

Installed Devices & Applications

Printer Basics

The printers and other devices installed on a PC computer can be located typically by viewing the system settings of the computer. Many times within the settings there is an option to view “Printers & Scanners”, “Mouse” and “Bluetooth & Other Devices” within the settings window.

To add or install a printer there are a few steps to follow. On the “Printers & Scanners” screen of the system settings, there will be an “Add a printer or scanner” option which can be clicked and the computer will begin searching for printers and scanners which can be added. If the printer is physically connected to the computer, it may automatically begin installing its software on the computer. If the printer is wireless, it is important to make sure the Bluetooth settings are turned to “discoverable” for the computer and the printer. Once the printer has been located by the computer, it can be installed.

If a printer needs to be removed from the list of installed devices, typically you can select the printer and then choose to “remove the device.”

Applications & Software

One of the most common methods of obtaining new software is by downloading it from legitimate websites. Software programs such as Microsoft® Office must be downloaded from their official websites after being purchased, whereas some applications or software programs are offered as free downloads. It should be noted downloading free applications should only be done if the source of the application is trustworthy as downloading items to your device can pose a cybersecurity risk.

The first step when downloading or installing software is to run the executable or “.exe” file. This file contains all of the information needed to begin the install process. Once the software is installed, users can find the applications or software programs wherever programs are typically listed such as on the Start Menu. It is important to note after install, the software may push update notifications when an updated version of the software becomes available.

There can be a multitude of reasons why an application fails to install or run. Occasionally, applications cannot be installed because there is already an application with the same name on the device and the system may not be able to differentiate between the programs. A simple solution for this issue would be to rename the preexisting application to distinguish the two or uninstall the unneeded application.

Installed Devices & Applications

Another installation error is malformed files. This happens when the file is damaged or compromised as it is being transported to the system.

When running applications, a common problem is slow server speeds. This is a problem when the application shares a server with additional applications. Unfortunately, this is a problem on the server-side and cannot typically be fixed by the user.

Another reason an application could be running slow is if there are too many input requests. By overloading the application, users may find their program fulfilling some or none of their requests, or simply shutting down altogether. To prevent this, users can pause between requests or restart the application.