

Lab 9.3.7: Adding an Ink Jet Printer to Your Computer

Estimated time: 30 Minutes

Objective

In this lab, you will connect a printer to a PC, install the correct printer driver, and verify computer/printer communication by printing a test page.

Equipment

The following equipment is required for this exercise:

- A computer with Windows 98 installed
- Inkjet printer with ink cartridges installed
- Communication cable (USB or parallel)
- Printer driver(s)

Scenario

As a PC Technician, you are responsible for the installation of printers throughout your organization. Your goal is to properly install and configure an inkjet printer with the proper drivers.

Procedures

A printer is one of the essential components of a computer system. Whether it is a laser printer for high quality text printouts or an inkjet printer for publishing digital camera photographs, it is important to know how to install a printer.

Step 1

Connect the communication cable to the printer.

What type of cable will you use to connect the printer to the PC (USB or parallel)?

Which end of the cable did you connect to the printer (USB-A, USB-B, DB-25, or Centronics)?

Step 2

Connect the communication cable to the computer.

Which end of the cable did you connect to the computer (USB-A, USB-B, DB-25, or Centronics)?

Step 3

Power on the printer and make sure it is functioning properly. Turn the computer's power on and login to Windows.

Step 4

After initial logon, Windows should detect the printer. If the computer does not find the printer, you can start the Add Printer wizard by going to **Start > Settings > Printers**. Then double-click the **Add Printer** icon.

If Windows finishes loading the Desktop and does not detect new hardware, what might be the cause?

Step 5

Begin the Found New Hardware wizard by clicking **Next** at the bottom of the window. This wizard will lead you through the entire printer installation process.

The next screen in the wizard asks whether the printer is a local or network printer. Select local and click **Next**.

This will bring you to a window with a list of printer manufacturers and devices. If you have the drivers for the printer, click the **Have Disk** button and browse for the location of the drivers.

What type of media contains the printer driver?

Why are printer drivers rarely located on a floppy disk?

Step 6

Windows searches the selected medium for appropriate printer drivers. Driver files found will show up in the Driver File Search Results screen. From this screen, select the proper driver for the printer and choose **Next**.

Why do manufacturers usually include multiple printer drivers on a single CD-ROM?

Windows is now installing the printer driver files. You may see an installation progress message during this phase.

What are common device driver file extensions?

Step 7

The next window will prompt you for the port that the printer is connected to. If you used a parallel cable, select LPT1.

What ports are listed other than LPT?

Step 8

The Add Printer wizard will now prompt you for the printer's name. You can either use the default name suggested by the system or use another name of your choice. The name you choose may identify the type of printer, the printer's location, or anything else that helps you to identify the printer on your local system.

You also have the choice to make this printer your default printer. If you have more than one printer that you can print to, the default printer should be the one used most often.

What name did you give to your printer?

Step 9

The final step is to print a test page. Click **Yes** to print a test page and then click **Finish**. Depending on the printer being installed, a printer initialization program may run. These programs are used to set the print orientation, check to see the type of ink cartridge(s) that are installed, and so on.

Step 10

Click **Finish** or **Close** if the wizard has not already closed. When the test page finishes printing, a dialog box will appear asking you if the test page printed properly. If it did, click **Yes**. If the results are not readable, click **No** and follow the printer troubleshooter to help solve the problem.

Step 11

Check to be sure the printer is installed on the computer. From the Windows Desktop, choose **Start> Settings> Printers**, this will open the Printers folder.

Do you see an icon for the printer you just installed? If not, see the troubleshooting section of this lab.

Which printer is set as the Default Printer? How do you know?

Step 12

Double-click on the printer icon. This will open up the print queue.

Are any print jobs listed in the print queue? Why not?

Step 13

Right-click on the printer icon and choose **Properties**. The printer properties dialog box will open.

What “tabs” are available?

List two user-selectable options from a tab:

Step 14

Click on the **General** tab. The Print Test Page is near the bottom of the page. Click the **Print Test Page** button.

After clicking the Print Test Page button, what question did Windows ask you? How did you answer it?

Step 15

Congratulations. You have successfully installed an ink jet printer on your Windows computer. If you were not able to print a test page, see the troubleshooting section of this lab.

Troubleshooting

If Windows begins the Found New Hardware wizard, but is unable to locate a suitable device driver, check the printer driver media. Also, a newer, updated printer driver may need to be downloaded from the manufacturer's web site.

If you are able to install the printer but unable to print a test page using either method in the lab, check your communication cable. The cable may be in good enough working order to allow the computer to know it is connected to a printer, but may not be of quality enough to pass printer data.

You may also need to configure the BIOS for the printer to function correctly. Some computers will require the parallel port to be set to EPP. To accomplish this, you will need to configure your BIOS.

Reflection

What is an advantage of a laser printer over an inkjet printer?
