BILL'S HOME TECH

Home & Small Business Tech Solutions

AN EXTENDED GUIDE · NO. 2181

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Print From an iPad or Chromebook

Boarding passes, recipes, and forms — straight from your tablet, no computer needed

Plain-English printer help from:

Bill's Home Tech

Portage County, Ohio

Tech Made Simple. Service Made Personal.

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SUMMARY

The 60-Second Version

Both an iPad and a Chromebook can print straight to a home printer with no extra software. On an iPad, open what you want, tap Share (the box with an arrow), tap Print, choose your printer, and tap Print — Apple's built-in AirPrint handles it. On a Chromebook, press Ctrl + P, pick your printer from the Destination drop-down, and print.

The golden rule for both: the device and the printer must be on the same Wi-Fi network — a mismatch (often a guest network or a "5G" band) is the usual reason a printer "won't show up." If your printer lacks AirPrint, the maker's app fills the gap on an iPad.

- Ignore any old advice about "Google Cloud Print" — it was retired; Chromebooks now print on their own.
- You can also "Save as PDF" to keep a boarding pass or receipt without paper.

1 The Short Version

You do most things on an iPad or a Chromebook these days, and you want to print from it — a boarding pass, a recipe, a form — without dragging out a computer. Good news: both can print directly to a home printer, usually with no extra software at all. An iPad uses Apple's built-in AirPrint, and a Chromebook has printing built into its settings. Once set up, it is just a couple of taps.

This guide covers printing from an iPad and from a Chromebook separately, what to do when the printer does not show up, and the one thing they share — the printer and the device must be on the same Wi-Fi. By the end, printing from your tablet or Chromebook will be second nature.

- An iPad prints with AirPrint, built in — no app needed if your printer supports it.
- A Chromebook prints through its own Settings — Google Cloud Print is long gone, so ignore old advice mentioning it.

- Both need the device and the printer on the same Wi-Fi network.
- If the printer lacks AirPrint, the maker's app fills the gap on an iPad.

> **TIP**
> The most common reason a printer "won't show up" on an iPad or Chromebook is that the device is on a different Wi-Fi than the printer — often a "guest" network or a different band. Getting both on the same network fixes the great majority of cases.

2 Printing From an iPad (AirPrint)

Apple built printing right into the iPad (and iPhone) through a system called AirPrint. If your printer supports it — and most printers made in the last decade do — you need no app and no setup. The printer simply appears when you go to print.

1. Make sure your iPad and the printer are on the same Wi-Fi network.
2. Open whatever you want to print — a web page, a photo, an email, a document.
3. Tap the Share button (a box with an arrow pointing up) or the three-dots menu.
4. Scroll to and tap Print.
5. Tap "Select Printer," choose your printer, then tap Print.

> **GOOD TO KNOW**
> Once you have printed to a printer once, the iPad remembers it and offers it automatically next time — so after the first time, printing is just Share, Print, Print.

3 When the iPad Can't Find the Printer

If no printer appears when you tap Print, do not worry — it is almost always a simple network mismatch, not a broken anything.

1. Check that the iPad is on the same Wi-Fi name as the printer (Settings Wi-Fi shows which one).
2. Make sure the printer is awake — tap a button on it so it is not asleep.

3. If your Wi-Fi has a "5G" name and a plain name, put the iPad on the same one as the printer (printers are often on the plain, non-5G name).
4. Restart the printer, and if needed the iPad, then try again.

> **WATCH OUT**
> A "guest" Wi-Fi network is a frequent culprit — devices on it often cannot see the printer on purpose. Make sure the iPad is on your main home network, not a guest one, and not on a neighbor's network it latched onto.

4 If Your Printer Doesn't Support AirPrint

A few older or very basic printers do not offer AirPrint. In that case the printer maker's free app bridges the gap, letting your iPad print through it.

- HP: HP Smart · Epson: Epson Smart Panel · Canon: Canon PRINT · Brother: Brother Mobile Connect (older models: Brother iPrint&Scan).
- Install the app from the App Store, open it, and add your printer.
- Print from within the app, or in some cases the app adds printing to the normal Share Print flow.

> **GOOD TO KNOW**
> Install these apps only from the App Store — that is the genuine, safe source on an iPad. The app also unlocks scanning and ink-level checks, so it is handy to have even when AirPrint works.

Rather not do this yourself? I'll come to your home and set it up for you — a flat $99 first visit across Portage County, Ohio and nearby communities. Outside the area? I also help remotely by phone or screen-share. Book at billshometech.com/book or call (330) 200-8042.

5 Printing From a Chromebook

Chromebooks have printing built into their settings, and they find most modern printers automatically. You do not need — and should ignore — any old instructions that mention "Google Cloud Print," which was retired years ago.

1. Make sure the Chromebook and the printer are on the same Wi-Fi.
2. Open whatever you want to print and press the Ctrl and P keys together (or use the menu's Print).
3. In the print window, click the "Destination" drop-down and look for your printer.
4. If it is listed, select it and click Print.
5. If it is not listed yet, choose "See more" to let the Chromebook find nearby printers, or add it manually (next chapter).

> **GOOD TO KNOW**
>
> Chromebooks use a modern, driverless way of printing that works with most printers out of the box, especially those that also support AirPrint or Mopria. Once added, your printer stays in the list for next time.

6 Adding a Printer on a Chromebook Manually

If your printer does not appear on its own, you can add it through the Chromebook's settings. This takes a moment but then it is there for good.

1. Click the clock in the bottom-right corner, then the gear to open Settings.
2. Search settings for "Printers," or go to the Printing or Advanced section.
3. Under Printers, your printer may already be waiting to be saved — click "Save" or the plus next to it.
4. If not, choose "Add a printer manually" and enter the printer's address if you have it (the printer can print its own network details).
5. Once added, print a test page.

WATCH OUT

Adding a printer by its network address involves a few technical fields that are easy to get slightly wrong. If your Chromebook will not find the printer and the manual add feels daunting, that is a quick setup for me — or a sign the printer needs a nudge onto the right Wi-Fi first.

7 When the Chromebook Can't Find It

As with the iPad, a Chromebook that cannot see the printer is almost always a network issue rather than a fault. Run through the same simple checks.

- Confirm the Chromebook and printer are on the same Wi-Fi name, not a guest network or different band.
- Wake the printer and make sure it is connected to Wi-Fi (print its own network report if unsure).
- Restart the printer, then look again under Settings Printers.
- If the printer supports it, making sure "Mopria" or driverless printing is enabled on the printer helps a Chromebook find it.

GOOD TO KNOW

Chromebooks rely on the printer being discoverable on the network. If the printer itself has drifted off Wi-Fi, no device will find it — so reconnecting the printer to Wi-Fi is sometimes the real fix.

8 Save as a PDF Instead of Printing

Both the iPad and the Chromebook can "print" to a PDF — saving a digital copy instead of using paper. It is perfect for keeping a receipt or confirmation, or for sending a document to someone else to print.

- iPad: in the Print screen, you can share the preview as a PDF, or use "Save to Files" to keep it.

- Chromebook: in the Print window, set the Destination to "Save as PDF" and click Save.
- Give the file a clear name and note where it saved so you can find it later.

> **GOOD TO KNOW**
> Saving as a PDF is the tidy way to keep a boarding pass or order confirmation without paper — and you can always print it later, or email it to someone who has a printer handy.

9 A Word on "Google Cloud Print"

If you come across older guides or forum posts telling you to use "Google Cloud Print" on a Chromebook, you can safely ignore them. Google shut that service down, and Chromebooks now print directly through their own settings, as described in this guide.

- Google Cloud Print no longer exists — any instructions relying on it are out of date.
- Modern Chromebook printing is built in and needs no special cloud service.
- If a printer's box mentions Google Cloud Print support, just use the Chromebook's own printing instead.

> **GOOD TO KNOW**
> This is a good reminder that printing advice ages quickly. When something online does not match what you see on your screen, the advice is probably simply old — trust the current steps here.

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10 The Same-Wi-Fi Golden Rule

If you remember one thing from this guide, make it this: the device you are printing from and the printer must be on the same Wi-Fi network. More printing problems on tablets and Chromebooks come down to this than to anything else.

- Check the Wi-Fi name on your device and make sure the printer is on the very same one.
- Beware of nearly-identical names with a "5G" on one — put the device on the same one as the printer.
- Avoid guest networks for either device when you want them to talk to each other.

> *Same printer, same Wi-Fi — get those two on one network and most printing just works.*

11 Managing Your Print Jobs

Occasionally a print does not come out and you want to see what happened or cancel it. Both devices make this easy.

- iPad: double-check the job was sent and the printer is awake; if a job is stuck, cancel it from the printer's own screen.
- Chromebook: a small printer icon or notification appears while printing — click it to see the job's status or cancel it.
- If nothing prints, confirm you picked the real printer and not "Save as PDF" by mistake.

WATCH OUT

If a page simply never appears, the most common causes are the wrong printer selected or the device being on the wrong Wi-Fi — check those two before assuming anything is broken.

12 Printing From an Android Phone or Tablet, Too

The same ease extends to Android phones and tablets, which have printing built in through a system called the "default print service" (and, for many printers, Mopria). If you carry an Android device alongside your iPad or Chromebook, the routine is nearly identical.

1. Make sure the Android device is on the same Wi-Fi as the printer.
2. Open what you want to print, tap the three-dots menu, and look for Print.
3. Tap the printer drop-down and choose your printer; if none appears, tap to let it search for nearby printers.
4. If your printer still does not show, install the maker's app (HP Smart, Epson Smart Panel, Canon, Brother) and print through it.

> **GOOD TO KNOW**
>
> Android's built-in printing finds most modern printers on its own, just like the iPad and Chromebook. The same golden rule applies — the phone and the printer must be on the same Wi-Fi network — so if it cannot find the printer, check that first.

13 Everyday Things People Print — and How

Most printing from a tablet or Chromebook is a handful of the same tasks, and each has a reliable path. Here is how the common ones go, so the first time is as easy as the tenth.

- A boarding pass: open it in your airline's email or app, tap Share or the menu, choose Print — or save it as a PDF to print later.
- A recipe or web article: look for a "Print" link on the page first (it strips the clutter), then Share Print.
- A photo: open it in Photos, tap Share, choose Print, and pick "best" quality and photo paper if you have it.
- A form or attachment from email: open the attachment, tap Share or the menu, and choose Print.

- A PDF someone sent you: open it, tap Share or the menu, and Print — PDFs print exactly as they look.

> **TIP**
> When a web page prints with ads, menus, and half-blank pages, look for a "Print" or "reader" option on the page itself before printing. It gives you a clean, paper-friendly version and saves both paper and ink.

14 When to Call Bill

Printing from an iPad or a Chromebook is genuinely simple once the printer and device are on the same network — and most people breeze through it. But if the printer stubbornly will not appear, if the manual Chromebook setup feels over your head, or if you would just like it set up and demonstrated on your own devices, I am happy to help.

On a visit I will make sure your printer is reachable from your iPad and Chromebook, add it properly, show you the two-tap routine, and leave you a simple card. After that, printing a boarding pass from the couch is no trouble at all.

- The printer will not appear on your iPad or Chromebook no matter what.
- The Chromebook asks for an address and the manual setup feels daunting.
- Your printer may not support AirPrint and you are unsure what to do.
- You would like it set up and demonstrated on your own devices.

CHEAT SHEET

Everyday Cheat Sheet

Keep this by the printer. Same device, same Wi-Fi — that's the secret.

I want to...	Do this...
Print from an iPad	Open it Share (box-with-arrow) Print Select Printer Print
Print from a Chromebook	Press Ctrl + P Destination drop-down pick your printer Print
Printer won't show up	Put the device on the SAME Wi-Fi as the printer (not a guest/5G network)
No AirPrint on your printer	Install the maker's app (HP Smart / Epson / Canon / Brother) on the iPad
Add a Chromebook printer	Settings Printers Save the found printer, or add it manually
Keep it without paper	Choose "Save as PDF" as the destination
Get help	Call Bill: (330) 200-8042

BEFORE YOU GO

A Note From Bill

A quick note from Bill. I write these guides to make home tech a little less frustrating, and I do my best to keep every step accurate and up to date. Still, every home, device, and setup is a bit different, so I can't promise a guide will match yours exactly or fix your particular problem. These guides are for general information only — they're not professional, legal, or financial advice, and they don't replace your device's own manual or the manufacturer's instructions. Please go slow, use your own good judgment, and use everything here at your own risk. If a step involves electrical wiring, a gas appliance, a water heater, plumbing, or climbing a ladder — or if anything just doesn't feel safe — please stop and call a licensed professional (or give me a call at 330-200-8042). Bill's Home Tech and Bill Davis can't be responsible for any damage, data loss, or injury that results.

HOW I CAN HELP

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Outside the area? Remotely — $49 for a screen-share session (free for Support Plan members, $39/mo), refundable if I can't fix it — and credited toward a visit if you'd rather have me in person. Book either at billshometech.com/book.

GOOD TO KNOW

My promise — If you're not 100% satisfied with your visit, I'll come back at no charge, or refund the full $99. No questions, no awkwardness. That's how I'd want to be treated.

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