BILL'S HOME TECH

Home & Small Business Tech Solutions

AN EXTENDED GUIDE · NO. 2300

Updated November 2026

Make the Mouse Pointer Big & Easy to Find

Lose the cursor less, make it bigger and bolder, and find it instantly when it hides

Plain-English tech help from:
Bill's Home Tech
Portage County, Ohio

Tech Made Simple. Service Made Personal.

Bill Davis — Bill's Home Tech
(330) 200-8042 · bill@billshometech.com · Atwater, Ohio

Book a visit · billshometech.com/book

What's Inside

Everything in this guide, with page numbers. Skip to whichever chapter answers your question right now.

The 60-Second Version 3
The Short Version 3
Why the Pointer Is So Easy to Lose 4
Make the Pointer Bigger on Windows 4
Change the Pointer Color on Windows 5
Find a Lost Pointer on Windows 5
Add a Pointer Trail on Windows 6
Slow the Pointer Down on Windows 6
Make the Pointer Bigger on a Mac 7
Shake to Find the Pointer on a Mac 7
Change the Pointer Color on a Mac 8
Make the Typing Cursor Easier to See 8
Pointers on a Tablet 9
Fine-Tune the Whole Setup 9
Set the Double-Click Speed and Buttons 10
When to Call Bill 11
Everyday Cheat Sheet 12
A Note From Bill 13
Your Visit — and My Promise 14

SUMMARY

The 60-Second Version

The mouse pointer ships tiny and white, so make it bigger and brighter. On Windows: Settings, Accessibility, Mouse pointer and touch, raise the Size slider and pick a colored or contrast-switching pointer; turn on “show location on Ctrl” so a tap of Ctrl reveals it. On a Mac: System Settings, Accessibility, Display, Pointer — raise the size, set bright colors, and shake the mouse to make it swell up when lost.

Slow the pointer speed if your hand shakes, and make the blinking typing cursor thicker and colored so you always see where your letters will land.

1 The Short Version

The mouse pointer — that little arrow that moves when you move the mouse — ships tiny, thin, and plain white, which makes it easy to lose against a busy screen. You can make it as big and bold and brightly colored as you like, and set up a trick that reveals it the moment you cannot find it.

All of this lives in the computer's accessibility settings, takes a couple of minutes, and changes nothing else about how the computer works. It simply makes the pointer easy to see and easy to find.

- You can make the pointer much bigger and change its color.
- You can make it jump in size or ripple when you lose it.
- Slowing the pointer down can make it easier to control.
- The typing cursor (the blinking line) can be made thicker too.

> **TIP**
>
> Start by making the pointer two or three times its normal size and bright yellow or green. You can fine-tune later, but a big, colorful pointer solves most of the “where did it go” problem in one change.

2 Why the Pointer Is So Easy to Lose

The default pointer is small and white, chosen to stay out of the way rather than to be easy to see. On a large, bright, or busy screen — a web page full of white, a photo, a video — a small white arrow simply disappears into the background.

Add in that the pointer can jump across to a second screen, or sit still while your eyes are elsewhere, and losing it is almost guaranteed. None of this is a fault; it is just a default that was never meant for comfortable, confident use. The settings below fix it for good.

> **GOOD TO KNOW**
> People often blame themselves for "losing" the cursor, but it is genuinely hard to see at its default size and color. Making it bigger and brighter is not a workaround — it is simply setting the pointer to a sensible size for a human to follow.

3 Make the Pointer Bigger on Windows

Windows lets you grow the pointer smoothly from normal up to very large indeed, so you can pick exactly the size that suits your eyes.

1. Open Settings (the gear icon on the Start menu).
2. Click Accessibility, then Mouse pointer and touch.
3. Drag the Size slider to the right until the pointer is comfortably large.
4. Move the mouse to see the new size and adjust until it feels right.

> **TIP**
> There is no harm in going quite large — a pointer three or four times the default is still unobtrusive when you are not using it, and far easier to spot when you are. Err on the big side.

4 Change the Pointer Color on Windows

Color is just as important as size. A bright pointer stands out against any background, and Windows even has a clever option that flips the pointer's color to stay visible over anything.

1. On the same Mouse pointer and touch screen, look at the pointer style options.
2. Choose the colored option and pick a bright color like green or yellow.
3. Or choose the option that automatically switches color to contrast with whatever is behind it.
4. Watch the pointer as you move it over light and dark areas to confirm it stays visible.

> **GOOD TO KNOW**
>
> The “change color to contrast” option is the cleverest choice for a busy screen — the pointer turns dark over light areas and light over dark ones, so it is never lost against the background.

5 Find a Lost Pointer on Windows

Windows has a lovely old trick: tap the Ctrl key and a set of rings closes in on the pointer, showing you exactly where it is. You turn it on once and then use it forever.

1. Open the classic mouse settings: search the Start menu for “mouse settings” and open Additional mouse options.
2. Go to the Pointer Options tab.
3. Tick “Show location of pointer when I press the CTRL key.”
4. Click OK. Now, whenever you lose the pointer, tap Ctrl and watch for the rings.

> **TIP**
>
> The Ctrl-key ripple is the single best cure for “where is my cursor.” Once it is on, a quick tap of Ctrl points right at the pointer, no wiggling and squinting required.

Rather not do this yourself? I'll come to your home and set it up for you — a flat $99 first visit across Portage County, Ohio and nearby communities. Outside the area? I also help remotely by phone or screen-share. Book at billshometech.com/book or call (330) 200-8042.

6 Add a Pointer Trail on Windows

A pointer trail leaves a brief comet-tail behind the arrow as it moves, making it much easier to follow across the screen — helpful if a fast-moving pointer is hard to track.

1. In Additional mouse options, go to the Pointer Options tab.
2. Tick “Display pointer trails” and set the length with the slider.
3. A short trail is usually enough to catch the eye without being distracting.
4. Click OK to keep it.

GOOD TO KNOW

Trails help most if your eyes struggle to track quick movement. If a trail feels too busy, a slower pointer speed (covered next) often works better — try one, then the other.

7 Slow the Pointer Down on Windows

If the pointer shoots across the screen faster than you can follow, slowing it down makes it far easier to place where you want. A slower pointer is steadier and more forgiving.

1. In Additional mouse options, go to the Pointer Options tab.
2. Drag the “Select a pointer speed” slider toward Slow.
3. Try moving the mouse and adjust until it feels controlled, not sluggish.
4. Click OK to save.

TIP

A slower pointer is especially helpful if your hand is not perfectly steady, because small hand shakes move the pointer less. Pair it with a bigger pointer and the computer becomes much easier to use.

8 Make the Pointer Bigger on a Mac

A Mac grows the pointer just as easily, and it has a famously nice trick for finding it.

1. Open System Settings, click Accessibility, then Display, then Pointer.
2. Drag the Pointer size slider to the right until it is comfortably large.
3. Move the mouse to see the new size.
4. Adjust until it feels right for your eyes.

GOOD TO KNOW

On a Mac the pointer-size slider is smooth and goes impressively large, so you can make the arrow genuinely big without it looking clumsy. There is no reason to keep it tiny.

9 Shake to Find the Pointer on a Mac

The Mac has a delightful feature: give the mouse a quick shake, or swipe a finger back and forth on the trackpad, and the pointer briefly swells up huge so you cannot miss it, then settles back.

1. Open System Settings, click Accessibility, then Display, then Pointer.
2. Make sure “Shake mouse pointer to locate” is turned on.
3. Whenever you lose the pointer, give the mouse a little wiggle.
4. The pointer balloons up for a moment, then returns to normal.

GOOD TO KNOW

The shake-to-locate trick is on by default on most Macs, so you may already have it — give the mouse a wiggle and see. If the pointer does not grow, turn it on with the steps above.

10 Change the Pointer Color on a Mac

A Mac lets you recolor the pointer's outline and fill so it stands out against your screen, just like on Windows.

1. Open System Settings, click Accessibility, then Display, then Pointer.
2. Use the Pointer outline color and Pointer fill color options.
3. Pick a bright fill like yellow with a dark outline for maximum contrast.
4. Move the pointer around to confirm it is easy to spot.

GOOD TO KNOW

A bright fill with a contrasting outline is the most visible combination on a Mac — the outline keeps the pointer defined even against a matching background, so it never blends in.

Rather not do this yourself? I'll come to your home and set it up for you — a flat $99 first visit across Portage County, Ohio and nearby communities. Outside the area? I also help remotely by phone or screen-share. Book at billshometech.com/book or call (330) 200-8042.

11 Make the Typing Cursor Easier to See

There are really two cursors: the pointer you move with the mouse, and the thin blinking line that shows where your typing will go. That blinking line can be made thicker and easier to spot too.

- Windows: Settings, Accessibility, Text cursor — turn on the Text cursor indicator and set its size and color, and make the cursor thicker.
- Mac: System Settings, Accessibility, Display — adjust the cursor options, and some apps let you set a thicker insertion point.
- A thicker, colored typing cursor makes it obvious where your next letter will land.
- This is especially helpful when filling in forms with many small boxes.

> **TIP**
> The Windows "text cursor indicator" puts little colored flags above and below the blinking line, making it leap out on a busy form. It is a small setting that saves a lot of squinting while typing.

12 Pointers on a Tablet

If you use a mouse or trackpad with an iPad or an Android tablet, those have pointer settings too, so you are not stuck with a tiny dot.

- iPad: Settings, Accessibility, Pointer Control — increase the pointer size and contrast, and adjust the speed.
- Android tablet: Settings, Accessibility, then the pointer or mouse options.
- The same idea applies — bigger and bolder is easier to follow.
- Slowing the pointer helps on a tablet too if your hand is not steady.

> **GOOD TO KNOW**
> Using a mouse with a tablet can make it feel much more like a computer, and the pointer settings make that comfortable. If you prefer a mouse to tapping the glass, the tablet can absolutely accommodate you.

13 Fine-Tune the Whole Setup

The best pointer setup combines a few of these settings rather than relying on just one. Spend a few minutes getting the blend right and the computer becomes genuinely easier to use.

- Big size plus bright color solves most visibility problems on its own.
- Add find-the-pointer (Ctrl ripple on Windows, shake on Mac) for when it still hides.
- Slow the speed if your hand shakes or the pointer feels skittish.
- Make the typing cursor thicker so you always know where your letters will go.

> **GOOD TO KNOW**
>
> If the whole screen feels small, enlarging everything (the Scale setting on Windows, the Larger Text display on a Mac) enlarges the pointer along with it. Pointer settings and overall size work hand in hand.

14 Set the Double-Click Speed and Buttons

Two more mouse settings quietly cause a lot of grief: a double-click speed set too fast to manage, and the buttons arranged for the wrong hand. Both are easy to put right and make clicking far less frustrating.

If double-clicking often fails to open things — because the two clicks have to land very close together in time — slowing the double-click speed gives you a comfortable window. And if you use your left hand, you can swap the buttons so the main click falls under your index finger.

1. Windows: open Additional mouse options, and on the Buttons tab drag the double-click speed toward Slow; tick “switch primary and secondary buttons” if you are left-handed.
2. Mac: System Settings, Accessibility, Pointer Control, adjust the double-click speed; set the primary button under Mouse settings.
3. Test the double-click on the folder shown there until it opens reliably.
4. If double-clicking is still hard, turn on the option to open items with a single click instead.

> **GOOD TO KNOW**
>
> A double-click speed set too fast is a hidden cause of “nothing happens when I click” — the computer sees two separate clicks instead of one double-click. Slowing it down, or switching to single-click to open, removes the frustration entirely.

15 When to Call Bill

Each of these settings is simple, but getting the pointer, the find-it trick, the speed, and the typing cursor all set the way that suits your eyes and your hand takes a few minutes of adjusting while you watch — and that is where a visit makes it effortless.

I come to you, make the pointer big and bright, turn on the find-the-pointer trick, slow it to a steady pace if that helps, and make the typing cursor easy to see, on every computer and tablet you use. You will stop losing the cursor and stop fighting the mouse.

- You keep losing the pointer and want it big, bright, and easy to find.
- The pointer moves too fast and you want it calmed down.
- The typing cursor is hard to see on forms and you want it bolder.
- You want the same comfortable setup on your computer and tablet.

CHEAT SHEET

Everyday Cheat Sheet

Keep this by the computer. Make the pointer big and bright first — that fixes most of it.

I want to...	Do this...
Bigger pointer (Windows)	Settings Accessibility Mouse pointer and touch Size slider
Bright pointer (Windows)	Same screen choose a colored or contrast-switching pointer
Find a lost pointer (Windows)	Mouse settings Pointer Options show location on Ctrl; then tap Ctrl
Bigger pointer (Mac)	System Settings Accessibility Display Pointer size slider
Find a lost pointer (Mac)	Shake the mouse — the pointer swells up (turn on under Pointer)
Slow the pointer down	Mouse settings Pointer Options (Windows) or Pointer (Mac) lower speed
Get help	Call Bill: (330) 200-8042

BEFORE YOU GO

A Note From Bill

A quick note from Bill. I write these guides to make home tech a little less frustrating, and I do my best to keep every step accurate and up to date. Still, every home, device, and setup is a bit different, so I can't promise a guide will match yours exactly or fix your particular problem. These guides are for general information only — they're not professional, legal, or financial advice, and they don't replace your device's own manual or the manufacturer's instructions. Please go slow, use your own good judgment, and use everything here at your own risk. If a step involves electrical wiring, a gas appliance, a water heater, plumbing, or climbing a ladder — or if anything just doesn't feel safe — please stop and call a licensed professional (or give me a call at 330-200-8042). Bill's Home Tech and Bill Davis can't be responsible for any damage, data loss, or injury that results.

HOW I CAN HELP

Your Visit — and My Promise

You don't have to remember all of it — just that a friendly, patient person is one call away, whenever you'd rather have a hand.

KEY SPECS

In your home — $99 flat for the first visit, no contracts and no surprises, with a 30-day come-back-free follow-up. In-home visits cover Portage County, Ohio and nearby communities.
Outside the area? Remotely — $49 for a screen-share session (free for Support Plan members, $39/mo), refundable if I can't fix it — and credited toward a visit if you'd rather have me in person. Book either at billshometech.com/book.

GOOD TO KNOW

My promise — If you're not 100% satisfied with your visit, I'll come back at no charge, or refund the full $99. No questions, no awkwardness. That's how I'd want to be treated.

Whenever you're ready, I'll come to your home anywhere in Portage County, Ohio and nearby communities, at your pace. Too far for a house call? I also help remotely. Book at billshometech.com/book or call (330) 200-8042. — Bill

Call or text (330) 200-8042 · bill@billshometech.com

This free guide is for general information only — not professional advice, and no substitute for your device's own manual. Any prices or outside products mentioned can change; please confirm current details before you buy. Please use your own good judgment and follow it at your own risk — for anything involving electricity, gas, water, or heights, stop and call a licensed professional. Bill's Home Tech and Bill Davis can't be responsible for any damage, data loss, or injury that results. © 2026 Bill's Home Tech, LLC.