

HP J3258A

HP JetDirect 170X 10BT 1-Port RJ45 External Print Server J3258A User Manual

Model: J3258A

[Introduction](#)

[Package Contents](#)

[Features](#)

[Setup](#)

[Operation](#)

[Maintenance](#)

[Troubleshooting](#)

[Specifications](#)

[Warranty](#)

[Support](#)

1. INTRODUCTION

This manual provides comprehensive instructions for the installation, operation, and maintenance of your HP JetDirect 170X 10BT 1-Port RJ45 External Print Server (Model J3258A). This device enables network printing for compatible printers, offering efficient and reliable print services.

Please read this manual thoroughly before using the product to ensure proper setup and optimal performance.

2. PACKAGE CONTENTS

Upon unpacking, verify that all items listed below are present and undamaged. If any items are missing or damaged, contact your vendor immediately.

- HP JetDirect 170X 10BT 1-Port RJ45 External Print Server (J3258A)
- Power Adapter
- User Manual (this document)

- Installation CD (may be included for driver/utility software)



Figure 1: Packaging for the HP JetDirect 170X Print Server. The actual device is contained within this box.

3. KEY FEATURES

- Compatible with virtually any printer that includes a parallel port.
- Prints up to 6 times faster than traditional file server or shared-PC printing connections.
- Supports Ethernet and 802.3 network types for versatile integration.
- Designed for simple and straightforward installation.
- External design for easy placement and connectivity.

4. SETUP GUIDE

4.1 Connecting the Print Server

1. **Power Off Devices:** Ensure your printer and network devices (router/switch) are powered off before making connections.
2. **Connect to Printer:** Connect one end of a parallel printer cable (not included) to the parallel port on your printer and the other end to the parallel port on the HP JetDirect 170X.
3. **Connect to Network:** Connect an Ethernet cable (RJ45, not included) from your network router or switch to the RJ45 port on the HP JetDirect 170X.
4. **Connect Power:** Plug the power adapter into the HP JetDirect 170X and then into a suitable power outlet.
5. **Power On:** Power on your network devices, then your printer, and finally the HP JetDirect 170X. Allow a few moments for the device to initialize.

4.2 Driver Installation and Configuration

After physical connections are made, you will need to install the appropriate printer drivers on your computer(s) and configure the print server on your network. Refer to your operating system's documentation for adding a network printer.

- The print server typically obtains an IP address automatically via DHCP. You may need to use a utility (often provided on an installation CD or downloadable from HP's website) to discover the print server's IP address on your network.
- Once the IP address is known, you can add a new network printer on your computer, specifying the IP address of the JetDirect 170X.
- Ensure the correct printer driver for your specific printer model is installed on your computer.

5. OPERATION

The HP JetDirect 170X acts as an interface between your network and your parallel-port printer. Once properly configured, it allows multiple users on the network to send print jobs to the connected printer.

5.1 Printing from a Networked Computer

To print a document:

1. Open the document or application you wish to print from.
2. Select the "Print" option (usually found under "File" menu).
3. From the list of available printers, select the network printer configured with the HP JetDirect 170X.
4. Adjust any desired print settings and click "Print".

The print server will receive the job from your computer and send it to the connected printer. The speed of printing will be significantly enhanced compared to direct PC connections.

6. MAINTENANCE

The HP JetDirect 170X is designed for reliable operation with minimal maintenance. Follow these guidelines to ensure its longevity:

- **Cleaning:** Periodically wipe the exterior of the device with a soft, dry cloth. Do not use liquid cleaners or abrasive materials.
- **Ventilation:** Ensure the device is placed in a well-ventilated area, away from direct sunlight and heat sources, to prevent overheating.
- **Firmware Updates:** Occasionally check the official HP support website for any available firmware updates for the JetDirect 170X. Firmware updates can improve performance, add features, or fix bugs. Follow HP's instructions carefully when performing updates.
- **Cable Connections:** Periodically check all cable connections (power, network, printer) to ensure they are secure.

7. TROUBLESHOOTING

If you encounter issues with your HP JetDirect 170X, refer to the following common problems and solutions:

Problem	Possible Cause	Solution
Print server not detected on network.	Loose network cable, incorrect IP configuration, network issue.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Check that the Ethernet cable is securely connected to both the print server and the network device.• Verify network activity lights on the print server and network switch/router.• Ensure your network's DHCP server is functioning or configure a static IP address if necessary.• Restart the print server and network equipment.

Problem	Possible Cause	Solution
Printer not printing.	Printer offline, incorrect driver, print server not communicating with printer.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check if the printer is powered on and online. • Ensure the parallel cable is securely connected between the print server and the printer. • Verify that the correct printer driver is installed on your computer and selected for printing. • Try printing a test page directly from the printer (if supported).
Slow printing or print jobs stuck.	Network congestion, print queue issues, outdated firmware.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear the print queue on your computer. • Restart the print server and the printer. • Check for and install any available firmware updates for the JetDirect 170X. • Ensure your network is not experiencing heavy traffic.

If these steps do not resolve your issue, please refer to the [Support](#) section for further assistance.

8. SPECIFICATIONS

Model Number	J3258A
Product Name	HP JetDirect 170X 10BT 1-Port RJ45 External Print Server
Connectivity	1 x RJ45 (10BASE-T Ethernet), 1 x Parallel Port (IEEE 1284-B)
Network Protocols	Supports Ethernet and 802.3 network types
Dimensions (Package)	8 x 7 x 1.1 inches (20.32 x 17.78 x 2.79 cm)
Item Weight	12 ounces (0.34 kg)
Manufacturer	HP/COMPAQ
ASIN	B003ZTCA06
Date First Available	August 16, 2010

9. WARRANTY INFORMATION

HP products are covered by a limited warranty. For detailed information regarding the warranty period, terms, and conditions applicable to your HP JetDirect 170X (J3258A), please refer to the warranty card included with your product or visit the official HP website.

You can typically find warranty details and registration options on the [HP Support website](#).

10. CUSTOMER SUPPORT

For technical assistance, product inquiries, or further support, please contact HP Customer Support

through one of the following channels:

- **Online Support:** Visit the official [HP Support website](#) for drivers, documentation, troubleshooting guides, and FAQs.
- **Phone Support:** Refer to the contact information provided on the HP Support website for your specific region.
- **Community Forums:** Engage with other HP users and experts on the [HP Support Community Forums](#).

When contacting support, please have your product model (J3258A) and serial number ready.