
Remote and Virtual Desktop Printing with iPad and iPhone

How to provide printing to network printers and local printers on site from the session with iOS devices



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Introduction

iPads and iPhones have become indispensable in the modern working world. By using mobile devices, companies ensure that employees can access the files they need and work productively regardless of whether they are in the office, in different sites, at the customer's site, or from the home office.

Access to corporate resources or remote desktops often involves remote or virtual desktop sessions, either on-premises or in the cloud. A fully-enabled workplace has to include printing, and this includes the mobile workplace too.

In this white paper, we highlight the challenges related to printing from iPads and iPhones from the session. We'll also introduce you to two solutions that can enable remote desktop printing from iPads and iPhones in the enterprise.

Challenges of Remote Desktop Printing with iPads and iPhones

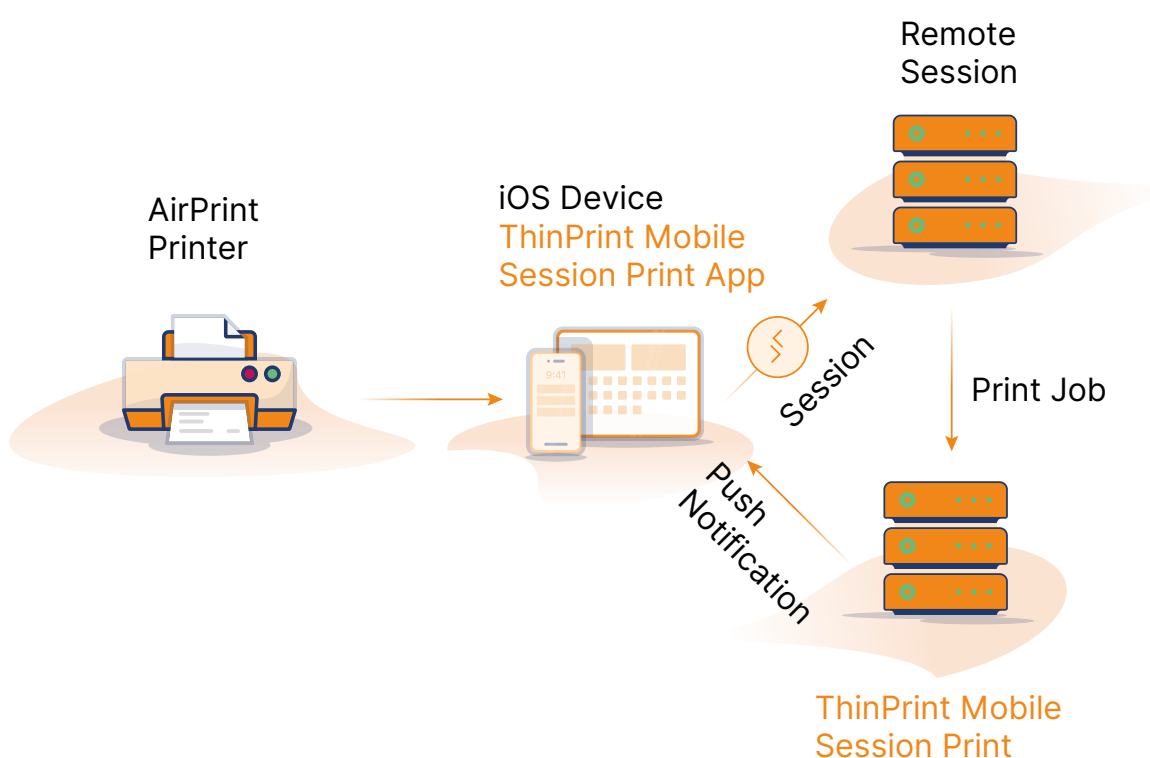
If an iPad or iPhone accesses a Windows PC via a remote desktop session, Office applications can be used on the mobile device without any problems. The situation is somewhat different when documents have to be printed from the respective session. While files from the iPad can normally be printed directly to the corresponding printer via AirPrint, the remote desktop session lacks direct access to the AirPrint function of the iOS device. Therefore, it is not possible to print via AirPrint from a session. AirPrint is mainly used when the user is in a location not managed by the company, for example in the home office.

There are also situations in which AirPrint cannot be used. For instance, the printers used may not support AirPrint and segmentation, due to security reasons, may prevent direct access to the printers.

Below we present two solutions that allow users to print from their mobile devices directly from the session.

ThinPrint Mobile Session Print: On-Premises Printing with iPads and iPhones

With ThinPrint Mobile Session Print, ThinPrint offers a unique solution for direct printing from remote apps, virtual desktops and any other Windows-based session with iPads and iPhones.



ThinPrint Mobile Session Print is simply made available as a printer driver in the Remote Desktop so that users can initiate the print job as usual. Ultimately, the printer driver creates the AirPrint-compatible print file, which can then be output to the printer via the ThinPrint Mobile Session app using AirPrint.

What may sound longwinded because two different apps are used, is actually very painless for the user. This is thanks to a little trick which the ThinPrint Mobile Session Print uses: The Apple notifications give the user the feeling of a continuous and familiar printing process. Shortly after the print job is initiated, the appropriate notification appears. As soon as the user clicks on it, the ThinPrint Mobile Session Print app starts automatically and the AirPrint output is initiated.

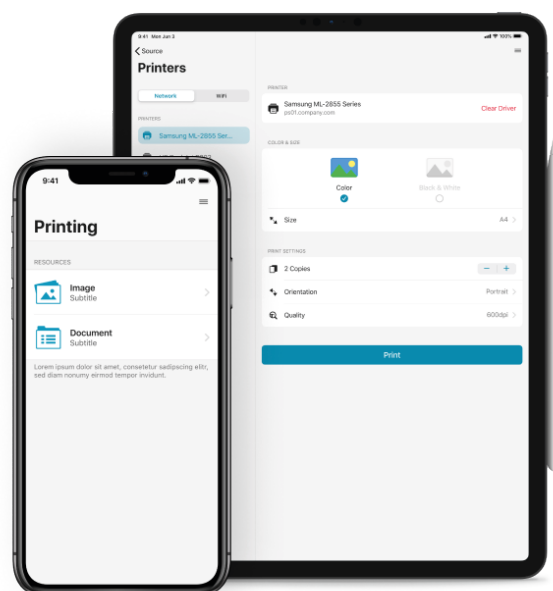
In this way, **ThinPrint Mobile Session Print** combines local printing with iPhones and iPads with printing from a remote desktop session. The user is completely free to choose the AirPrint printer of his choice.

ezeep Blue: Perfect Cloud Printing for iOS Devices from Remote and Virtual Desktops and more

ezeep Blue as a cloud printing solution is ideally suited to solve all the printing challenges created by the new world of work.

With ezeep Blue, users can easily print with iPads and iPhones from their remote desktop session. It does not matter whether the remote or virtual desktops are hosted on-premises or in the cloud.

ezeep Blue offers print drivers for Mac and Windows as well as apps for iOS, Android and Chromebooks. These drivers and apps can be used to print to printers connected to ezeep, as well as to almost any printer on the same network via the iOS and Android apps. These printers do not even have to be AirPrint-enabled.



Printers are connected to ezeep via so-called connectors. Mac and Windows connectors are available to the user for this purpose. Thus, by installing the Windows connector on a print server, all printers set up on this print server can be connected to ezeep. In addition, the user can connect the printer installed on his computer to ezeep just by installing the connector on his computer. In addition, the connector can also be obtained as hardware – the ezeep Hub – or it may already be integrated in the printer itself.

Remote Desktop Printing with ezeep Blue

With this architecture, it is now very easy to implement printing from a remote session with ezeep. It doesn't matter whether you have local printers or network printers; for ezeep, all printers are simply printers connected to ezeep. Users can address this printer at any time via the session and print just as quickly and easily as they are used to from the physical desktop.

Printing from Azure Virtual Desktop and Cloud PC with iOS Devices

With Azure Virtual Desktop and Windows 365 Cloud PC, Microsoft provides a virtual Windows desktop in the cloud. With just a few clicks, Azure Virtual Desktop can also be easily accessed on iOS devices. The user can choose between the HTML5 client or the Microsoft Remote Desktop app for iOS and iPadOS.

However, even in this scenario, the virtualized Windows Desktop must be optimized for printing to local and network printers. While printing directly to network printers from an Azure Virtual Desktop or a Cloud PC in the Enterprise version is only possible via VPN, this is not possible at all on a Cloud PC with the Business version due to the lack of VPN support. Preparing a document for printing is only possible on an iOS device when the desktop is accessed via the web client (HTML).

	Default Printing	Printing with ezeep
HTML5 iPadOS	Convert and download document into PDF, open and print via AirPrint	Direct printing to all ezeep connected printers
iPhone App	Not supported	Direct printing to all ezeep connected printers
iPad OS App	Not supported	Direct printing to all ezeep connected printers

The cloud printing solution ezeep Blue closes this gap and enables efficient printing for iPhones and iPads without low-performance detours. For users, it does not matter how they access the Azure Virtual Desktop and whether they use Azure Virtual Desktop or a Windows 365 Cloud PC in the Enterprise or Business version.



Summary

Printing from remote or virtual desktop sessions with iPads and iPhones is an essential prerequisite for providing a complete mobile workplace.

Specific solutions are required to enable users to print on the mobile device without having to leave the session or make inefficient workarounds.

With ThinPrint Mobile Session Print, iOS users in on-premises environments can print documents directly from the session.

ezeep Blue enables easy cloud printing for remote and virtual desktops from iPad and iPhone and all other devices as well. At the same time, ezeep Blue can also relieve on-premises remote desktop servers of the complete print management and preparation of print jobs and offers companies and users the greatest possible flexibility.

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