

Configuring Printers

Objectives:

At the end of this episode, I will be able to:

1. Describe the Common Unix Printing System (CUPS).
2. Install a printer in macOS and verify functionality.
3. Share a printer on the network to make it available to other machines.

Additional resources used during the episode can be obtained using the download link on the overview episode.

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- Printers can be added by two methods
 1. Manually connecting the printer and installing drivers (if required)
 2. Automatically discovering the printer
 - Common Unix Printing System (CUPS)
 - The foundation of printing in most Unix-based OSes
 - Owned by Apple, but an open-source project
 - Uses PPD files for printer drivers
 - PostScript Printer Description (PPD)
 - Apple provides native drivers for many printers
 - `/System/Library/Printers`
 - Most vendors provide PPD files for their printers as it enables both MacOS as well as Linux
 - `/Library/Printers`
 - When printing, your document is pre-processed and stored in `/var/spool/cups`
 - The spool folder is protected to ensure users cannot access each other's print jobs
 - A printer on your machine can be shared to other systems on the network
 1. System Preferences -> Printers & Scanners
 2. Select the printer
 3. Select *Share this printer on the network*
 - Printer Preferences
 1. System Preferences -> Sharing
 2. Select *Printer Sharing*
 3. Select the printer
 4. Assign desired permissions