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Install CUPS Driver for Zebra Printer in Mac OS

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This article provides the instructions to install CUPS driver for Zebra Printer on Mac OS environment.

Issue / Question

Installing Zebra Printer on a Mac OS environment using the CUPS driver.

Applicable To

Zebra Printers on Mac OS X environment

Resolution / Answer

📋 *IMPORTANT!* Zebra suggests using the Common Unix Printing System (CUPS) driver on Mac OS X operating systems. The CUPS driver is pre-installed on Mac OS X operating systems. Therefore, it is not necessary to download and install a driver for Zebra printers on Mac OS X.

Zebra Mac OS X drivers are available for selected Zebra card printer models. Read this article to learn more (https://supportcommunity.zebra.com/s/article/000013605?language=en_US) .
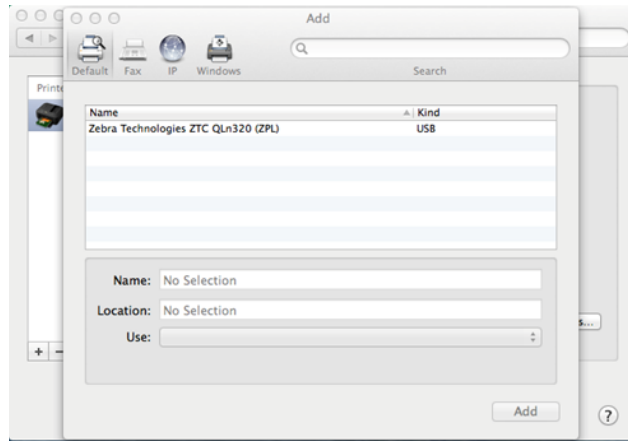
Adding the Printer
1. Navigate to **Printers and Scanners**.
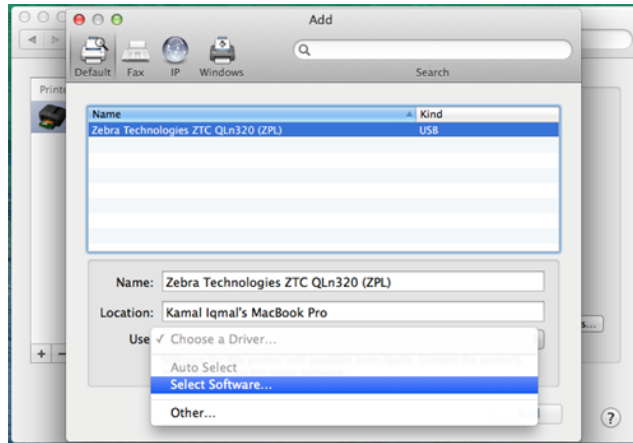2. Click **(+)** and choose **Add Printer or Scanner**.
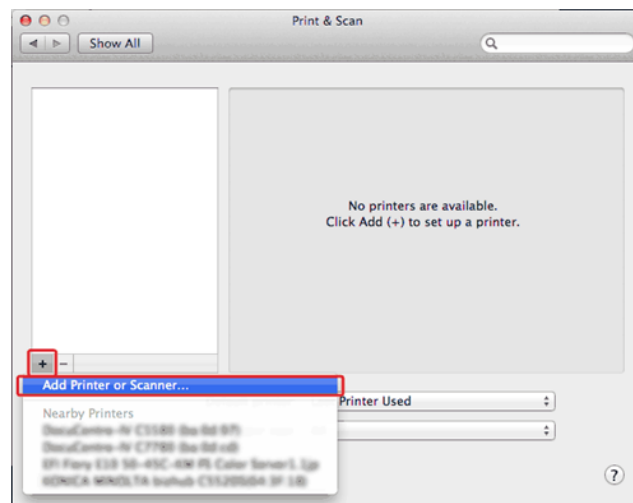
3. A new pop-up window will show up.
4. Choose your **Zebra Printer**. It should be displayed as follows:
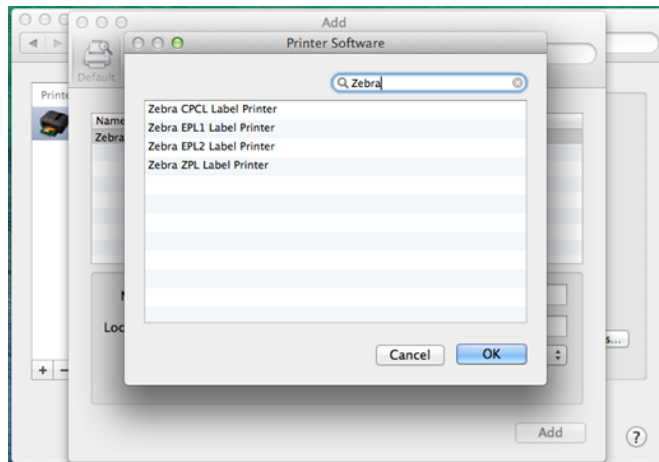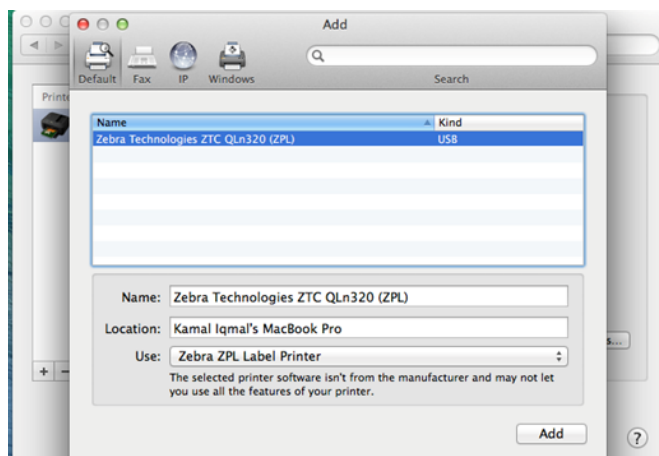
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5. In the *Use s*ection below, select **Select Software**.

6. You may choose your preferred driver's language. If you do not know which language to use, you may choose **ZPL**.

7. The final setup should look as below. Go ahead and click **Add** to add the printer.

Logging into CUPS

> 📋 **NOTE** If prompted Authentication Required to enter **username** and **password**, **enter your MAC's account credentials.**
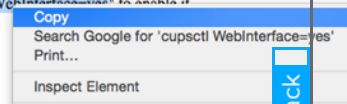
1. You will be able to access the CUPS printer setting page by visiting the following link: http://localhost:631/printers/ (http://localhost:631/printers/). You may also copy and paste it into Safari.
2. In some instances, you may encounter the following error:

3. To enable CUPS Control, select and copy **'cupsctl WebInterface=yes'**.

4. Next, click the **magnifying glass** in the top right-hand corner of your screen and search for **Terminal**.
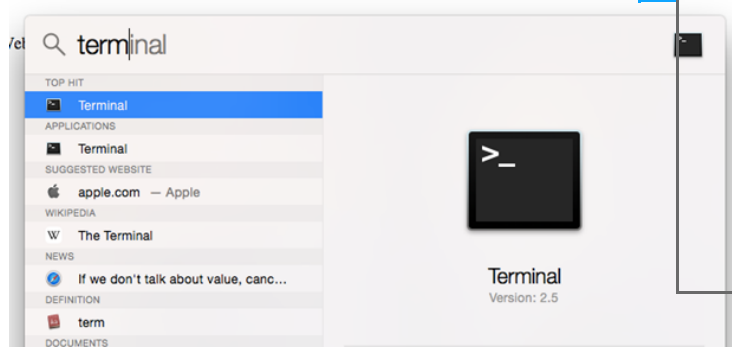
5. Once in the terminal, paste in **cupsctl WebInterface=yes**, and press **enter**.

6. You should now be able to go to http://localhost:631/printers/ (http://localhost:631/printers/) and see your installed printers.

Modifying Printer Settings in CUPS

1. On the http://localhost:631/printers/ (http://localhost:631/printers/) main page, click the **Printers** tab. It should be located in the top-right section of the page.

2. You may now view or select your printer.
3. Choose **Set Default Options** from the drop-down menu.

4. Click **General** for general printer settings. Set the settings accordingly:
   a. **Media size** = set according to the label loaded in the printer
   b. **Resolution** = **MUST** set according to the printer dpi (203dpi, 300dpi or 600dpi)
   c. **Media tracking**
      - **Continuous:** Using media or continuous form (no gaps, notches, black marks for the top of the form detection).
      - **Mark Sensing:** Using media that has a black mark for the top of the form detection.
      - **Web Sensing:** Using media with gaps between labels, notch, or a hole to detect the top of the form.
   d. **Media Type**
      - **Thermal Transfer:** Printing with ribbon on thermal transfer paper.
      - **Thermal Direct:** Printing on heat-sensitive paper (no ribbon used).

5. Click **Set Default Options**. If prompted Authentication Required to enter username and password, **enter your MAC's account credential**.
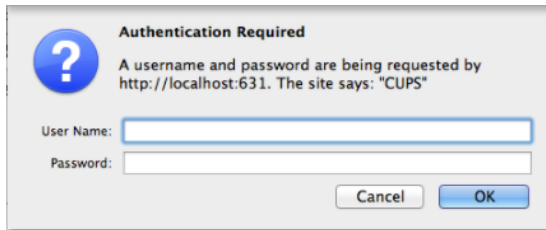
6. Go to **Printer Settings** for further modification. You may follow the setting below:

- You may set **Darkness** and **Print Rate** (Speed) at your preference to adjust print quality.
- **Top:** This modifies the default vertical image start position to compensate for differences between the printer top of the form.
- **Tear Off:** This modifies the resting position of the label to allow user adjustment of the gap over the tear bar or the cut location of the cutter function.

7. Click **Set Default Options**. If prompted **Authentication Required**, enter your Mac account's credentials.
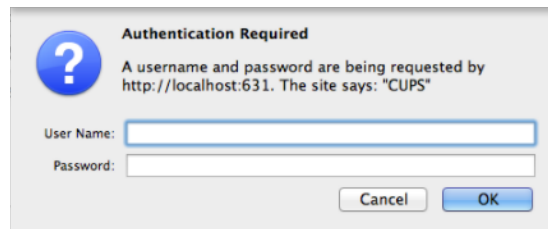
Printing a Test Page

8. From the *Printers* page in CUPS, select **Print Test Page** from the drop-down menu to print a test page.
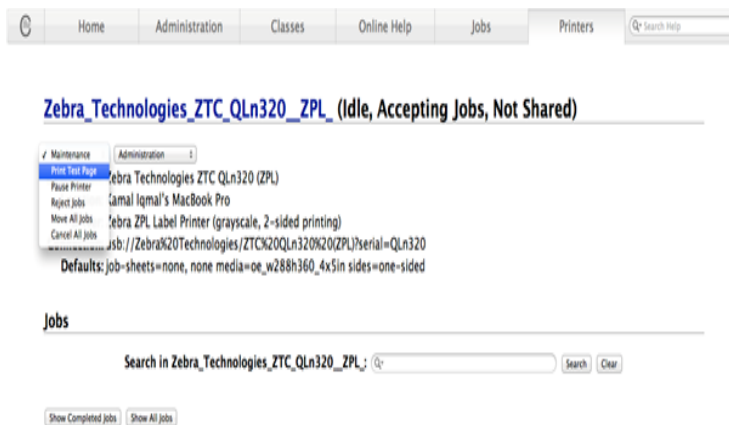
Helpful Information:
- Video: Setup a USB Printer via Pre-installed CUPS Driver on Mac OS X (/s/article

/Video-Setup-a-USB-Printer-via-pre-installed-CUPS-driver-on-macOS)
- Printing .txt Files Using ZPL Code on Mac OS (/s/article/Print-txt-files-with-ZPL-code-MAC)
- Configuring a Zebra Printer with the CUPS Driver (/s/article/Configuring-a-Zebra-Printer-with-the-CUPS-driver)
- Adding a Zebra Printer in a CUPS Printing System (/s/article/Adding-a-Zebra-Printer-in-a-CUPS-Printing-System)
- Printing to File with CUPS (/s/article/Printing-to-File-with-CUPS)
- CUPS stopping after printing one label (/s/article/000019805)

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