How to print from the Linux command line

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Printing documents from the Linux command line is easy. You use the **lp** command to request printing and **lpq** to see which print jobs are in the queue. But things get a little more complicated when you want to print on both sides or use portrait mode. And there are many other things you might want to do - such as printing multiple copies of documents or canceling print jobs. Take a look at some options for printing documents from the Linux command line!

Show printer settings

To view printer settings from the command line, use the **lpoptions** command **.** The output will look like this:

```
$ lpoptions copies=1 device-uri=dnssd://HP%20Color%20LaserJet%20CP2025dn%20(F474
```

Note how many settings are listed.

NOTE : In the output below, some lines are reconnected to make this output more readable.

```
$ lpoptions | tr " " 'n' copies=1 device-uri=dnssd://HP%20Color%20LaserJet%20CP2
```

With the **-v** option **,** the **lpinfo** command will list drivers and related information.

```
$ lpinfo -v network ipp network https network socket network beh direct hp netwo
```

The **lpoptions** command will display the default printer settings. Use the **-p** option to specify one of the available printers.

```
 $ lpoptions -p LaserJet
```

The **lpstat -p** command displays the status of the printer and the **lpstat -p -d** command also lists available printers.

```
$ lpstat -p -d printer Color-LaserJet-CP2025dn is idle. enabled since Tue 19 Mar
```

Useful commands

To print documents on the default printer, simply use the **lp** command followed by the name of the file you want to print. If the file name includes whitespace (very rare on Linux systems), put the name in quotation marks or start typing the file name and press the **Tab** key to mark the file name separately (as in the second example below).

```
$ lp "never leave home angry" $ lp never leave home angry
```

The **lpq** command displays the print queue.

```
$ lpq Color-LaserJet-CP2025dn is ready and printing Rank Owner Job File(s) Total
```

With the **-n** option **,** the **lp** command allows you to specify the number of copies of the document you want to print.

```
$ lp -n 11 agenda
```

To cancel a print job, you can use **cancel** or **lprm.** If you don't act quickly, you can see this:

```
$ cancel 229 cancel: cancel-job failed: Job #229 is already completed - can't ca
```

Duplexing

To print in duplex mode, you can issue a **lp** command with the **sides** option **,** so that the machine knows which side to print on both sides of the paper and which paper will flip. This setting is the same as other 2-sided printing.

```
$ lp -o sides=two-sided-long-edge Notes.pdf
```

If you want all your documents to be printed in duplex mode, you can change the lp settings, using the **lpoptions** command to change the settings for the **sides.**

```
$ lpoptions -o sides=two-sided-short-edge
```

To return to single-sided printing, you will use the following command:

```
$ lpoptions -o sides=one-sided
```

Print in landscape mode

To print in landscape mode, you will use the option equal to the lp command.

```
$ lp -o landscape penguin.jpg
```

CUPS

The printing system used on Linux operating systems is a standard, open source printing system called CUPS, short for **Common Unix Printing System** . CUPS allows a computer to act as a print server.