Wireless Printing Overview

Wireless Printing – That sounds simple!

If only that were true. Depending on who you ask, wireless printing could be a number of different things. In order to talk about wireless printing it's important that we ask ourselves the following questions.

What devices are we talking about?

One of the complicating factors is that people aren't just asking to print from laptops anymore. It seems like everyone has either a smart phone or a tablet nowadays. Is there an assumption that printing services extend to mobile devices as well? In the near future will there be an expectation that all mobile devices can print?

Where will people be when they print?

What if someone could print from any internet-connected device and then pick up the print job at their convenience? Would a service like this increase foot traffic into the Library?

How will the Library accept payment?

Will staff at the desk handle the transaction? Will there be an automated payment option where no staff interaction is necessary?

Wireless Printing – It's complicated...right?

Yes it is! But that doesn't mean that there isn't a solution. Based on our research, testing and a demonstration we have found a company that is able provide this service to you. The name of the company is PrinterOn. Not only did PrinterOn answer all of the questions from above, they answered all of our technical and logistical questions, too.

PrinterOn – A little background

PrinterOn is the industry leader when it comes to wireless printing. They are the company behind all of the HP e-print printers, they are in most hotel chains nationwide, and they have a special library division. In the Chicago area alone there are over 150 libraries that use their service.

PrinterOn – How it works

PrinterOn will work with your existing networked printer and make it available to patrons for printing using a web interface or an app. Patrons can use laptops, smart phones, and tablets to print from anywhere with an Internet connection.

PrinterOn – How to pick up and pay for print jobs

Once the print job is sent to PrinterOn, the patron needs to head into the library to pay and print the job. There are a number of ways that this can happen. In its basic form, the patron goes to the desk,

pays for the job, and the librarian goes to a website and releases it to the printer. For busier libraries there are self-service options.

PrinterOn – What do you need?

1. A networked printer.
   a. If you want to offer color printing, PrinterOn suggests that you have two separate networked printers. One for black & white and one for color. This is not totally necessary but it is advised.
2. SCLS will install the PrinterOn software on one staff computer.
3. If you select self-service options you will need additional equipment

PrinterOn - Cost

PrinterOn is an annual subscription. They charge based on number of printers. The cost does not double if you have a black & white and a color printer. The cost includes all support, app development, web hosting, and the product itself. Here is the cost per year:

- 1 Printer - $595 per year
  - o Can be set to print BW and Color
- 2 Printers - $750 per year
  - o One would print BW
  - o One would print Color

PrinterOn- How to get it

Unlike other SCLS services you can get wireless printing by contacting PrinterOn directly. They take care of all the setup, training, documentation, and support. The contact person is Lou Flavio. He can be reached in his office at 630-537-1370 ext 504, on his cell at 630-417-4707 or via email lflavio@singlecard.com.

Lou is the Vice President of Sales and he did an in-person demo for us. Give him a call and ask anything you'd like. He is very knowledgeable about every aspect of PrinterOn.

For a more general look at PrinterOn, please visit them on the web at: www.printeron.com