

## How to Print to Network Printer from an MS-DOS-Based Program

The information in this article applies to:

- ✎ Microsoft Windows XP Home Edition
- ✎ Microsoft Windows XP Professional

For a Microsoft Windows 2000 version of this article, see [Q154498](#).

### SUMMARY

This article explains how to print to a network printer from an MS-DOS-based program in Windows XP. By default, most MS-DOS-based programs print directly to either the LPT1 or LPT2 port. However, the output is not automatically routed across a redirector to a print share unless you use one of the following methods.

### MORE INFORMATION

#### Method 1

Use the **net.exe** command to establish a persistent connection. To do this, use the following syntax at a command prompt

```
net use lptx\printserver\sharename /persistent:yes
```

where *x* is the number of the printer port that you want to map, where *printserver* is the print server sharing the printer, and where *sharename* is the name of the printer share.

For example, to map LPT2 to a printer shared as Laser1 on a print server named Pserver, follow these steps:

1. Click **Start**, and then click **Run**.
2. In the **Open** box, type **cmd**, and then click **OK**.
3. Type **net use lpt2 \\pserver\laser1 /persistent:yes**, and then press ENTER.
4. To quit the command prompt, type **exit**, and then press ENTER.

Note that in Windows XP, non-administrative users cannot map an LPT port to a network printer path when the LPT port exists on the computer as a physical parallel port.

#### Method 2

Print directly to the printer share by using the following syntax at a command prompt

```
print /d:\printserver\sharename\drive:\path\filename
```

where *printserver* is the print server sharing the printer, where *sharename* is the name of the printer share, and where *drive:*, *path*, and *filename* comprise the complete path to the document that you want to print.

For example, to print a document called letter.doc from the root directory of drive C to a printer shared as Laser1 on a print server named Pserver, follow these steps:

1. Click **Start**, and then click **Run**.
2. In the **Open** box, type **cmd**, and then click **OK**.
3. Type **print /d:\\pserver\laser1 c:\letter.doc**, and then press ENTER.

The following command-line message appears:  
C:\letter.doc is currently being printed

4. To quit the command prompt, type **exit**, and then press ENTER.

Because Novell NetWare's CAPTURE command is not supported in Windows XP, use the following command to map the LPT port to a Novell NetWare printer queue:

**net use lptx \\server\queue**

If the LPT port is redirected successfully, you should receive the following message:

The command completed successfully.

To disconnect persistent LPTx connections, use the following syntax:

**net use lptx /delete**

**NOTE** : When you attempt to use the CAPTURE command, you may receive an error message similar to the following:

**CAPTURE -4.01-923: An unexpected error has occurred: 255 (00FF).  
(SPOOL.C: [426])**

For additional information, click the article numbers below to view the articles in the Microsoft Knowledge Base:

[Q156429](#) Supported 16-bit Utilities and NetWare-Aware Applications

[Q308028](#) Resources for Troubleshooting Printing Problems in Windows XP

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