

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	Many printers allow you to connect using a wireless connection. This is especially useful when working with laptop computers. <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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