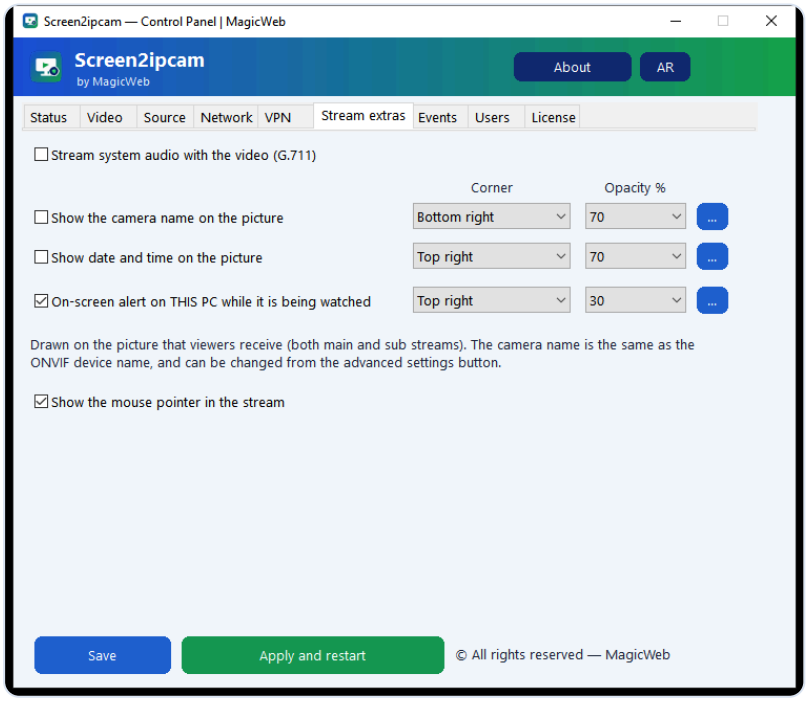
If the PC runs a VPN or has more than one network (for example Wi-Fi and cable together), choose here the address the recorder should see. Leave it on **Automatic** if you are unsure. **Network check** prints a short report, and **Copy RTSP link** copies the stream link ready to paste in the recorder.



VPN: the announced address, the network check, and the RTSP link.

Stream extras

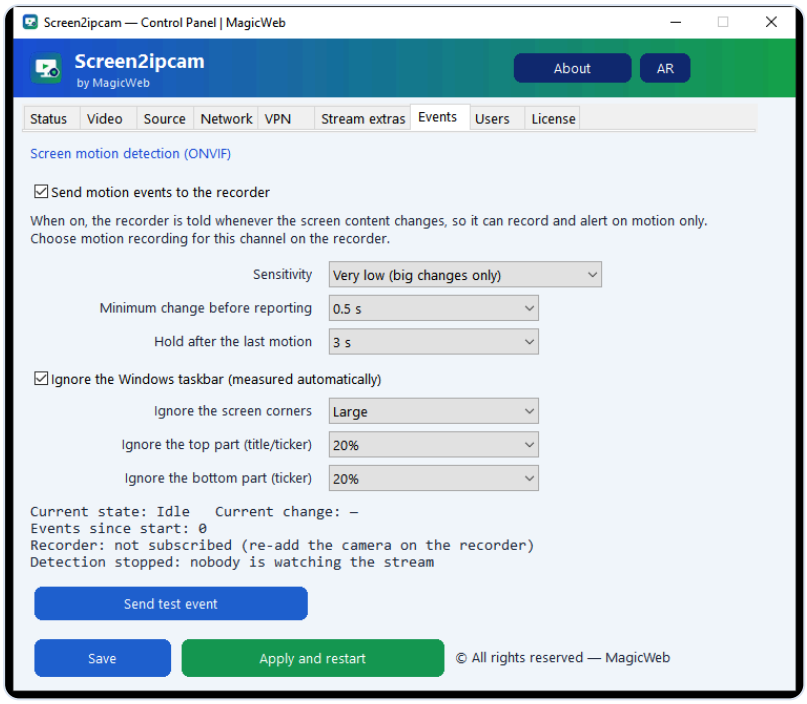
Audio, camera name and time on the picture, the privacy alert, and the mouse pointer. The sections that follow cover this tab in detail.



Stream extras: audio, name and time on the picture, privacy alert, mouse pointer.

Events

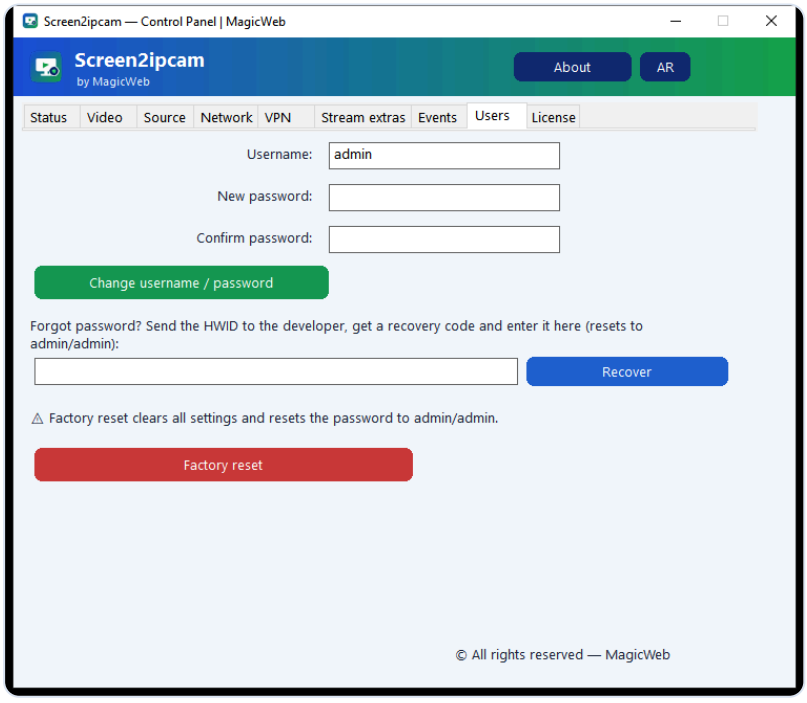
Screen motion detection. When it is on, the recorder is told whenever the screen content changes, so it can record and alert on motion only. A section below explains it step by step.



Events: motion detection, sensitivity, and the parts of the screen to ignore.

Users

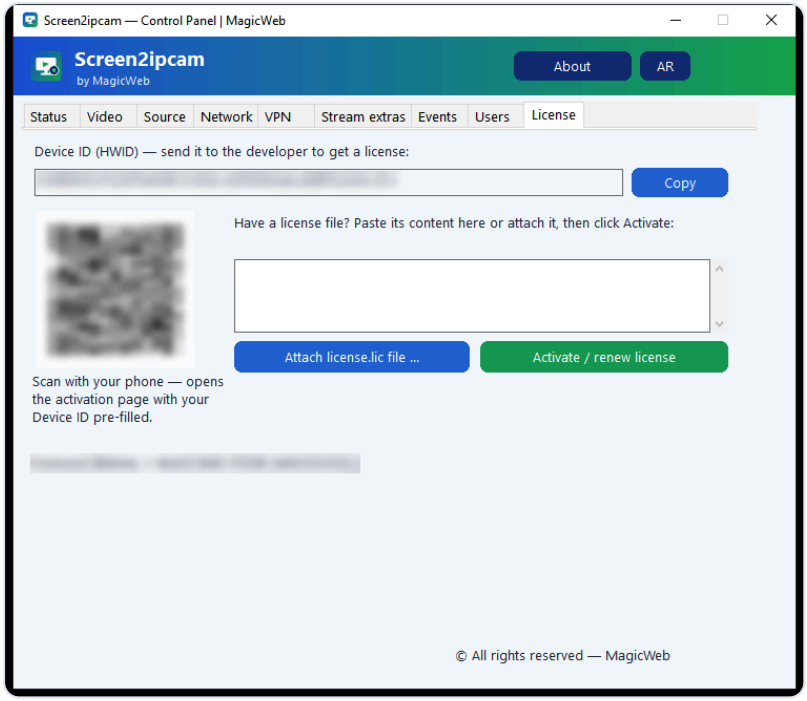
Change the panel username and password here. If you forget it, send your Device ID to us, get a recovery code back, paste it and press **Recover**. **Factory reset** clears every setting and puts the login back to admin / admin.



Users: change the password, recover it, or reset everything.

License

Your **Device ID (HWID)** with a **Copy** button, and a QR code you can scan with your phone to open the activation page with the ID already filled in. Below it you paste the licence file, or attach it, then press **Activate / renew license**.



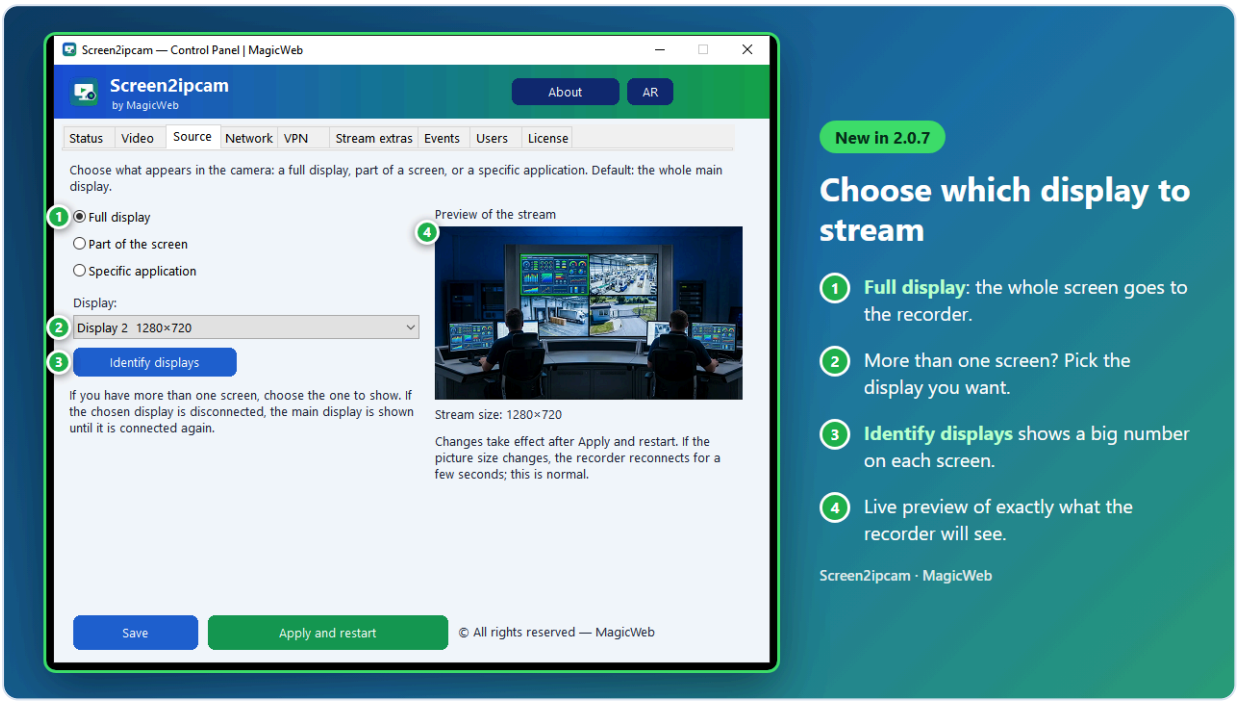
License: the Device ID, the QR code, and where the licence file goes.

7. Choose what the camera shows (new in 2.0.7)

From the **Source** tab you decide exactly what the recorder sees. Press **Apply and restart** after you choose.

Full display

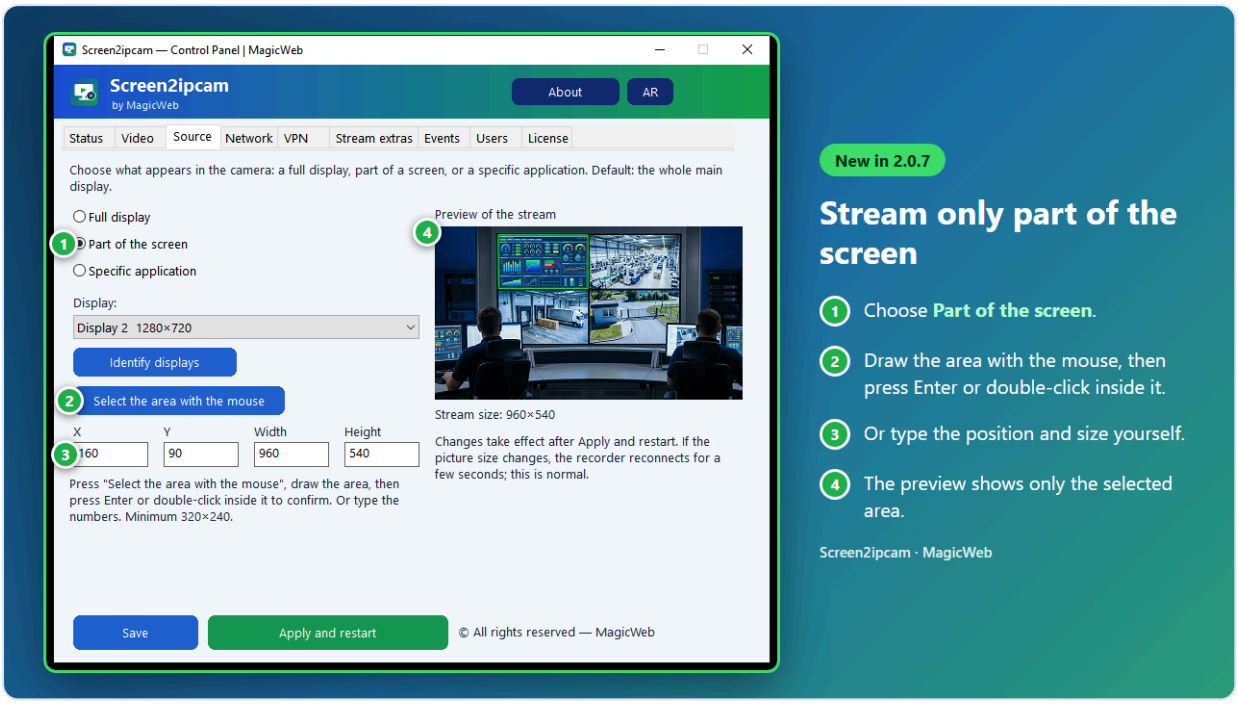
The default. On a PC with more than one screen, pick the one you want from the list. If that screen is disconnected, the main screen is shown until it is connected again.



Full display: one screen of the PC becomes the camera.

Part of the screen

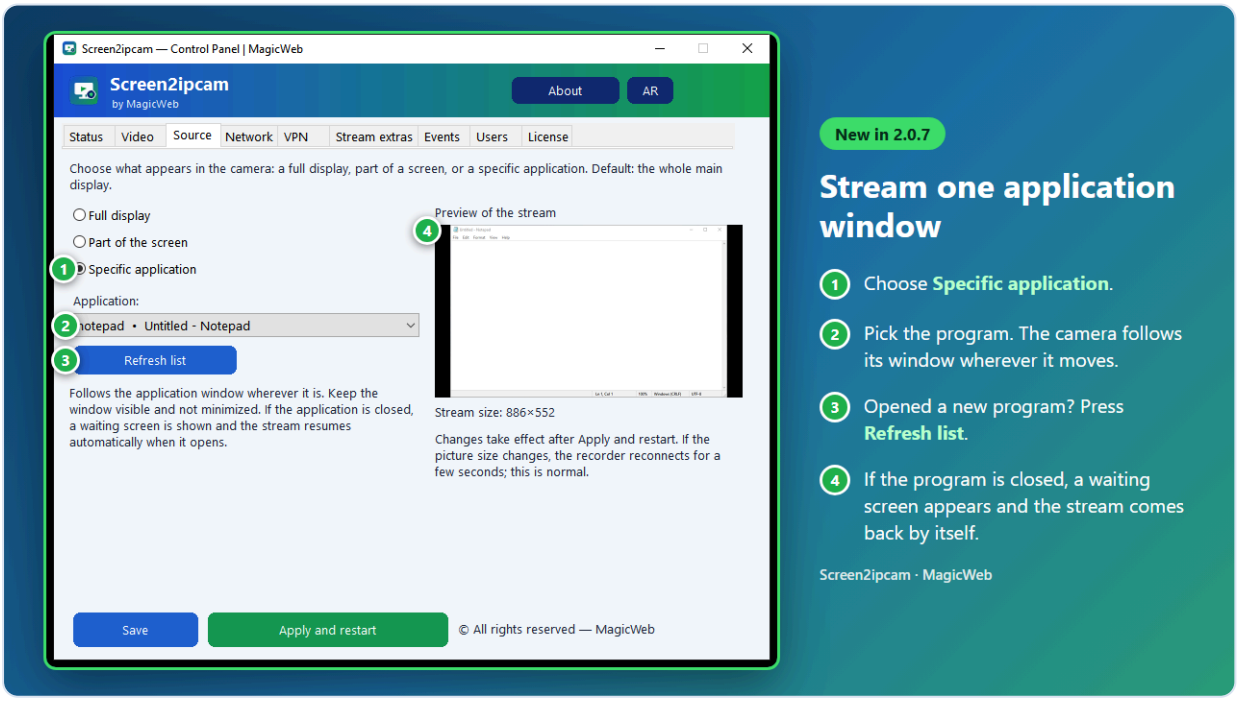
Press **Select the area with the mouse**, draw a box, then press Enter or double-click inside it. Only that box is sent, for example the till window and not the rest of the desktop.



Part of the screen: only the area you draw is recorded.

A specific application

Choose the program from the list. The camera follows its window wherever it is moved. Keep the window open and not minimised; if it is closed, the camera shows a waiting picture and returns by itself when the program opens again.



A specific application: the camera shows that program only.

8. Motion events

With motion events the recorder only records when something actually changes on the screen, so the same disk holds many more days.

1. Open the **Events** tab and tick **Send motion events to the recorder**.
2. Choose the **Sensitivity**. Start low and raise it only if small changes are missed.
3. Use the ignore options so a clock, the taskbar or a news ticker do not count as motion.
4. Press **Save**, then **Apply and restart**.
5. On the recorder, choose **motion recording** for this channel.

> **Tip**
> **Send test event** sends one motion event right away, so you can see it arrive on the recorder. If the tab says the recorder is not subscribed, remove the camera from the recorder and add it again.

9. Sound

Screen2ipcam can send the sound the PC plays (not a microphone) inside the same stream, using the standard G.711 codec that recorders understand.

In the program

1. Open the **Stream extras** tab.
2. Tick **Stream system audio with the video (G.711)**.
3. Press **Save**, then **Apply and restart**.

On the recorder: the step people miss

Setting	Choose
Audio compression	**G.711Mu** (also written G.711 u-law)
Audio source	**Local**

> **Important**
> If the channel was added to the recorder **before** you switched audio on, remove the channel and add it again. The recorder reads the camera's capabilities once, when the channel is created, so it does not know about the sound until you re-add it.

10. Camera name and time on the picture

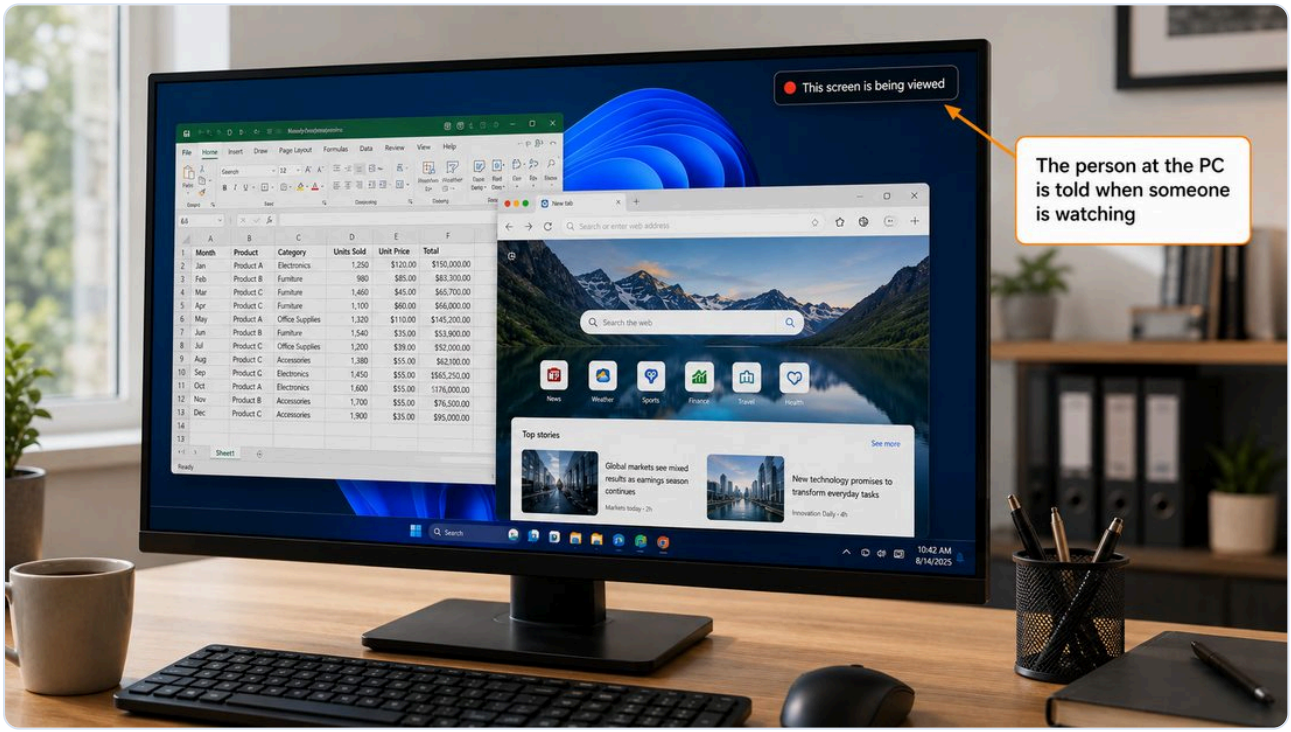
Two separate options in **Stream extras**: **Show the camera name on the picture** and **Show date and time on the picture**. Each one has its own **Corner** and **Opacity %**.

The small **...** button next to each row opens **Advanced settings**: text colour, font size, and the camera name itself.

> **Note**
>
> These are drawn on the picture the viewer receives, on both the main and the sub stream. The camera name here is the same as the device name the recorder shows.

11. Privacy alert

Tick **On-screen alert on THIS PC while it is being watched** and a small badge appears on this PC's own screen for as long as someone is connected, then disappears when they leave.



The alert appears on the streaming PC only. Useful when staff should know the screen is monitored.

It is off by default. You choose the corner, the opacity, and the text from **Advanced settings**.

12. Who is watching right now

The **Status** tab shows a list under **Connected devices**: one line per device, its address, what it is taking, and for how long.

What you see	What it means
Main + sub stream, connected now	The device is watching right now.
ONVIF query only (no stream)	The device is talking to the camera but not taking a picture yet.
disconnected, last contact	The device left. The time shown is when it was last seen.

13. The web panel

The same settings are also on a web page, so you can reach them from a phone, a tablet or another PC on the same network. Press **Open web panel in browser** on the Status tab, or type the **Web panel** address shown there, and sign in with the same username and password.

Page	What it holds
System / License	Device name, Device ID, licence status and activation.
Video	The same picture settings as the Video tab.
Source	Full display, part of the screen, or one application.
Events	Motion detection settings.
Network	Ports and the device name.
Live preview	A live view of the screen, straight in the browser.
Users	Username and password.
Log	A short activity log.

> **Tip**
> The live preview is the quickest way to check the camera is working, without touching the recorder at all. The web panel can be switched off from the Network tab with **Enable web panel**.

14. Trial and license

1. The trial runs for **14 days** with every feature enabled.
2. Open the **License** tab and copy your **Device ID (HWID)**, or scan the QR code with your phone.

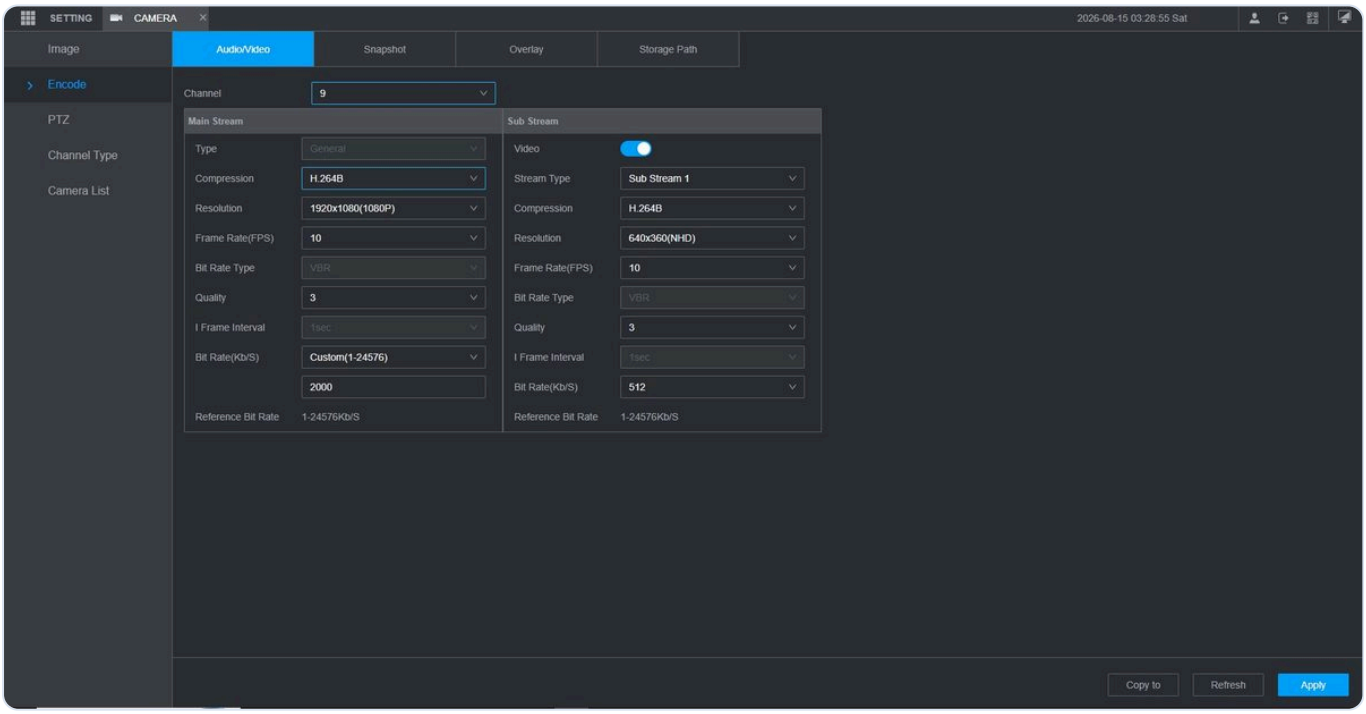
3. Buy on **screen2ipcam.com** and type the Device ID on the payment page.
4. Your licence file arrives by email. Attach it or paste it in the License tab and press **Activate / renew license**.

> **Note**
>
> One license activates one PC, for life. It is tied to that computer, not to your Windows installation, so reinstalling Windows does not lose it. The check happens entirely inside your PC and needs no internet connection. Your settings are kept when you activate.

15. How much disk space it uses

It depends on what is on the screen, not on the clock. H.264 only sends what changed, so a still screen costs almost nothing. These figures were measured on a working desktop:

What is recorded	Per hour	Per day	Per week	Per 30 days
Main stream 1080p, 10 fps	0.35 GB	8.3 GB	58 GB	248 GB
Sub stream 640x360	0.10 GB	2.4 GB	17 GB	72 GB



Where the recorder sets it: main stream 1080p at 10 fps and 2000 kbps, sub stream 640x360 at 512 kbps.

> **Tip**
>
> To use a lot less space: turn on **motion events** and record on motion, record the **sub stream** instead of the main one, or lower the frame rate in the **Video** tab.

16. Quick answers

Question	Answer
The recorder does not list the PC in its search	Add it by hand: IP address, port 8000, admin / admin. Both must be on the same network.
The picture works but there is no sound	Set **G.711Mu** and **Local** on the recorder, then remove the channel and add it again.
Windows asked about the network and Cancel was pressed	Open **Windows Defender Firewall**, choose **Allow an app through Windows Defender Firewall**, press **Change settings**, tick **Private** next to Screen2ipcam, then OK.
The picture is black after a power cut	Windows must be signed in for the screen to exist. Turn on automatic sign-in on PCs that run unattended.
The address shown is not my network	Open the **VPN** tab and choose your real network address.
I forgot the panel password	Send us your Device ID and use the recovery code in the **Users** tab.

17. Support

- Website and downloads: **screen2ipcam.com** or **magicweb.win**
- Email: **support@screen2ipcam.com**
- Free remote setup with our technician: **screen2ipcam.com/remote-setup**
- What is new in each version: **screen2ipcam.com/updates.html**

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