

8.1.5 Printer Connection Facts

Printers may connect to a computer through different methods. You need to be aware of them when purchasing, installing, and connecting printers.

Printers use one of the following methods for connecting to a computer or a network and receiving print jobs:

| Connection Type | Description |
|-----------------|---|
| USB | Most printers use a USB connection, allowing for configurations that also include scanners, external drives, or additional printers. The USB connection increases speed considerably over a standard serial or parallel port. |
| Wireless | <p>Many printers allow you to connect using a wireless connection. This is especially useful when working with laptop computers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Bluetooth is a wireless technology for creating simple connections between two devices. Unlike infrared, line-of-sight connections are not required.▪ 802.11a/b/g wireless standards use radio waves and are used to create wireless networks between multiple devices. |
| Network | Some printers also have their own network interface card, which allows them to connect directly to a network. Network printers can also be connected to a computer that is connected to the network. Another way to connect a non-network-ready printer to a network is with a network interface device. Network printers are useful for allowing multiple people to share the same printer. This is a common way to connect printers used in a business environment. |

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