# Setting up an Ubuntu and/or an XP System to Print to a Vista Shared Printer
## By Ron Mettler, January 14, 2007

A. Background

1. I have tried for several months to get my Windows XP Pro based laptop computer to print to my HP Photosmart printer which is connected to by Desktop computer. The routine and settings that I had used for my old desktop running on XP did not work.
2. I have also had the same problem with my Ubuntu desktop computer printing to my Vista desktop shared printer.
3. I did a search of Google groups and after looking at 50 or more articles and blogs, I found a solution. Why MS makes it so hard is beyond me but I want to share the solution (at least what worked for me) with others. I hope the below is detailed enough for others to follow.

B. Procedure to follow on the Vista Machine with the Shared Printer Attached

1. You need to first determine the name that you gave your computer when you set it up. Be sure you write it down exactly, taking care to copy capital or lower case letters used. You can find your computer name by clicking on Start, Network and then it will be displayed in the network devices.
2. Then determine the name of the workgroup that your Vista machine is using. Go to Start, Control Panel, System and note the name exactly toward the bottom after Workgroup:. My computer Workgroup is MSHOME.
2. On my Vista machine, I then went to Control Panel, Printers, and then right clicked on my installed HP Photosmart 8200 Series printer. I assume that everyone has a printer connected through a USB port to the Vista machine and it is configured to print through the USB port. In the Sharing Tab, I clicked on the "Change sharing options" bar, I then checked Share this printer. I gave it a simple Share name without spaces or special characters of HP8200 and then I checked Render print jobs on client computers. Write down the share name exactly as you specified including capital letters if you used them in the name. Click Apply at the bottom of the window and then select the Ports tab next to the Sharing Tab.
2. If your printer is already connected to a USB port, the port will be checked next to your printer. In that line the printer name may be something other than the above share name. Just leave the line as is with no changes. Now click on Add Port, Local Port, then click on New Port. In the blank box under Enter a port name, type in \\(computer name)\(Printer Share Name). In my case, the computer name is RON-ASUS and the Printer Share name is HP8200 so my line reads \\RON-ASUS\HP8200.
3. Do not select the new port as the port to be used for printing, keep your original selection using the USB port.

C. Procedure to follow on the Ubuntu computer.

    1. Install the printer drivers by clicking "System", Administration", "Printing", then highlight Local Printers, and click on New Printer. At this point you can select any port and proceed normally with the install procedure.

    2. Then select the newly installed printer, and the setting tab. On the line that says Device URL:, select Change. Scroll down to Windows Printer Samba and then in the blank after SMB:// type in workgroup name/computer name/printer share name. In my case, I typed MSHOME/RON-ASUS/HP8200. Now click on Apply, and review the options in the other tabs. I believe that I left all options as they were. Now go to the Setting tab and Print a Test Page to see if it works. I did that and then went back and typed a short document in OpenOffice word processing and printed to the printer.

    3. If the shared printer is connected to a Windows XP system instead of a Vista system, you can click on Browse to find the SMB://workgroup name/computer name/printer share name, and then select the desired printer.

D. Procedure to follow on setting up the XP machine to print to the Vista shared printer

    1. Install the printer in the appropriate manner for the specific printer using a local LPT#1 port.

    2. Then go to Start, Control Panel, Printers and Faxes, and right click on the printer and select Properties.

    3. Select the Ports Tab then click on Add Port. Select Local Port, then the New Port box. Type in the blank box \\machine name\printer name. In my case, I typed \\RON-ASUS\HP8200. Then click OK. The port that you just created should be checked. Click on Apply, then select the General Tab and click on Print Test Page.