NYACC Lightning Talk - Use RustDesk to Add Android Tablet as Second Display to a Windows Computer
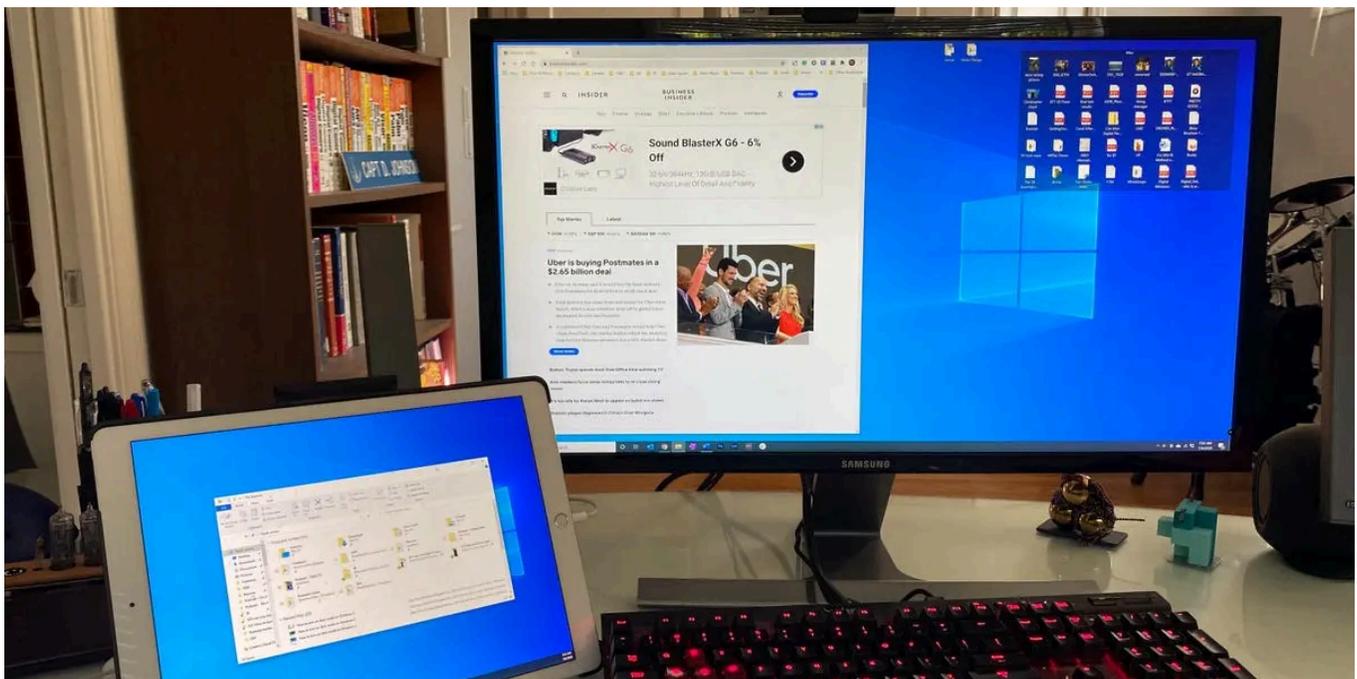
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RustDesk is a desktop remote control tool similar to AnyDesk, which Hank is covering in today's meeting. RustDesk is free and open source software.

RustDesk doesn't need a lot of introduction for simple remote control and helping out with your family's computers over the Internet. These notes show a special feature of RustDesk: using the multiple-display feature to add an Android tablet as an *auxiliary display* attached to a Windows desktop computer.

These instructions are for an Android tablet and a Windows host computer, but might work with other combinations of OSes as well. YMMV.
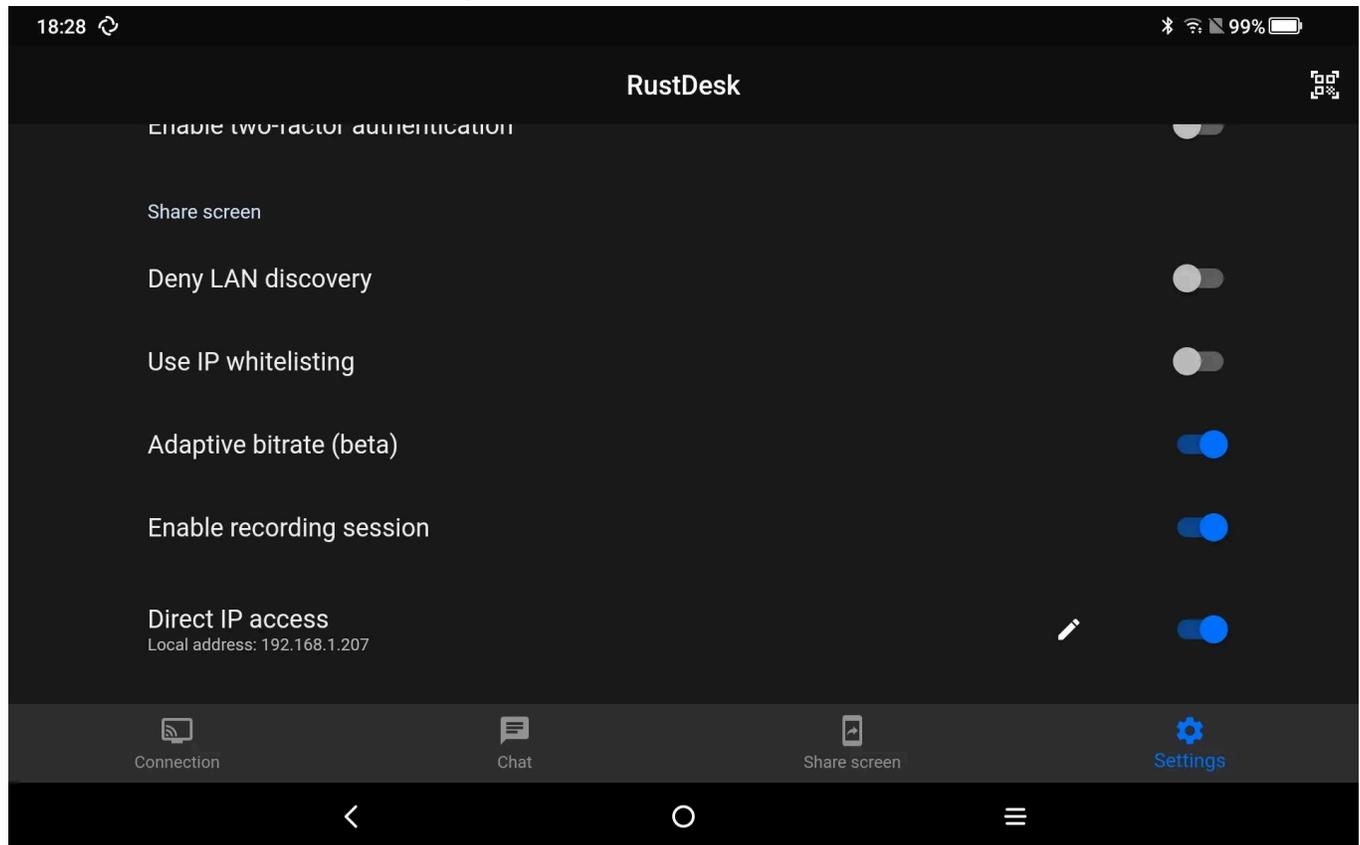

Install

Go to https://rustdesk.com and install the app on your Windows computer and your Android tablet.

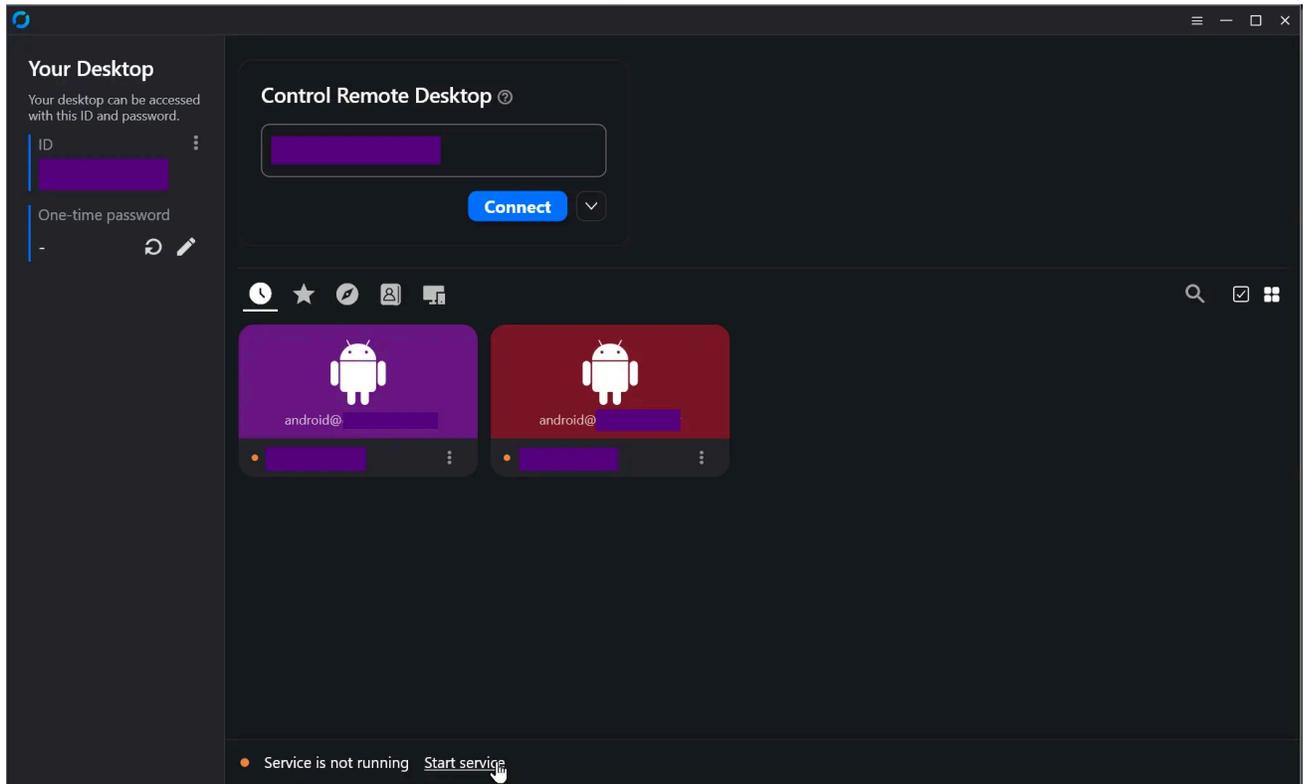## Configure the Android Tablet

Open RustDesk on the tablet. Go to the Settings tab and scroll down to "Share screen → Direct IP access" and switch this setting on. This will allow a more smooth connection.
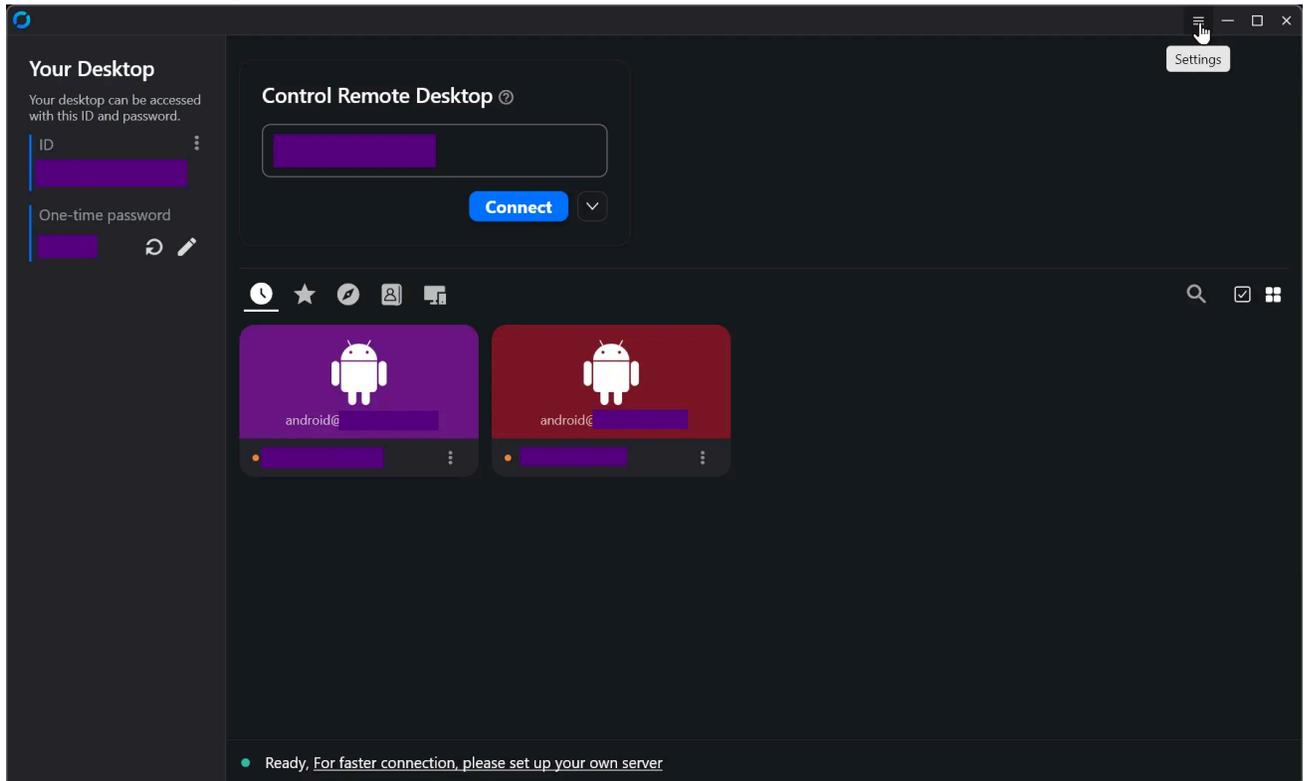

Configure the Windows Desktop
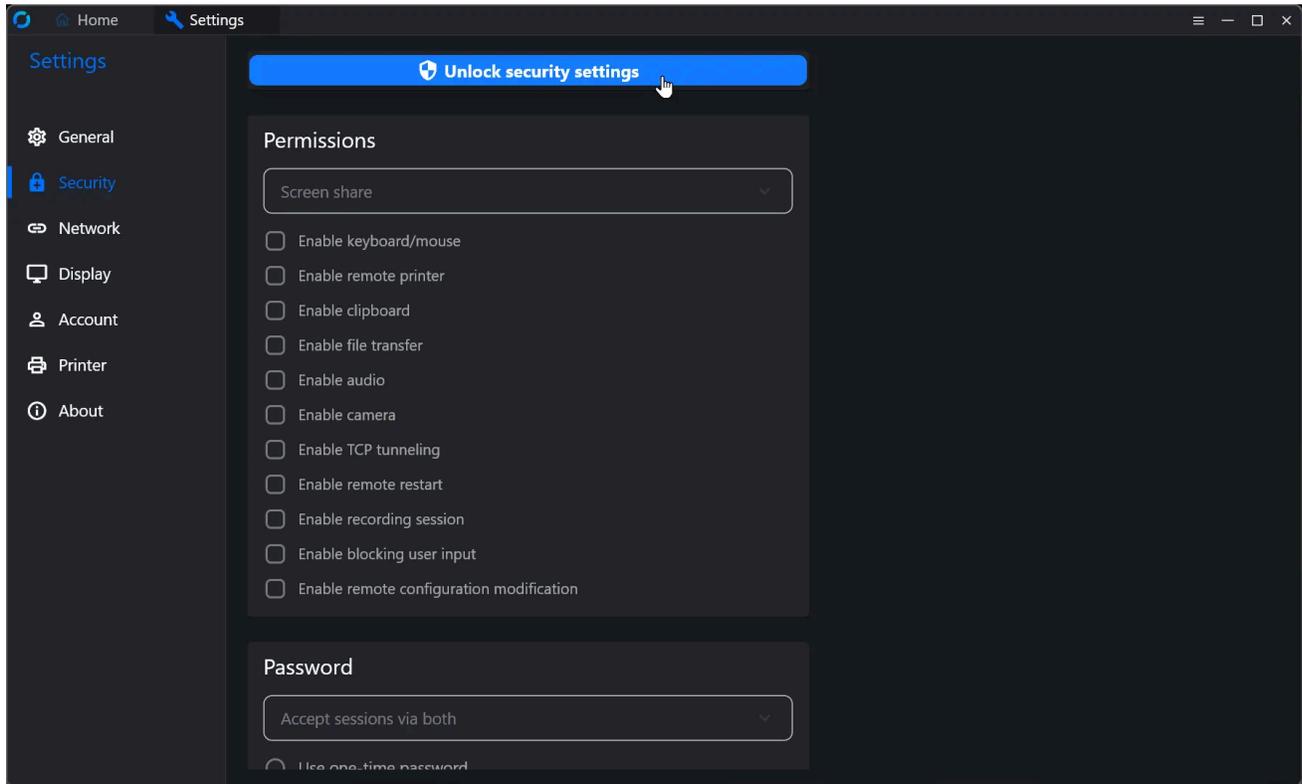
1. Start RustDesk.

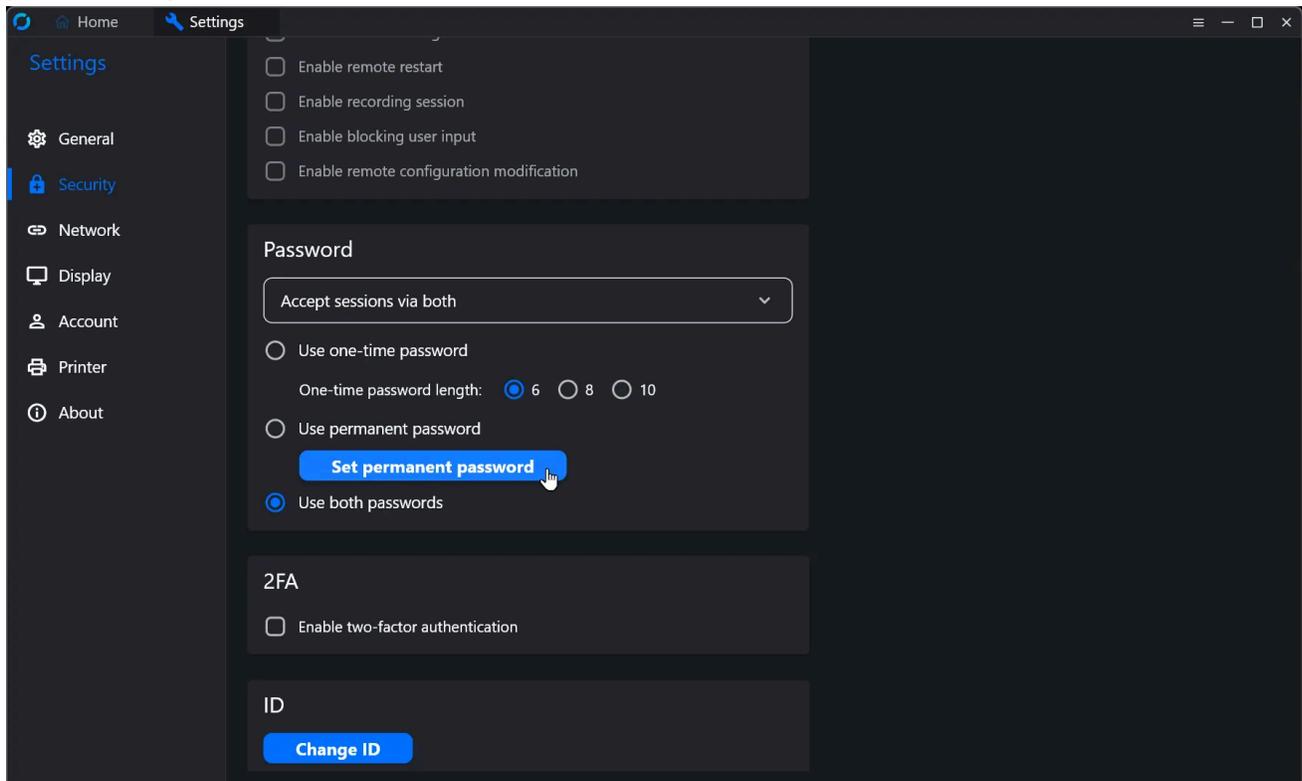2. If the status bar says "Service is not running", start it.
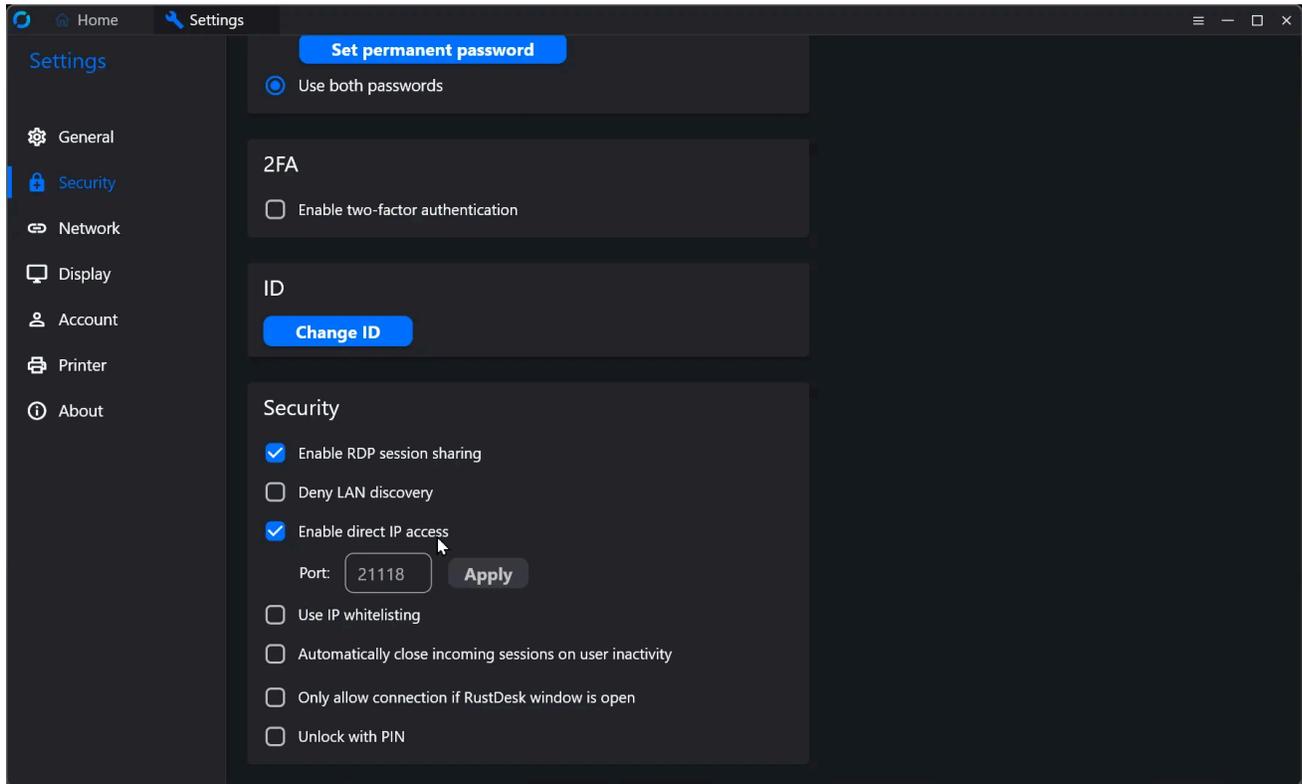

3. Open the Settings screen.

4. Go to "Security" and click the "Unlock security settings" button.

5. Go to "Settings → Security → Password" and mark "Use both passwords", and click "Set permanent password".
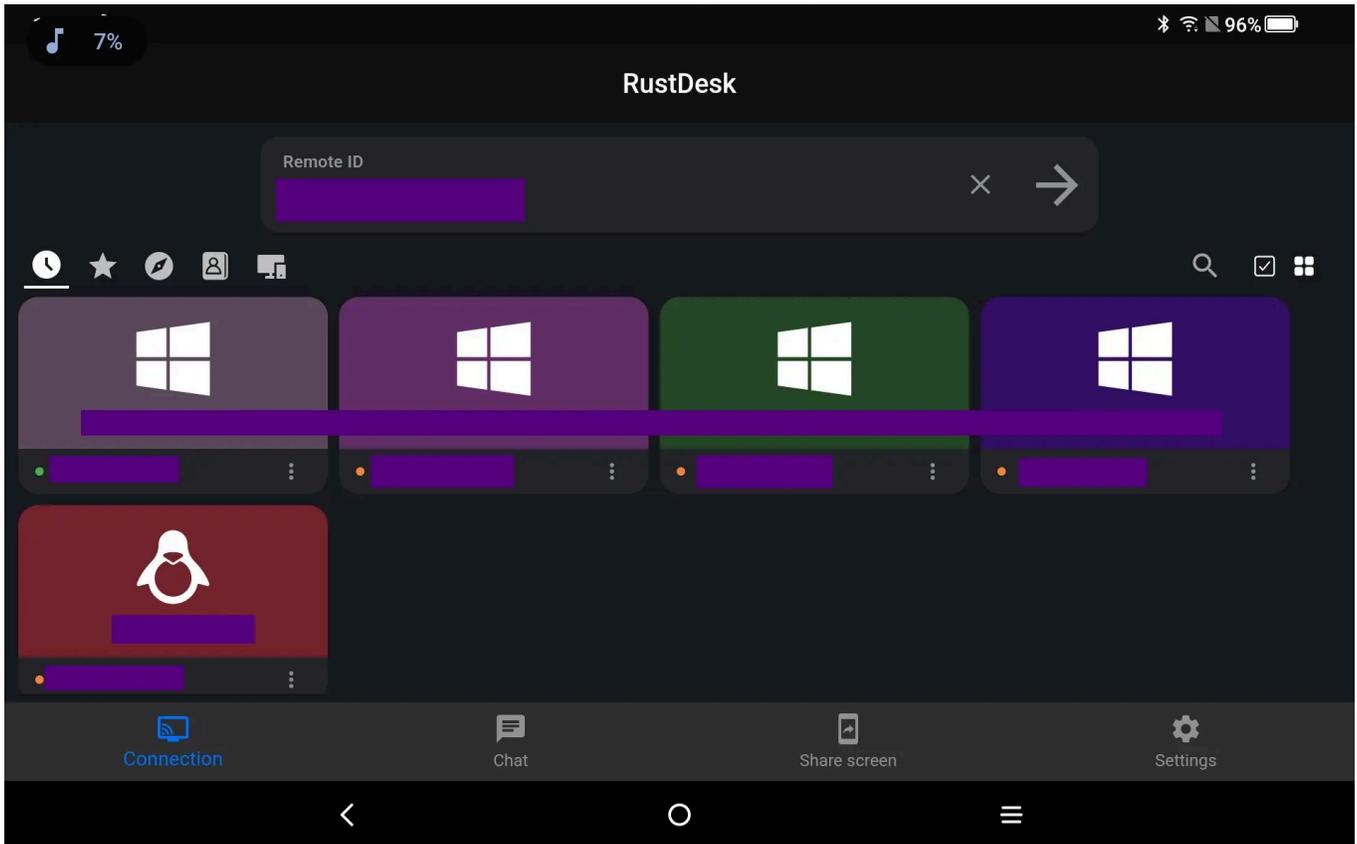
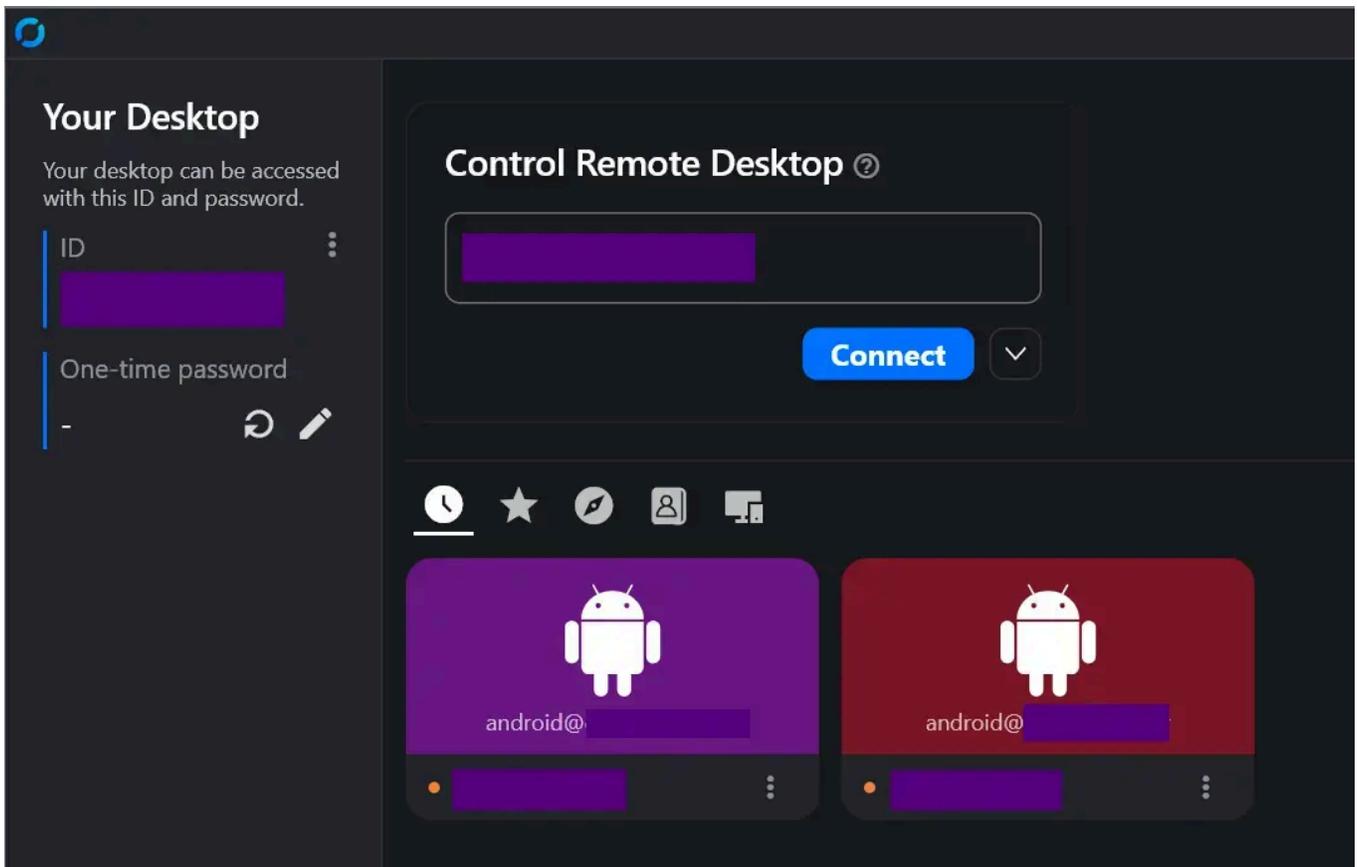6. Go to "Settings → Security → Security" and mark "Enable direct IP access".

Connect to Windows from the Android Tablet

In the main screen in RustDesk on the Android tablet, enter the Remote ID that is shown on your RustDesk on Windows.

Android main screen: Enter "Remote ID" in the big text input field in the middle of the top.

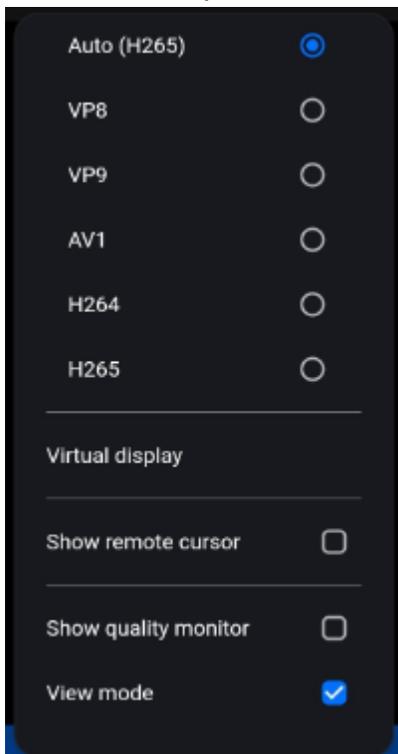Windows main screen: Find your Remote ID in the top-left corner.
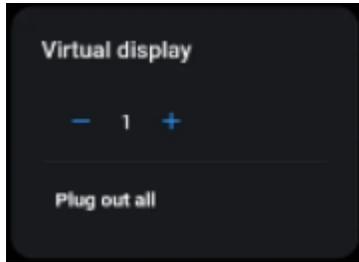
Configure Multiple Displays

1. Once you're connected, on the Android tablet, tap the "Display" icon, which is the second icon in the blue toolbar at the bottom.

2. In the Display Settings popup window, you might want to scroll down to the bottom and mark "View mode", so that you don't accidentally send mouse inputs from the tablet to the Windows computer.

3. Next, in the same Display Settings popup, tap "Virtual display". In the new popup, change the Virtual Display count from "0" to "1".
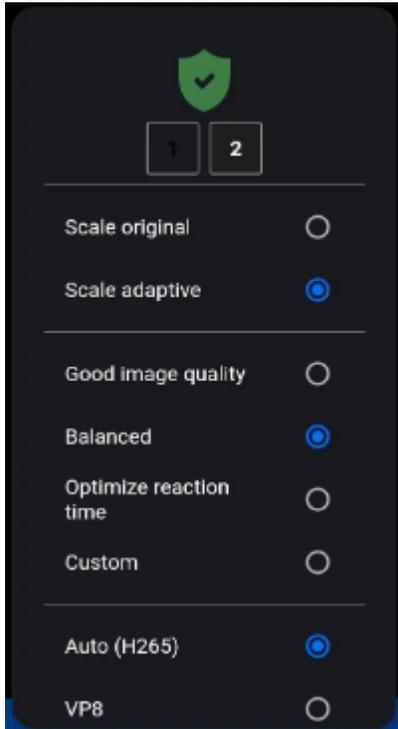

4. Back on the main screen, tap the Display Settings button again.

5. Now you'll see that the top of this popup window has a list of displays you can select. Tap "2" to display the remote machine's display #2 (the virtual auxiliary display you created with
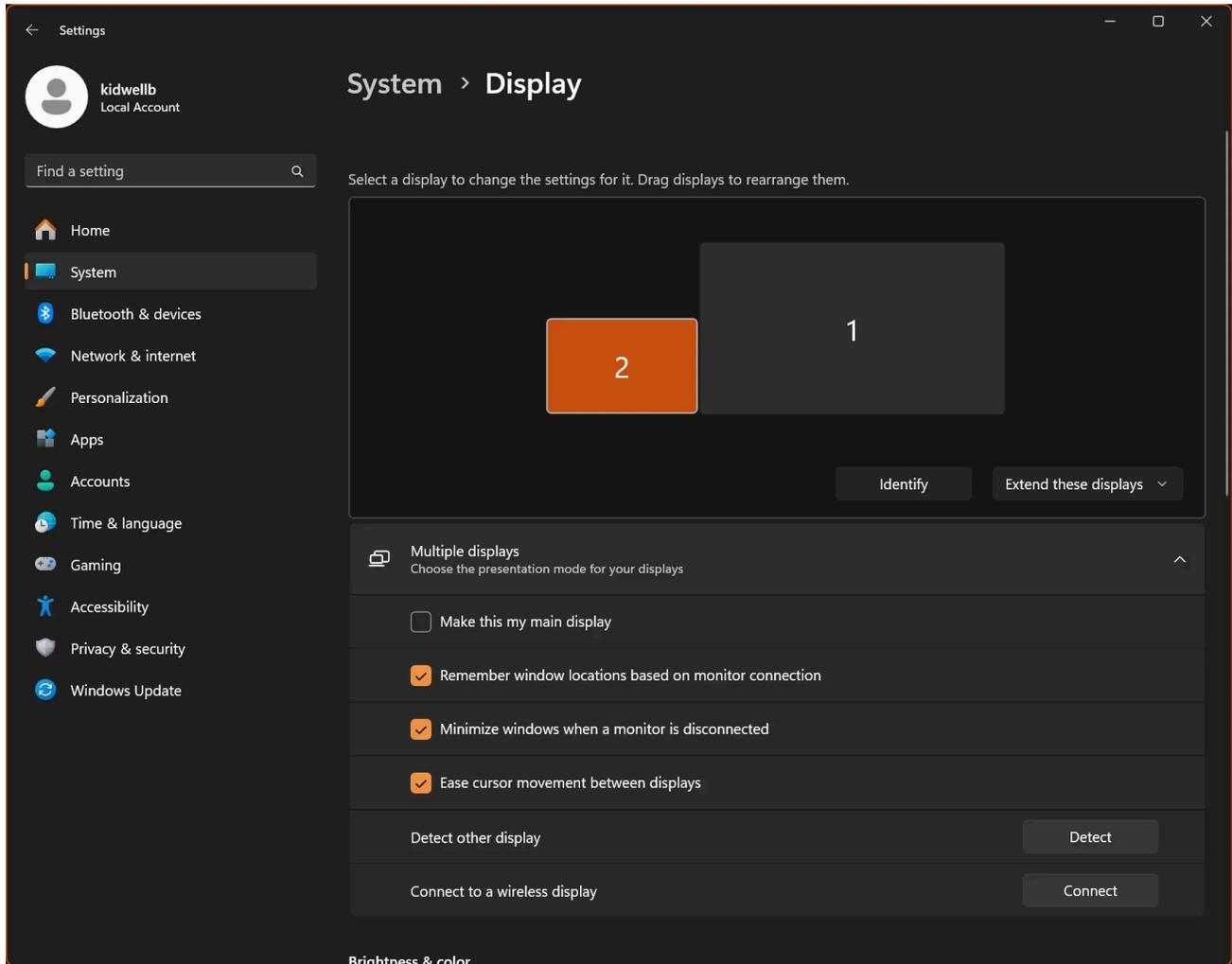
the "Virtual Displays" popup window).

6. You should be seeing a different "display" on the RustDesk main window on the Android tablet now, instead of what's on the Windows desktop's main physical screen.

Configure the Virtual Display on the Windows Side

1. In Windows, go to Windows Settings → System → Display, and configure your display #2, the auxiliary virtual display. (You have click the big "2" inside the figure showing all the

displays laid out, to choose it for editing.)

2. Set Display #2 for "Extend these displays". That means each display gets a separate set of windows.
3. Drag Display #2 to a convenient place in the layout to match how the tablet is arranged in physical space on your desk.

Ready to Use

Now everything should be ready to use, and you can drag windows from your Windows desktop over to Display #2 and they should appear on your Android tablet.