

RE: CUPS & Choosing a Printer

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The issues with inexpensive laser printers is one of on-board processors and RAM. To make very low cost printers for the Windows market, a few manufacturers make models with essentially no on board rendering capability and force the Windows computer to do all of page layout in the driver. The result is sent out like a raster image to the printer. Since most desktop machines have more CPU and memory than most need, it leverages that and keeps the printer cost low. So most of the "windows only" printers are often out for Linux use. Probably most of the under \$200 models work that way.

Check to see if a printer's specifications say PCL4, PCL5, PCL6, or some level of Postscript. FYI, all the Mac-compatible ones will have Postscript. The generic Linux drivers for these all work fine.

Scully

Check the Linux printer d/b to see what's supported. Pay **close** attention to how **much** support there is (well, mostly, sorta, paperweight). For what I wound up with, an HP 1018, I had to build the driver, then edit my `/etc/init.d/cups` to `d/l` the firmware that came with the driver every time cups restarts.

The printer's quite nice, btw.

You might also consider, if you're buying an inkjet, whether it's refillable. I understand that a lot of the newer inkjets have chipped cartridges that won't **let** you refill – they just refuse to print. Then there are some that just complain (if you're running Windows, anyway) that refilling voids the warranty, but keeps printing anyway....

mark

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