**Microsoft Knowledge Base Article - 314499**

**How to print to a network printer from an MS-DOS-based program in Windows XP**

View products that this article applies to.

This article was previously published under Q314499.

For a Microsoft Windows 2000 version of this article, see 154498.

**INTRODUCTION**

This article describes how to print to a network printer from an MS-DOS-based program in Microsoft Windows XP.

**MORE INFORMATION**

By default, most MS-DOS-based programs print directly to either the LPT1 port or to the LPT2 port. However, the output is not automatically routed across a redirector to a print share unless you use one of the following methods.

**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 that is 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 that is 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** 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.

For additional information about how to map LPT ports as a regular user, click the following article number to view the article in the Microsoft Knowledge Base:

313644 Non-administrators cannot remap an LPT port to a network printer

**Method 2**

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

```
print /d:\printserver\sharenamedrive:\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` make up the complete path of the document that you want to print.

For example, to print a document that is named letter.doc from the root directory of drive C to a printer shared as Laser1 on a print server that is 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:

```
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```
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 print queue:

```plaintext
net use lptx \server\queue
```

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

The command completed successfully.

To disconnect persistent LPTx connections, use the following syntax:

```plaintext
net use lptx /delete
```

**Note** When you try to use the **CAPTURE** command, you may receive an error message that is similar to the following:

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

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

- [156429](http://support.microsoft.com/default.aspx?scid=kb;en-us;156429) Supported 16-bit utilities and NetWare-aware applications
- [308028](http://support.microsoft.com/default.aspx?scid=kb;en-us;308028) Resources for troubleshooting printing problems in Windows XP

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**The information in this article applies to:**

- Microsoft Windows XP Home Edition
- Microsoft Windows XP Professional

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