



NerdRemote

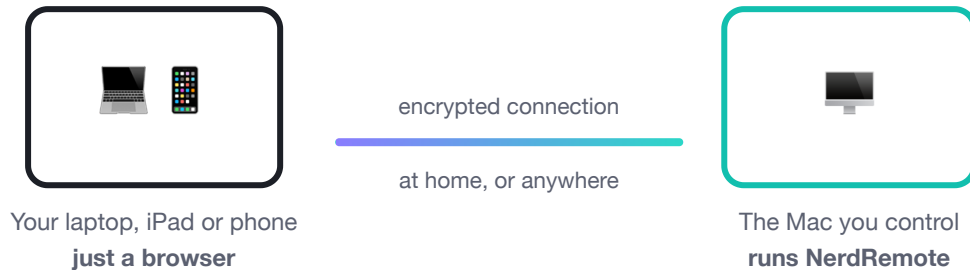
User Guide: control your Mac from any browser, anywhere

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Version 1.4 · Nerddevs Ltd

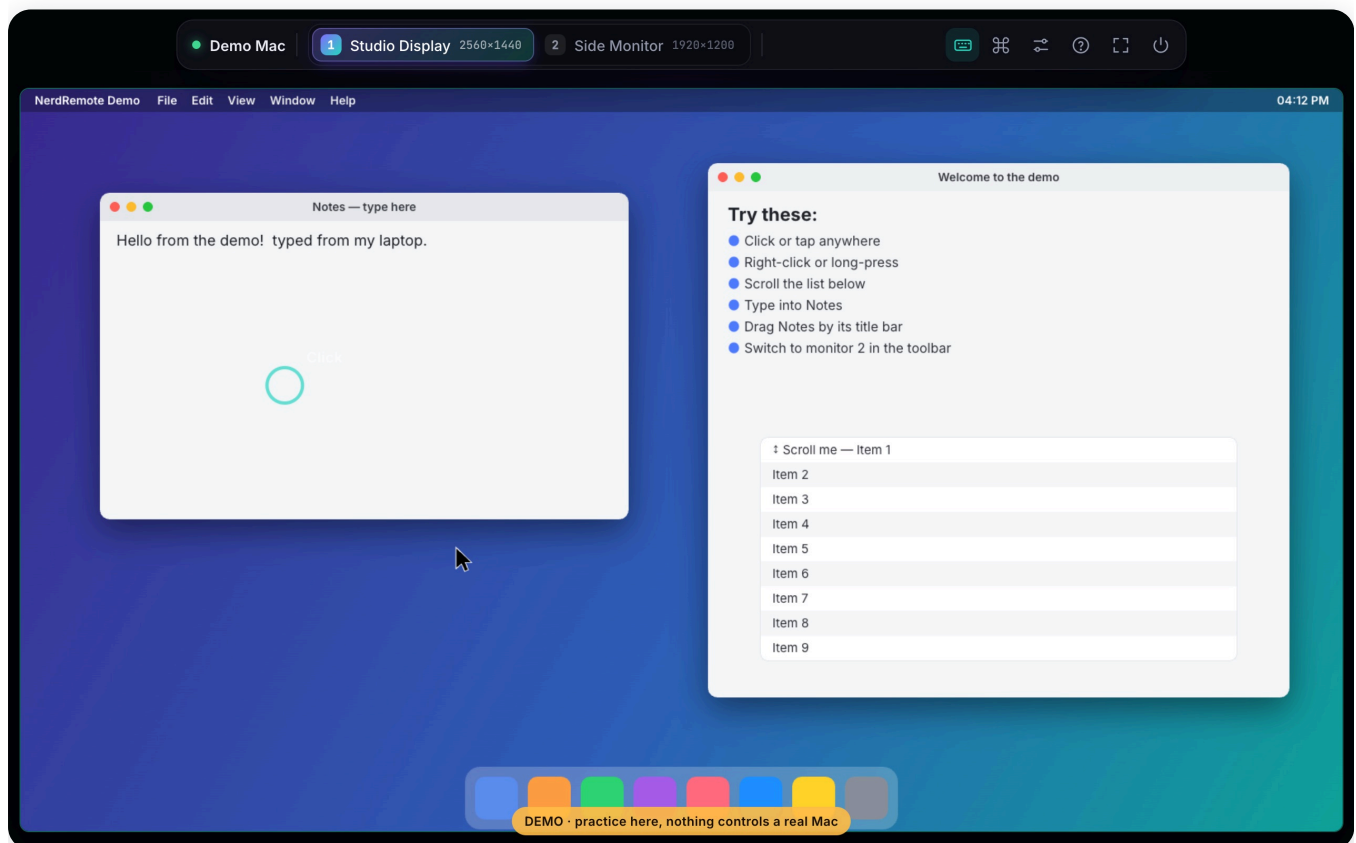
1 What NerdRemote does

NerdRemote lets you see and control a Mac from a web browser on another device: a laptop, an iPad or a phone. You see every monitor, and you have the full mouse and keyboard.



- **Nothing to install on the other device.** Open an address in Safari, Chrome, Edge or Firefox.
- **Every monitor.** Switch between the Mac's displays with one click or tap.
- **Full control.** Mouse, keyboard, shortcuts, scrolling, and touch gestures on iPad and iPhone.
- **At home or away.** On your home network it just works. For anywhere, turn on Internet access (chapter 7).
- **Private.** Protected by your password, and encrypted when used over the internet.

Want to try it first? Open the NerdRemote page and choose **Try the demo**. It shows a practice Mac, so you can learn every button and gesture before using a real one.



A Mac's screen in a browser. This is the demo; you'll see your own Mac here.

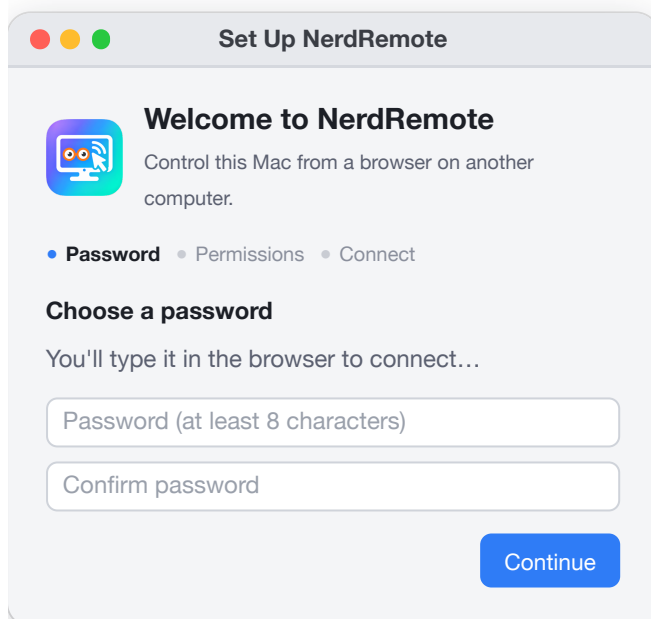
2 Install and set up the Mac

Do this once, on the Mac you want to control. It needs macOS 13 Ventura or newer.

Install

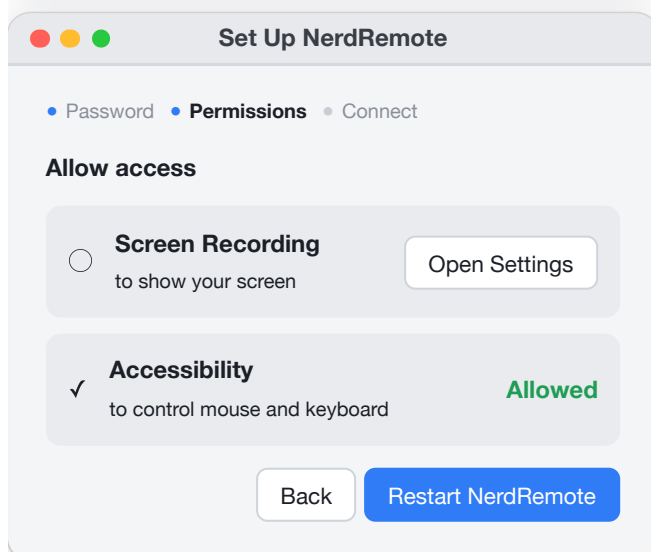
- 1 Open **NerdRemote-<version>.dmg**.
- 2 Drag **NerdRemote** into the **Applications** folder.
- 3 Open NerdRemote from Applications. If you open it straight from the disk image, it asks you to move it first; that keeps start-at-login working.

The setup window walks you through three steps



The screenshot shows the 'Set Up NerdRemote' window with the title bar in shades of gray. Below the title bar is a header section with a colorful icon of a monitor with a cursor and the text 'Welcome to NerdRemote' and 'Control this Mac from a browser on another computer.' Below this is a progress indicator with three dots: the first is blue and labeled 'Password', the second is gray and labeled 'Permissions', and the third is gray and labeled 'Connect'. The main section is titled 'Choose a password' and contains the text 'You'll type it in the browser to connect...'. There are two text input fields: the first is labeled 'Password (at least 8 characters)' and the second is labeled 'Confirm password'. At the bottom right is a blue button labeled 'Continue'.

1. Choose a password. You'll type it on the other device. Use at least **12 characters** if you'll connect from outside your home; that's required for Internet access. The password is stored in your Mac's Keychain.

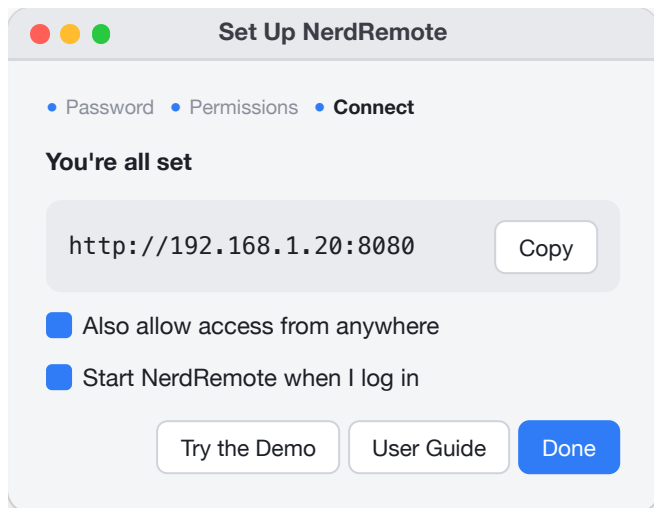


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2. Allow access. macOS asks your permission before any app can see the screen or control the mouse. Click **Open Settings** next to each, and turn on **NerdRemote** in:

- **Screen & System Audio Recording**, to show the screen
- **Accessibility**, to control mouse and keyboard

macOS only applies Screen Recording after a restart. When the button says **Restart NerdRemote**, click it. Setup continues where you left off.

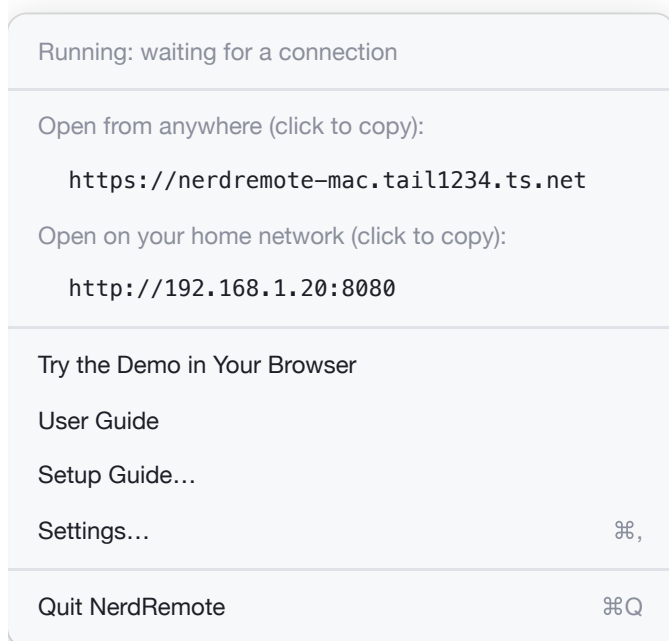


3. Connect. The window shows the address to open on your other device. Leave **Start NerdRemote when I log in** on, so the Mac is always reachable.

Tick **Also allow access from anywhere** to use it outside your home too (chapter 7).

3 The menu bar icon

After setup, NerdRemote runs quietly in the menu bar at the top of the Mac's screen. Click the monitor icon for its menu.

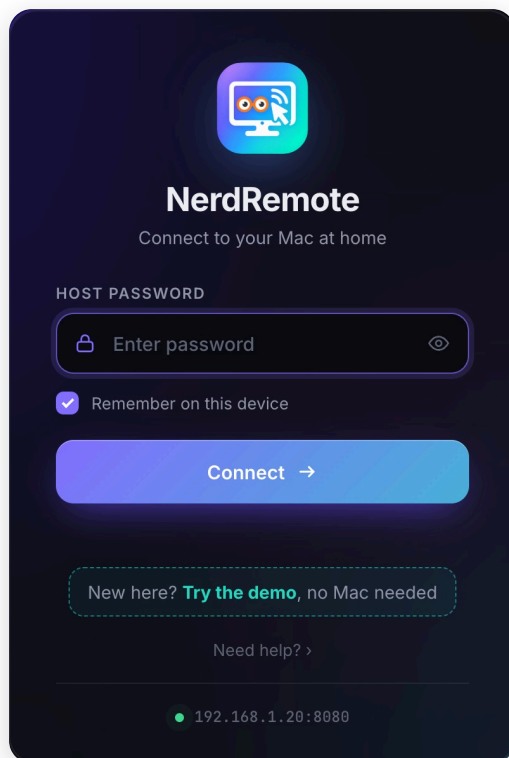


ICON	MEANS
 outline	Running, waiting for someone to connect
 with a person	Someone is connected right now
 triangle	Needs attention: permissions, a port problem, or internet access waiting for sign-in. The menu says what.

Click an address to copy it, then send it to your other device (for example with AirDrop or Messages).

Opening NerdRemote again from Applications also shows its Settings window.

Connect from another device



The sign-in page

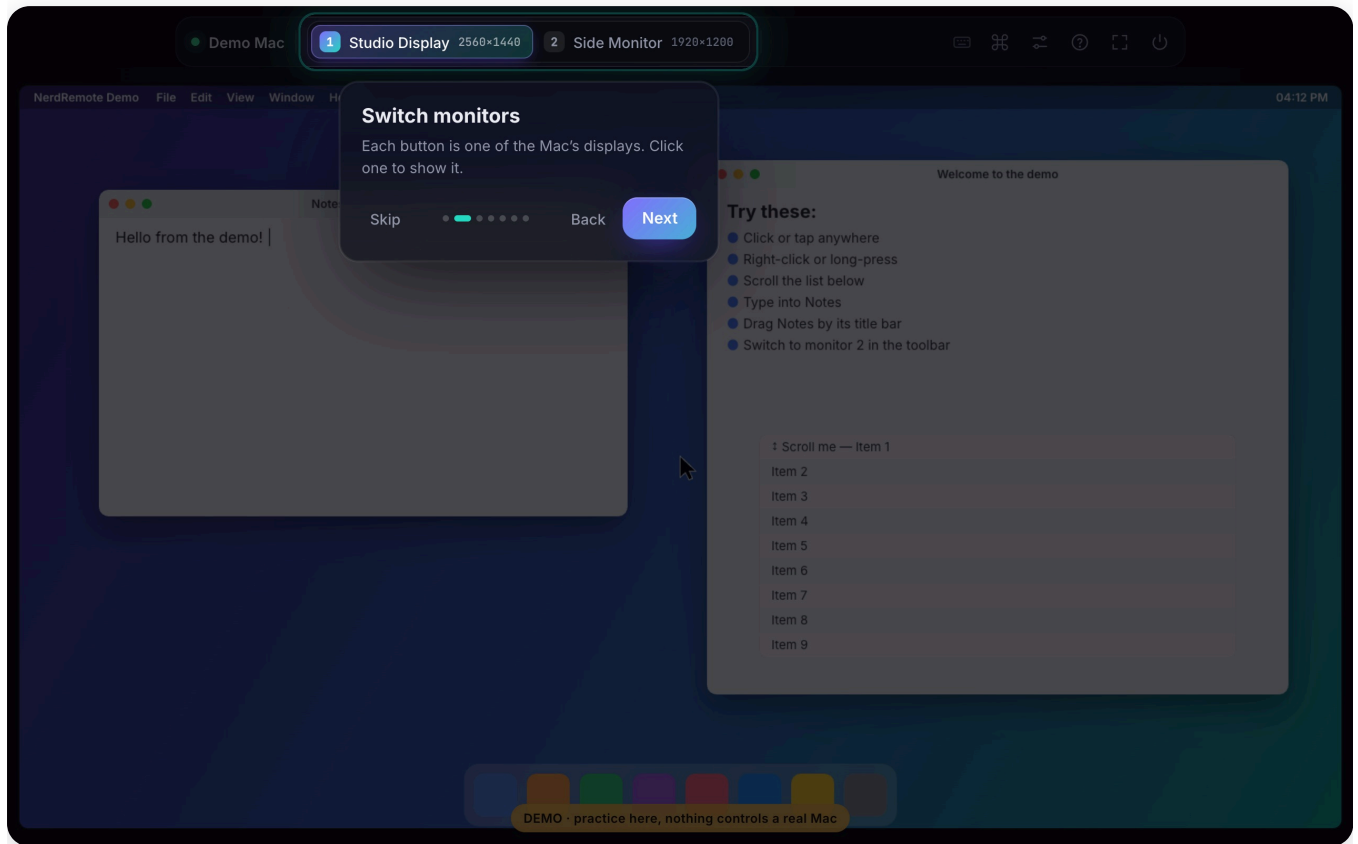
- 1 On your laptop, iPad or phone, open the address from the menu bar icon in any browser:
 - **At home** (same Wi-Fi):
`http://192.168....:8080`
 - **Anywhere**: `https://...ts.net` (after chapter 7)
- 2 Type the password you chose on the Mac and click **Connect**.
- 3 Keep **Remember on this device** ticked to skip the password next time.

Tip: bookmark the page. On iPhone or iPad, tap **Share** → **Add to Home Screen** to get a NerdRemote app icon that opens full screen.

Only one device can control the Mac at a time. Connecting from a second device takes over, and the first one is told so.

The first-time tour

The first time you connect, a short tour points out each button. You can replay it from **?** in the toolbar at any time.



The tour highlights each part of the toolbar.

5 Using it on a computer

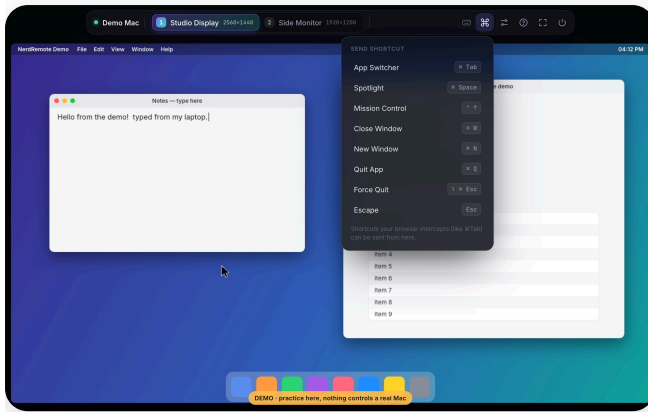
Click the Mac's screen once, then use it like the Mac in front of you.

The toolbar

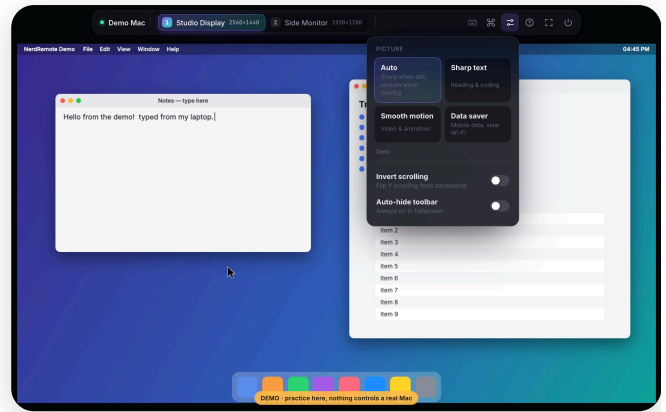
PART	WHAT IT DOES
1 2 monitor buttons	Switch between the Mac's displays. Each shows its name and resolution.
fps · ms · KB/s	Live frames per second, delay, and data used. A green dot means a good connection.
Keyboard icon	Turns teal while your keys go to the Mac. Click the screen if it isn't.
⌘ Shortcuts	Send ⌘Tab, ⌘Space, Mission Control, Force Quit and others your own computer would catch.
Sliders: Settings	Picture quality, invert scrolling, auto-hide toolbar.
Magnifier	Appears while zoomed in; zooms back out to the whole screen.
? Help	Gestures, tips, troubleshooting, the tour and this guide.
Full screen	Hides the toolbar; move the pointer to the top edge to bring it back.
Power: Disconnect	Ends the session. The Mac keeps running.

Mouse and keyboard

- Click, double-click, right-click, drag and drop, and scroll all work as usual.
- Every key goes to the Mac, including **⌘C**, **⌘V** and other shortcuts.
- Shortcuts like **⌘Tab** and **⌘Space** are caught by your own computer. Send them from the ⌘ menu, or use full screen in Chrome or Edge, which lets them through.



The ⌘ Shortcuts menu



Settings: picture quality and more

Picture quality

NerdRemote adapts the picture to your device and connection on its own:

- **Sharp when still.** As soon as the screen stops changing for a moment, NerdRemote sends a crisp, full-detail version, so text is easy to read.
- **Zoom fetches real detail.** Pinch (touchscreen or trackpad) to zoom in, and NerdRemote sends that area at the Mac's full resolution, not a blown-up copy. The magnifier button zooms back out.
- **Sized for your screen.** NerdRemote sends exactly as many pixels as your screen can show, nothing wasted on a small screen.
- **Video compression over the internet.** On the `https://...ts.net` address, NerdRemote streams H.264 video, which needs a fraction of the data with the same picture. On the home address it uses JPEG pictures, which your home network handles easily.

To change what matters most, open Settings (the sliders button) → **Picture**:

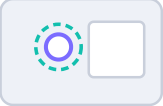
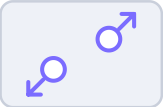
MODE	BEST FOR
Auto	Everything. Sharp when still, smooth when moving, and it adapts to your connection. The default.
Sharp text	Reading and coding: the crispest picture, at fewer frames per second
Smooth motion	Video and animation: up to 60 frames per second, at lower resolution
Data saver	Mobile data or slow Wi-Fi: the least data

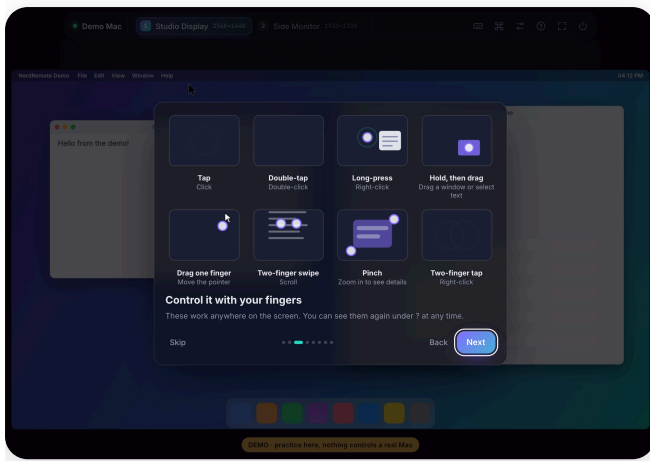
Each browser remembers its own choice. The Settings menu also shows what's being sent, for example *H.264 video · 2360×1328*.

Best quality at home too: the `https://...ts.net` address works at home as well, and gets the video compression.

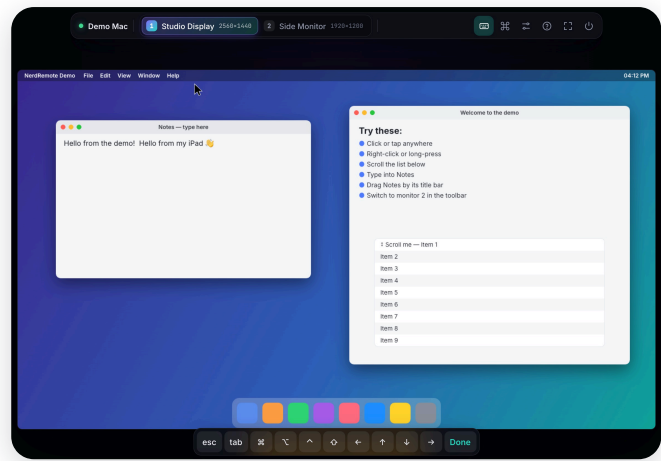
6 Using it on an iPad or phone

Touch the Mac's screen directly. Wherever you tap is where the Mac clicks.

GESTURE	DOES
 Tap	Click
 Double-tap	Double-click (open files and apps)
 Long-press	Right-click
 Press and hold, then drag	Drag: move windows, select text
 Drag one finger	Move the pointer (no click)
 Two-finger swipe	Scroll
 Pinch	Zoom in on part of the screen. The magnifier button in the toolbar zooms back out.
 Two-finger tap	Right-click



The tour shows each gesture as a moving picture.



The keyboard button and the key bar

Typing

- Tap the **keyboard button** in the toolbar to open your device's keyboard. Text arrives on the Mac exactly as typed, in any language and including emoji.
- The **key bar** above the keyboard adds **esc** **tab**, the arrow keys and **⌘** **⌥** **⌘** **⌥**. Tap a modifier, then a key: **⌘** then **C** copies.
- A hardware keyboard (for example the iPad Magic Keyboard) works too.
- Tap **Done** to close the keyboard.

Small screen? Turn the phone sideways for a bigger picture, and pinch to zoom into the part you're working on.

7 Access from anywhere

At home NerdRemote works on your own network. To reach the Mac from anywhere (an office, a café, mobile data), turn on Internet access. You set it up once, on the Mac.

- 1 Make sure your password has at least **12 characters** (Settings → Password).
- 2 In **Settings** → **Internet access**, turn on **Allow access from anywhere**.
- 3 Your browser opens Tailscale's sign-in page. Sign in with Google, Microsoft, GitHub or Apple. This creates a **free Tailscale account** if you don't have one.
- 4 If Tailscale asks, click to allow **Funnel** (Tailscale's feature for publishing a secure web address).
- 5 Settings and the menu now show your permanent address, like `https://nerdremote-mac.tail1234.ts.net`. A brand-new address can take a few minutes to start working everywhere.

Nothing needs installing on the other device; it's just a web address. It stays the same, so bookmark it.

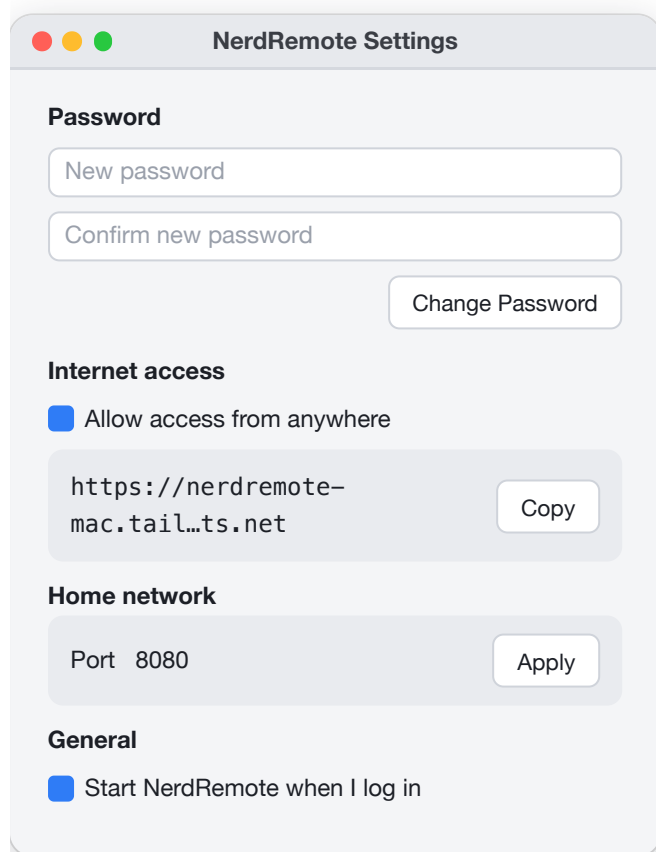
How it works

NerdRemote includes Tailscale's open-source networking. The Mac connects out to Tailscale, so there's no router setup, and it works behind any home internet connection. The connection is encrypted (HTTPS) all the way from your browser to your Mac: Tailscale relays it but can't read it.

Turn it off any time in Settings. **Sign Out of Tailscale** also removes this Mac from your Tailscale account.

8 Settings on the Mac

Menu bar icon → **Settings...** (or , while the menu is open).



NerdRemote Settings

Password

New password

Confirm new password

Change Password

Internet access

☒ Allow access from anywhere

https://nerdremote-mac.tail...ts.net

Copy

Home network

Port 8080

Apply

General

☒ Start NerdRemote when I log in

SETTING	WHAT IT DOES
Password	Change it any time. Connected devices are signed out right away.
Internet access	Chapter 7. Shows your address and what to do if it's waiting for sign-in.
Port	Change it only if another app already uses 8080. The stream uses the next port (8081).
Start at login	Keeps NerdRemote available after the Mac restarts.
User Guide · Demo	Open this guide, or try the demo in your browser.

Security and privacy

- **Your password protects everything.** It's stored in the Mac's Keychain. Choose one you don't use elsewhere: 12+ characters for internet access.
- **Wrong guesses are slowed down.** After 5 wrong passwords, that device is paused for a minute, longer if it continues. Other devices, including yours, aren't affected.
- **Other websites can't connect.** Only NerdRemote's own page can open the screen stream.
- **Encrypted over the internet.** Internet access uses HTTPS end to end. At home, the connection stays inside your own network.
- **One viewer at a time.** If someone else connects, you're disconnected and told why.
- **You stay in control.** Quitting NerdRemote, or turning off Screen Recording and Accessibility in System Settings, stops all remote access immediately.
- **No data collection.** NerdRemote doesn't send your screen, keystrokes or usage to anyone. Tailscale's log upload is turned off.

Don't publish NerdRemote with router port forwarding. Use Internet access instead: it's encrypted and needs no router changes.

Troubleshooting

Text looks blurry

Stop moving for a moment: NerdRemote then sends a sharp version. To read small text, pinch to zoom in (on a touchscreen or trackpad); NerdRemote sends that area at full detail. For reading or coding all the time, choose **Sharp text** in Settings (the sliders button).

It feels slow or laggy

Choose **Data saver** or **Smooth motion** in Settings (the sliders button). Check the delay (ms) in the toolbar: a few hundred ms is normal over the internet. Over the `https://` address NerdRemote uses video compression, which helps a lot on slow connections.

I can't open the page

At home: make sure both devices are on the same network, and that NerdRemote is running on the Mac (menu bar icon). Away: use the `https://...ts.net` address, and check that Internet access shows the address in Settings. A new address can take a few minutes.

"Incorrect password, or too many attempts"

Check the password in Settings on the Mac, or set a new one. After several wrong tries, wait a minute.

The screen stays black, or "Waiting for first frame"

On the Mac: menu bar icon → **Setup Guide...** and check that Screen Recording is allowed, then restart NerdRemote.

Clicks or keys don't do anything

On the Mac: check that **Accessibility** is allowed for NerdRemote. In the browser: click the screen once (the keyboard icon turns teal), or on iPad tap the keyboard button.

"Another device took over this session"

Someone connected from another device. Only one viewer at a time is allowed; connect again to take it back.

The menu bar shows a warning triangle

Open the menu; the first line says what's wrong. For example, a port in use (change it in Settings) or Internet access waiting for you to sign in to Tailscale.

Scrolling goes the wrong way

Turn on **Invert scrolling** in the browser's Settings (sliders button).

Nothing works after the Mac restarted

Make sure **Start NerdRemote when I log in** is on, and that the Mac has logged in to your account.