

THE NetworkGuy

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Learn from The Network Guy

My printer isn't printing. What could be wrong?

The Network Guy:

There are many reasons that could cause your printer to stop working, so it's best to start with the basics. Is there an error message or warning light on the printer? If so, start there. Make sure there is paper in the tray(s), check the levels in the ink or toner cartridges, and be sure that the USB cable is plugged in and the printer is connected to Wi-Fi.

If all of these seem fine, sometimes the easiest solution is to cancel all active printing work and restart the printer. If that doesn't help, check for issues on your computer or device. Since every printer has its own driver and is connected to the device, the system should display any troubleshooting advice.

Thank You for a Great Response!

A few months ago, we decided to supplement our quarterly newsletter with a new monthly newsletter, The Network Guy, to be delivered via email.

We've had a great response from all of you, so thank you for reading! Our intent is to keep you informed about industry trends, security tips, events we sponsor or attend, and anything else that may be relevant to your Internet services. We know you're busy, so we keep the articles short, yet informative. We appreciate the opportunity to stay in touch with you more often and hope that you watch for our email, generally during the first week of the month. In addition, we also give out some great prizes, so be sure to enter the contest each month.

The Network Guy Quiz Challenge

PenTeleData is giving one lucky winner a \$150 Amazon Gift Card. Just visit www.ptd.net/quiz-challenge by **January 31, 2021** to answer the question below. We will select a winner at random from all correct entries. **Good Luck!**

What productivity app did Zapier select as one of the best of 2021 because of the embedded calendars and timers?



The Best To-Do Apps for 2021

There are a ton of to-do list apps available, so which one should you choose? Well, it depends on what's important to you. Some offer multiple ways to organize your tasks, ideally added and categorized in a few taps or keystrokes. These may be tags, projects, list, due dates or all of these. The app should have a simple interface to save time and fit into your workflow. The one you choose should also work across every platform you use, across desktop and mobile devices, with clean user interfaces.

Zapier.com researched the best to-do list apps and selected a few as the best for 2021:

- **Todoist** for balancing power and simplicity
- **TickTick** for embedded calendars and timers
- **Microsoft To Do** for Microsoft power users
- **Things** for elegant design
- **OmniFocus** for specific organizational systems
- **Habitica** for making doing things fun
- **Google Tasks** for Google power users
- **Remember The Milk** for keyboard shortcut lovers
- **Any.do** for people who forget to use to-do apps

Secure Your Smart Home AND IoT (Internet of Things) Devices

Is your Smart Home as clever as it should be? Convenience in our homes has never been more accessible. Everything from ovens, sprinklers, lights, motion sensors, thermostats, electronic locks, and appliances can be controlled remotely. As the number of connected gadgets around our homes increases, there is an inherent risk of those devices being hacked. Here are a few tips to prevent that from happening:

- > Use a strong encryption method for Wi-Fi. Choosing encryption such as WPA2 in your router settings can help keep your network communications secure.
- > Give your router an unusual name not associated with you or your street address or any personal identifiers. Using the name assigned by the manufacturer might identify the make or model.
- > Set up a guest network so that visitors, relatives, and friends can log into a separate network that doesn't tie into your IoT devices.
- > Always change the default usernames and passwords. Are you considering a device that doesn't allow you to change the default password? Then consider a different one.
- > Use strong, unique passwords for Wi-Fi networks and each device. Avoid common passwords or anything that is easy to guess.
- > Check all devices for default privacy and security settings and change them accordingly. The settings should benefit you, not the manufacturer. You can also consider disabling features you don't need.
- > Keep your software up-to-date, including the updates on your smartphone.
- > Consider upgrading aging IoT devices already on your home network. Newer models may offer stronger security.
- > Use two-step authentication for an extra layer of security.
- > Avoid using public Wi-Fi networks to manage your devices.

Have You Seen Our Quickclip Videos?

Stay tuned to our social media pages: Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn. We've created some short video clips to add some fun and timely tips throughout the year. Check out the ones we've already posted and stay tuned for some upcoming entertainment too!

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