

Printing From The Commandline in Unix and Windows

Printing Both Text and PDF Files On Unix Platforms

In Unix use **lpr** to print out both text files and PDF files:

Note: on PC-BSD and FreeBSD CUPS is installed as the print server, and CUPS supplies replacement utilities for **lp** and **lpr**. However the distro managers neglected to remove the old, unconfigured versions of **lp** and **lpr** which reside in `/usr/bin`. The CUPS versions are located in `/usr/local/bin`, but this folder is listed *after* `/usr/bin` in the environmental var `$PATH`, which causes the old versions to be invoked rather than the CUPS versions.

This problem is fixed in two steps:

1. Rename all the old **lp** utilities found in `/usr/bin` to have an extension like “.orig.bak”

```
mv /usr/bin/lp lp.old.bak
mv /usr/bin/lpq lpq.old.bak
mv /usr/bin/lpr lpr.old.bak
mv /usr/bin/lprm lprm.old.bak
```

2. For each user, including Root, edit the `~/.profile` script so that the `PATH` string has the folder `/usr/local/bin` *ahead of* `/usr/bin`.

```
PATH=/usr/local/share/pcbsd/bin:/sbin:/bin:/usr/sbin:/usr/local/bin:/usr/bin:/usr/games:\
$HOME/bin:/usr/local/sbin; export PATH
```

See <http://lists.freebsd.org/pipermail/freebsd-questions/2003-December/029705.html> for details.

Thus, to print text or pdf files from the command line:

```
[mrathbun@kti-a61 ~]$ lpr /usr/home/mrathbun/KTI/formMailer-1/Saved_TreeViews/TTreeView-2.txt
[mrathbun@kti-a61 ~]$ lpr "KTI Profit and Loss Statement, Jan-Dec 2012.pdf"
```

Printing Text Files On Windows

Text files can easily be sent to a networked printer, by using the Windows **lpr** utility. (*This utility needs to be enabled via Control Panel → Add Windows Programs*)

```
C:\Junk>lpr -S 192.168.0.243 -P Brother-MFC-9230CW TestBootINI.txt
```

where values for the IP address and printer name for the networked printer are found by typing **lpstat -s** on a Unix command line:

```
[mrathbun@kti-a61 ~]$ lpstat -s
system default destination: Brother-MFC-9320CW
device for Brother-MFC-9320CW: socket://192.168.000.243:9100
[mrathbun@kti-a61 ~]$
```

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Alternately, a text file can simply be sent to a physically attached printer by using the **print** command:

```
C:\Junk>print TestBootINI.txt
```

Type **print /?** at the command prompt to learn about print's options.

Printing PDFs On Windows

PDF files cannot be printed from the Windows command prompt using any of the utilities mentioned above for printing out text files. PDFs must be printed out from the command prompt by using any number of free utilities, such as Ghostscript, or Foxit Reader, which must be installed specifically.

Here's how a file was sent to network printer via command prompt using Foxit Reader's command line utility, **Foxit Reader.exe** (Installed version 614.0217_enu. Earlier versions had a bug and would not print to network printers.)

```
C:\Junk>"C:\Program Files\Foxit Software\Foxit Reader\Foxit Reader.exe" /p LibreOfficeSample.pdf
```

Using a printer shared via Samba is another way to print which requires a different syntax, but not shown in this document.

Note: Be sure to adjust firewall settings to allow access to the network printer.