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# READY NET GO ... NEWS

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<http://www.readynetgo.net>

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## Tip of the Month

### Wireless Printing?

Wouldn't it be nice to have a wire-free office... With laptops, pda's, and cell phones, we're finally cutting free of many of those tangled wires.

Now we're one step closer. Wireless connections are available for printers ...

Certain printers that are Ethernet enabled can be set up without the expense or trouble of running wires. The only requirement is to have a Wi-Fi (wireless Ethernet) access point within a certain distance from the printer (about 100 feet).

This option will be great for classrooms where wires could be a hazard, for retail stores to avoid unsightly wires, for old buildings where the cost of running cables is just too great, and the list continues.

Although wired connections are still the most secure method, wireless printers may be just what small offices have been craving – one less cord to look at!

## Network Laser Printers: Practical, Efficient, Cost-Effective

Nearly everyone who works on a computer needs to print but not everyone who prints needs a printer on their desk. That's where network printers come in ...

It's nearly mandatory for most large businesses to have networkable printers to address space limitations and finite budgets. One corporate laser printer can serve 30+ individuals if all of the desktop computers can access the printer over the network. If an organization did not share a printer, the initial purchase price of 30 printers, in addition to maintenance costs, would be enough to send any budget into a tailspin.

Large enterprises aren't the only ones who can benefit from using network printers however; they are also efficient and cost effective for small businesses, as well.

Small to medium size businesses tend to purchase low or moderate cost inkjet printers for their employees to save on the initial purchase costs. Unfortunately, inkjet printers can drain your budget on the cost of ink. That \$100 inkjet printer can go through a \$30 ink cartridge every month (depending on your usage). Multiply that by 12 (months) and you're actually spending \$460 for that printer plus ink. The cost increases if you use color cartridges as well.

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## WWW (Websites Worth Watching)

1. [www.snowcrystals.com](http://www.snowcrystals.com) – Hey, it's winter; get the lowdown on what's really falling from the sky.
2. [www.onlineconversion.com](http://www.onlineconversion.com) - How many centimeters are in a mile? How many gallons are in a liter?
3. [www.birthdaypartyideas.com](http://www.birthdaypartyideas.com) - Need an idea for an upcoming party? Check out these suggestions

## Comparison of Printer Features

With the cost of laser printers hitting record lows, nearly every business can afford a good quality laser printer. Here are some features to look for:

1. Speed – Laser printers win hands down in this category. Print speeds vary considerably across manufacturers. One point to remember is that rated text speeds are almost always faster than actual print speeds. Speed is a personal feature; some people would rather have quality over speed, while others, faced with endless deadlines, consider speed to be the key factor in the purchase decision.

**TIP:** Newer inkjet printers rival older laser printers in speed tests but only if the inkjet is printing in draft mode. To get near the same quality as a laser printer, the inkjet printer will be much slower.

2. Resolution/print quality – Laser printers print razor sharp 'text' which has made them the optimal choice for businesses. Inkjet printers, however, perform best in printing 'photos' and 'images' on glossy paper. Inkjet printers still have not perfected printing on matte surfaces, however, so unless you're willing to purchase recommended paper stock, you will not get optimum quality prints. Look for a printer resolution of greater than 600 by 600 dpi (dots per inch) if you are looking at monochrome laser printers; look for a resolution of at least 1200 by 1200 dpi if you are looking at an inkjet printer.

**TIP:** Color laser printers are becoming more popular and the prices are beginning to get into the modest range. They also give the best of both worlds; razor sharp text and eye-catching two dimensional images.

3. Cost per page – Inkjet printers, by far, cost more per page than monochrome laser printers over time (considering the cost of ink/toner). Color laser printer cartridges are still quite expensive but, in sufficient volume, printing costs per page are comparable to a color inkjet over time.

**TIP:** One way to bring down the costs of printing is to use remanufactured laser cartridges. If you buy from a reputable company, the savings can be substantial. (Make sure to test remanufactured cartridges before you buy in bulk, though.)

4. Features – Laser printers have large paper trays and enough memory to queue multiple print jobs at once. The text is sharp, the printing is fast, and many include an Ethernet adapter which allows the printer to be directly attached to the network rather than a dedicated PC. Finally, most laser printers can be networked with an external print server – an important feature for many businesses.

**TIP:** For business use, there really is no alternative to a network laser printer: fast, efficient, and economical. Most low cost laser printers can be purchased for under \$300 with print speeds of 17 pages per minute.