

Save Legacy Printers under Windows with WSL and Printer Applications

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Motivation

- **First, why not simply using Linux right away?**
 - You do not succeed to **convince your family or friends** to switch to Linux
 - You are **developer** and need to boot into Windows sometimes (WSL, Azure, ...)
 - You need **this nasty app** which (unfortunately) is not available under Linux
- You got a shiny Windows update ... **I CANNOT PRINT ANY MORE!!!**
 - Your printer is **too old!**
 - Microsoft and/or the manufacturer have **abandoned** it.
 - **HELP!!!**
- Under Linux you have drivers for **REALLY OLD** printers
 - In free software we **do not drop** old drivers
 - So your printer will **most probably work under Linux**
 - But was there not this little thingie ...

WSL

- Yes, **Windows Subsystem for Linux**, run most **Linux Apps under Windows!**
- So the **Snap Store is open for you**, and what do we have there ...
- ... OpenPrinting **Printer Applications!**
- And Printer Applications are the **new format of printer drivers**
- I have already **converted all free drivers** (which come with Debian, ~10000 models) into **4 Printer Applications**.
- So you (or better: your printer) are **saved!!!**

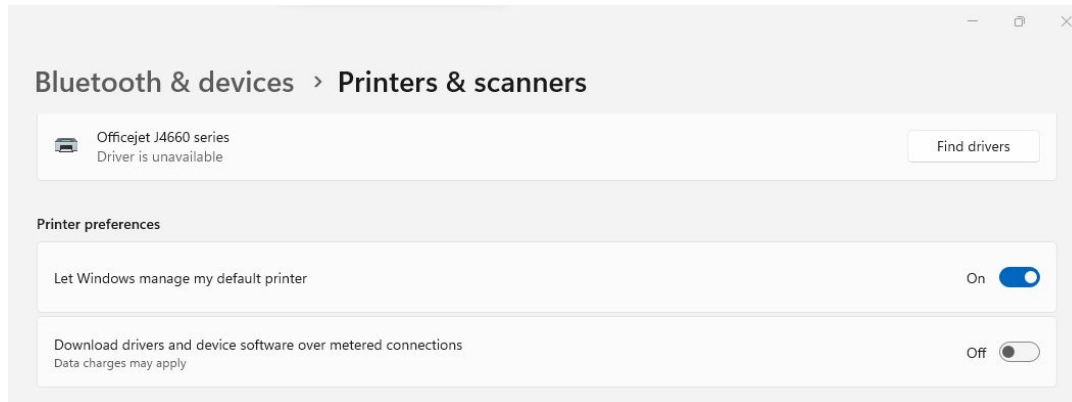
Let's do it

- **Prerequisites**

- **It is easy** (therefore we skipped offering a workshop for this)
- **No compiling required!**
- You need **Windows 11** and current WSL
- You need a printer which **does NOT work under Windows** but **works under Linux**

Check your printer

- **Connect your printer** and turn it on, either use **USB** or **network** (network preferred, it is easier)
- Check whether your printer **actually does not work** under Windows via "Settings" > "Bluetooth & devices" > "Printers & scanners", If it works, you do not need to continue.



Install the Ubuntu Application (WSL)

- Install the **Ubuntu Application** from the Windows Store
 - The "Ubuntu (Preview)" version uses systemd by default
 - The standard version needs to be switched to system as described in Oliver Smith's blog

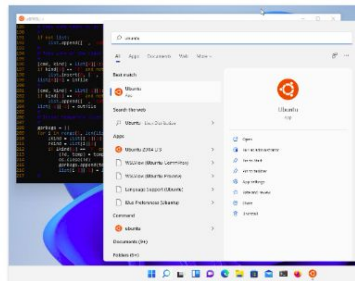
[Home](#) / [Developer tools](#) / [Ubuntu \(Preview\)](#)



Ubuntu (Preview)

Canonical Group Limited

★★★★☆ 14 | Developer tools

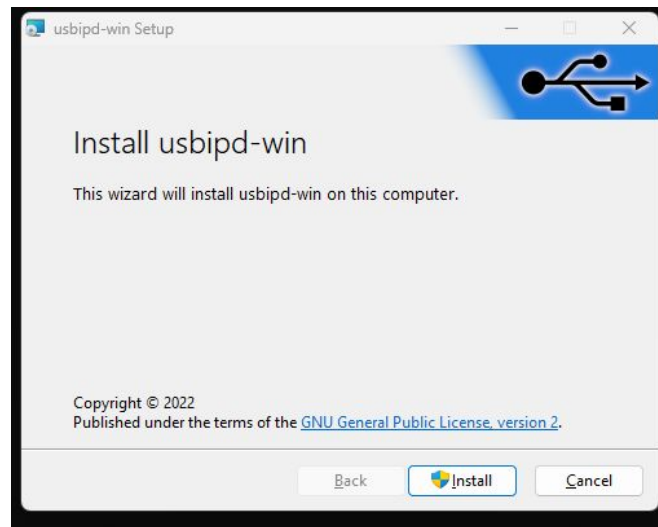


Description

Install the USB bridge if needed

- If your printer is **connected by USB**, install the (free software) **USB bridge USB IPD**, to access USB devices from within WSL. Also install the Linux end of it in WSL

<https://github.com/dorsssel/usbipd-win>



Install avahi-daemon and the Printer Application

Do the needed installations to **Ubuntu under WSL**:

- The DNS-SD support, avahi-daemon, is not installed by default in Ubuntu under WSL. So we need to install it:

```
sudo apt update
```

```
sudo apt install avahi-daemon linux-tools-virtual hwdmdata
```

- Install the Printer Application from the Snap Store (use the one for your printer):

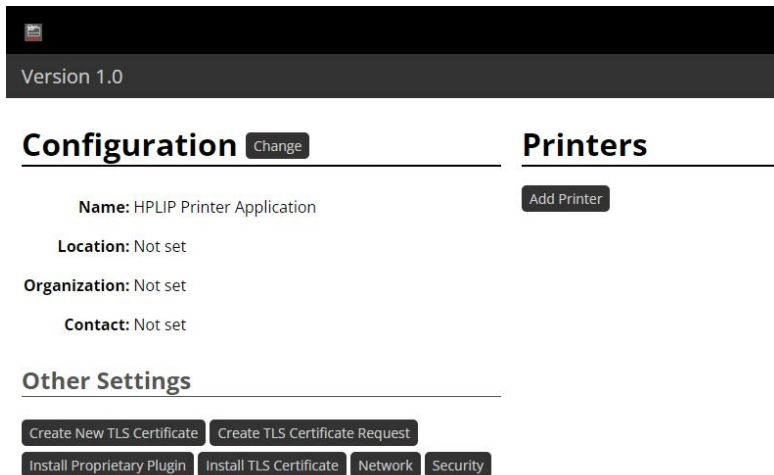
```
sudo snap install --edge hplip-printer-app
```

- Check whether the daemons are running:

```
ps aux | grep -E 'avahi|hplip'
```


Set up the printer in the Printer Application

- Use the web admin interface (usually <https://localhost:8000/>) of the Printer Application to **set up your printer** ("Add Printer"):



Version 1.0

Configuration Change

Name: HPLIP Printer Application Add Printer

Location: Not set

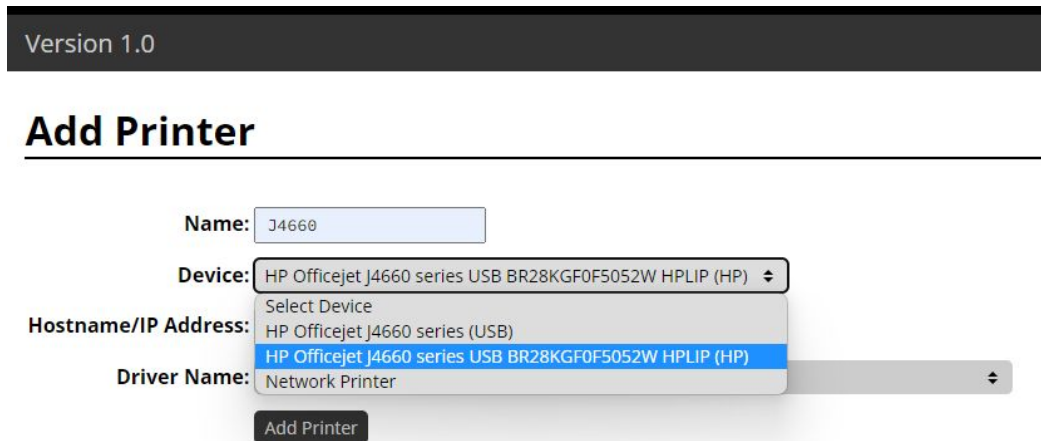
Organization: Not set

Contact: Not set

Other Settings

Create New TLS Certificate Create TLS Certificate Request

Install Proprietary Plugin Install TLS Certificate Network Security



Version 1.0

Add Printer

Name:

Device: ⌵

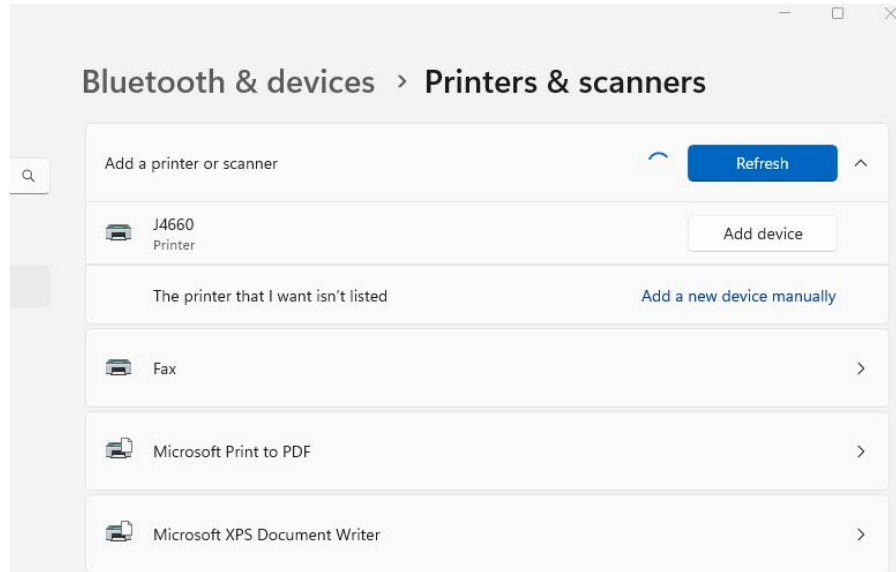
Hostname/IP Address:

Driver Name: ⌵

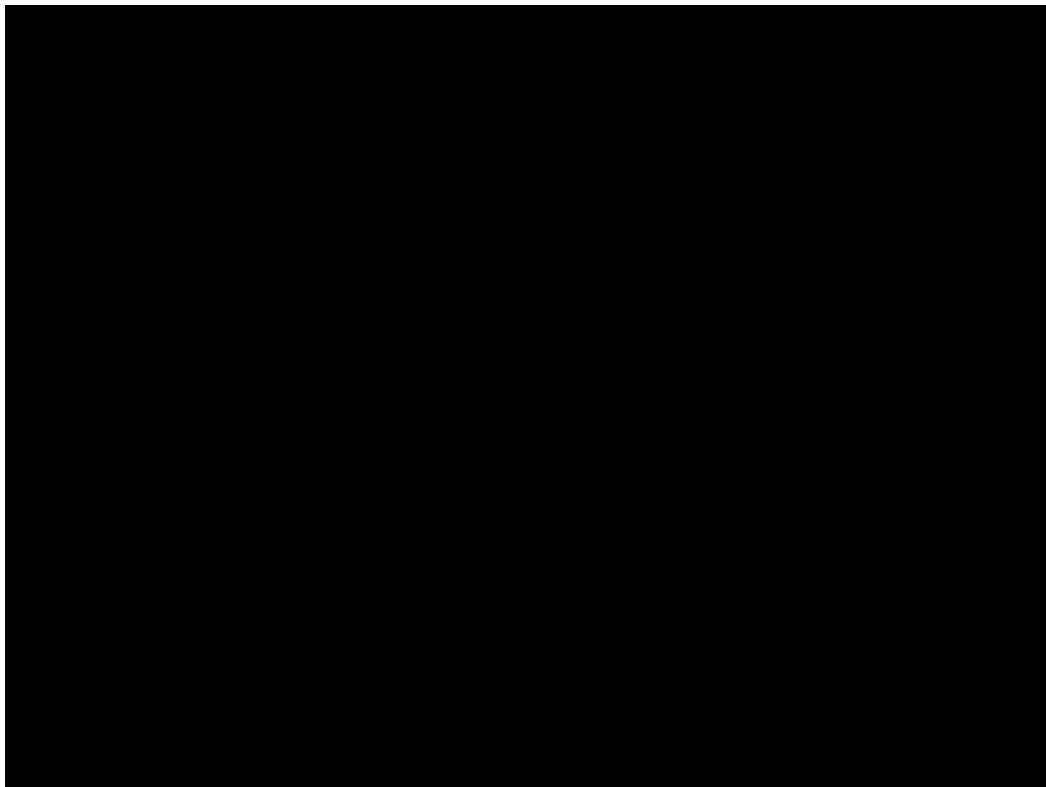
Add Printer

And set up the printer under Windows

- Now go to the printer setup tool of Windows ("Settings" > "Bluetooth devices" > "Printers & scanners") again and set up the **print queue for Windows**:



And you have made it!!



Our HOWTO on OpenPrinting ...

For further details, see our HOWTO::

<https://openprinting.github.io/wsl-printer-app/>