

Windows Protected Print



What You Need to Know About Microsoft's Modern Print Direction

What & Why

- Windows Protected Print, or WPP, moves Windows printing away from traditional third-party print driver dependency and toward Microsoft's modern print stack.
- Microsoft is aligning the future of Windows printing around IPP, built-in Windows print support, reduced third-party driver dependency, and cloud-ready infrastructure.
- Beginning **July 1, 2027**, Microsoft will limit third-party printer driver updates to security-related fixes, with non-security updates handled only by exception.
- This does not mean every customer has to change everything immediately, but it does mean you should start guiding the conversation now.



WPP is...

Not This:

- ✗ Not just another print driver
- ✗ Not the same as Universal Print
- ✗ Not fully mature for every environment
- ✗ Not a reason to panic

But This:

- ✓ A new Windows print model
- ✓ A foundation that can work with Universal Print
- ✓ A direction customers need to plan for
- ✓ A reason to assess print environments now

WPP

- ✓ Windows' modern print security model
- ✓ Built on IPP-based print stack
- ✓ Replaces traditional print drivers
- ✓ Does **not** require Universal Print

VS

Universal Print

- ✓ Microsoft's cloud print platform
- ✓ Connects print to Microsoft cloud infrastructure
- ✓ Supports cloud-based print management and deployment



psa

Print Support Apps

PSAs help fill the gap left by traditional print drivers.

PSAs enhance the print experience while the Microsoft IPP Class Driver handles the core driver role. They act as the OEM companion layer for printer-specific features and may be delivered through the Microsoft Store or Intune, though readiness varies by OEM, device, and environment.

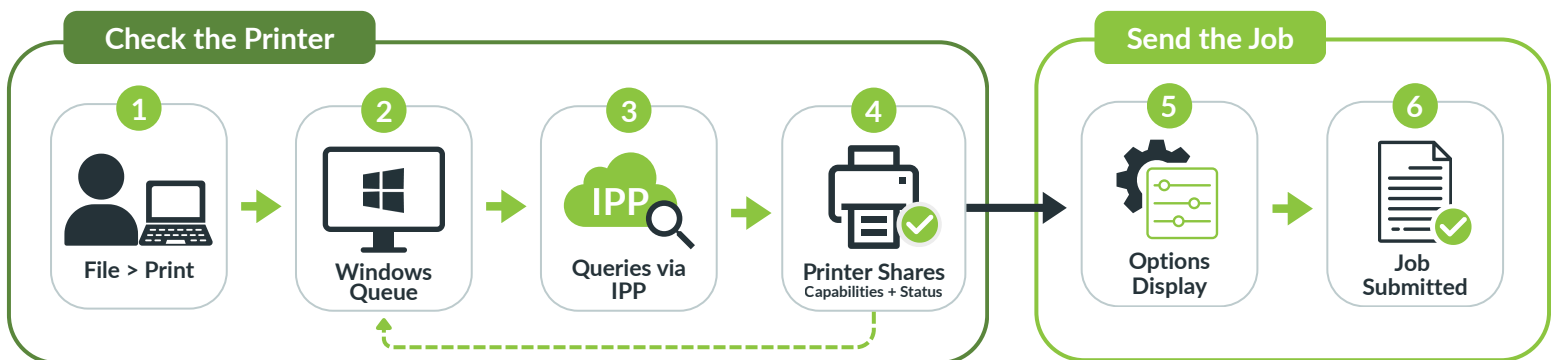
Where WPP Fits Today

Works Well For:

- ✓ Simple print environments
- ✓ Distributed or remote workforces
- ✓ Organizations already using Microsoft Entra ID / Azure
- ✓ Customers wanting to reduce print server dependency
- ✓ Customers moving toward cloud-first infrastructure
- ✓ Basic print needs where advanced finishing, tracking, and workflow requirements are limited

Where Gaps Still Exist:

- Advanced finishing may be inconsistent
- Badge authentication and secure release capabilities are still evolving
- OEM feature parity may vary
- Reporting, tracking, cost control, and visibility may be limited
- Complex enterprise workflows may not be fully supported
- Customers may still need hybrid support during the transition



Conversation Guide

Instead of Saying:

- "Drivers are going away." → "Microsoft is moving toward a more secure, IPP-based model."
- "Everyone needs Universal Print." → "Universal Print is one path, but WPP itself does not require it."
- "This replaces print management." → "The path changes, but security, tracking, and control still matter."
- "Customers need to migrate now." → "Assess your environment now to plan the right path forward."

Say This:

Discovery Questions:

- What print setup are you using today?
- How dependent are you on traditional print drivers today?
- Do users rely on advanced finishing features?
- Do you need badge, mobile, or secure print release?
- How important are tracking, reporting, rules, and cost?
- Are you evaluating WPP, Universal Print, or a broader Microsoft print strategy?

The
Opportunity
with WPP

What's Next...

- Help customers understand what changes and where gaps may still exist.
- Guide customers through the transition with both modern + hybrid support.
- Maintain secure release, tracking, reporting, and control without rushing into the wrong migration path.

WPP is the direction. Your guidance is the difference. 