Mac OS X 10.9 and later - Set Up LPD Printing

On this page:

Printing Options
Get Printer Information
Set up LPD

Printing Options

This document describes how to set up LPD printing under Mac OS X 10.9 and later, so that you can print to printers within your own building and to printers connected to MITnet at other campus locations. These instructions assume the printer has been set up on MITnet.

LPD/IP printing is the recommended method for printers on MITnet.

Get Printer Information

Before setting up LPD printing as described below, you first need to determine the hostname of the printer and two related settings for the printer and its companion print server name. For instructions on how to do this, see: Mac OS X: Print Server Information

Printer Drivers/Software:
Mac OS X includes printer drivers/software and PostScript Printer Description (PPD) files for many printers; see the following Apple Support pages:
Mac OS X: Printer and scanner software

If your printer model does not appear in the list on the Apple Support page, or in the search at step 8 (below), you will need to install the correct printer driver/software from the CD that shipped with the printer, or download the driver from the manufacturer's website.

Set up LPD

1. Under the Apple menu, open System Preferences and click Print & Scan.
   Result: The Print & Scan window opens.
   Note: If the padlock in the lower-left corner is closed, click it and enter the Macintosh administrator name and password.
2. To add a printer, click the + (plus) sign.

*Result:* The Add Printer setup window opens.
2. If not already selected, click the IP tab at the top.
3. In the Protocol field, if not selected by default, select **Line Printer Daemon - LPD** from the drop-down menu.
4. In the Address field, type the Spool host name of the printer from the Print Server Information (see "Get Printer Information" above). 
   *Result:* If the printer is found, the setup will state "Valid and complete address."
5. In the Queue field, type the Remote Printer Name from the Print Server Information.
6. From the "Print Using" drop-down menu:
   - In 10.6 or later, select **Select Printer Software...** 
   *Result:* A search box and scroll list should appear.
7. In the search box, enter the make or model number of the target printer (you may need to look at the printer itself or print a test page from it).
8. Select the printer model from the result list and select **OK**.
Result: The completed setup window will look similar to the following.
10. Click **Add**.
   *Result: A window of Installable Options for the specified printer may be displayed.*
11. Check these as appropriate for the printer, especially if it will print Duplex, then click **Continue**.
Result: The printer, under its Spool host name, will be added to the Printer List in the *Print & Scan* window.
12. You may add other printers by clicking the + (plus) sign in the Print & Scan window, or quit System Preferences.