Linux printing made easy, Part 2

Configuring CUPS -- even for unsupported printers

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Summary
In a further exploration of the Common Unix Printing System (CUPS), the Geek tackles configuration -- namely adding and managing printers, even unsupported ones, with CUPS's Web-based interface. *(1,200 words)*

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In the last edition of **Ask the Geek**, I talked about the basics of the Common Unix Printing System (CUPS). The CUPS software is unique because it offers a universal, standards-compliant printing system for Linux/Unix. This week, I will discuss CUPS configuration, especially adding and managing printers with the Web-based interface.

CUPS installs with a Web- and console-based interface by default. When you install CUPS via RPM, it should start automatically. To verify that the `cupsd` daemon is running, execute the following as root:

```
/etc/rc.d/init.d/cups
status
```

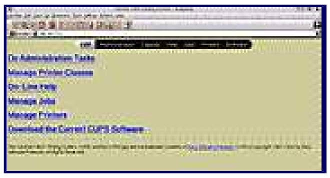
If you receive the following message as output, you are ready to explore the Web interface:

```
cups: Scheduler is running.
```

If not, you can start the scheduler by typing the following as root:

```
/etc/rc.d/init.d/cups start
```

Once the CUPS scheduler is running, you can point your Web browser to `http://localhost:631/`. The `:631` tells your browser to attach to port `631` instead of the standard Web port, `80`. When you connect to the above URL (on the machine you installed the CUPS software on, naturally), you should see the screen displayed in Figure 1.



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