

OPEN SOURCE ORGANIZATION SPOTLIGHT

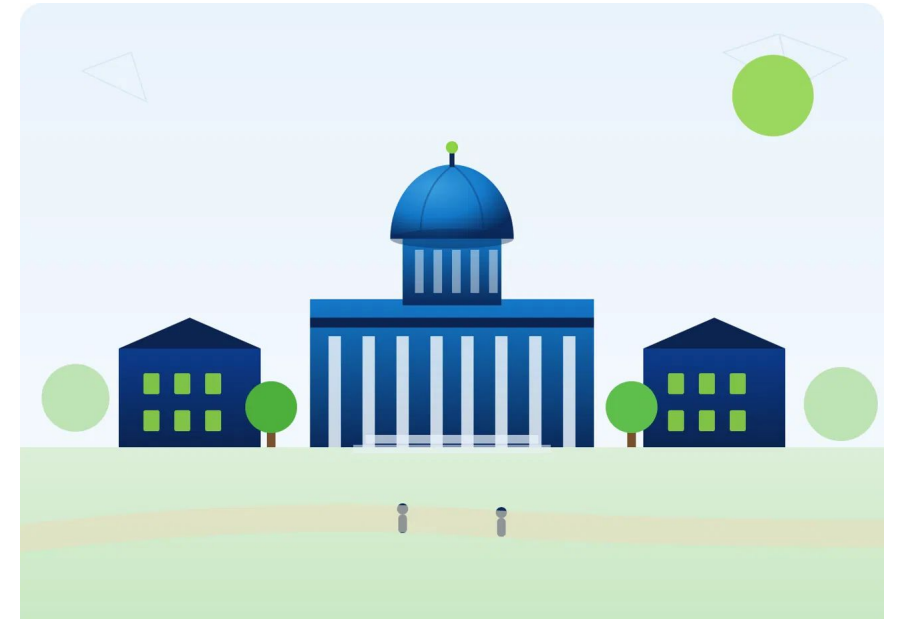
OpenPrinting: Making Printing Just Work

What OpenPrinting Is, and How to Start Contributing

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Chair, Opportunity Open Source Conference

IIIT Allahabad, Prayagraj • 28–30 August 2026



IIIT ALLAHABAD — THE HOST CAMPUS

THE ORGANIZATION

What is OpenPrinting?

OpenPrinting is a free software project under the Linux Foundation that builds the printing and scanning stack for Linux and Unix-like systems. It maintains CUPS, the print server almost every Linux distribution runs, and works to make printing and scanning "just work" without hunting for drivers.

openprinting.github.io — CUPS, driverless printing docs, and the printer database

Linux Foundation Project

Standards-Based

Cross-Platform

Community-Driven

GSoC Mentor Org

Home of CUPS



Est. 2001

A Linux Foundation project

2007

joined the Linux Foundation

2020

took over active CUPS development

2008

first year mentoring Google Summer of Code

What OpenPrinting Works On



OpenPrinting builds new printing architectures and interface standards for Linux and Unix systems, works with the PWG on IPP, partners with SANE to bring driverless scanning to life, maintains the Foomatic driver database, and develops the Common Print Dialog Backends project.

Core Projects It Maintains

CUPS

PAPPL

libppd

CPDB

PDFio

cups-filters

pappl-retrofit

ippusbxd

libcupsfilters

Foomatic

10+

open source projects maintained by OpenPrinting

Four Ways to Print Without a Driver



AirPrint

Apple's driverless standard for iOS, iPadOS, and macOS — the oldest and most common one.



IPP Everywhere

An open standard from the Printer Working Group (PWG) — the one OpenPrinting builds CUPS around.



Mopria

A shared IPP profile that lets you print straight from Android and Windows devices.

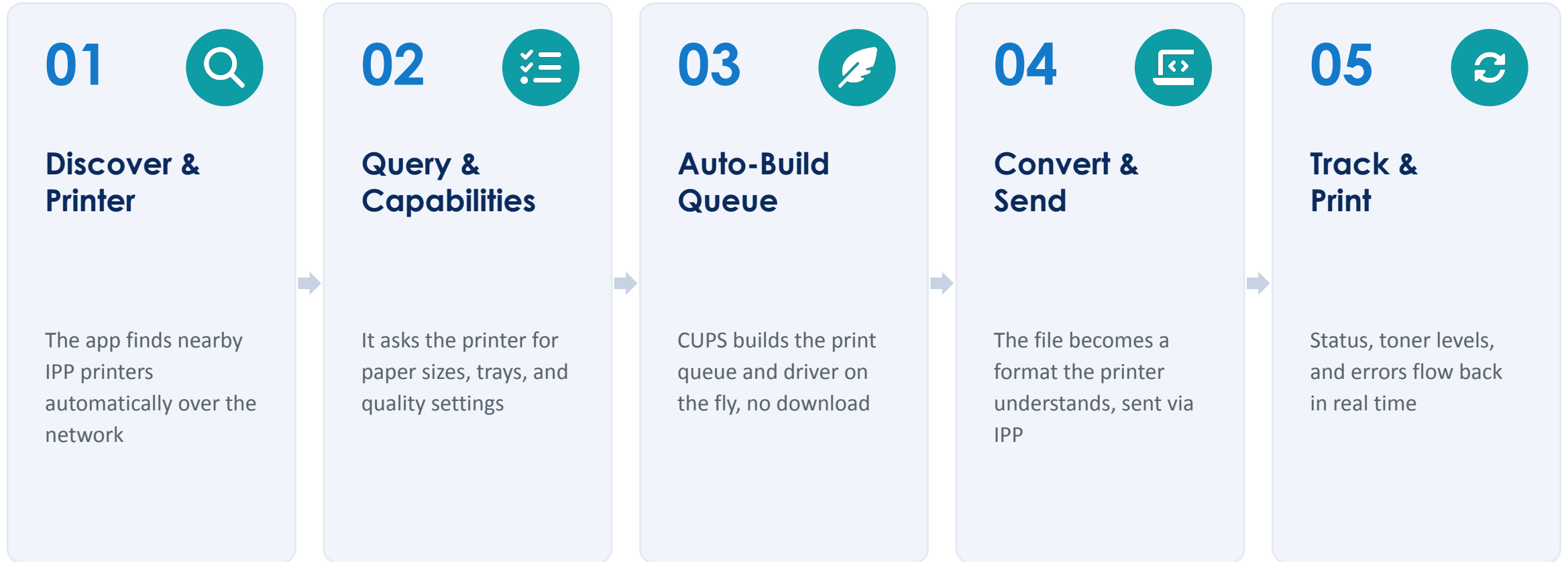


Wi-Fi Direct Print

Lets a printer act as its own access point, so devices can print with no network at all.

Every standard skips the PPD file entirely — the printer simply tells the app what it can do.

How Driverless Printing Works



WHY IT MATTERS FOR YOU

OpenPrinting × Google Summer of Code

2008

first year mentoring GSoC

19

accepted proposals in 2025

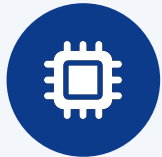
33

mentors in 2025

17+

years mentoring, almost every
year

What GSoC Contributors Work On



Core C/C++ Systems



CI, Fuzzing & Infra



Desktop Integration

Many contributors first hear about OpenPrinting at an OOSC conference

How to Start Contributing



Webpage

Check out the basics at openprinting.github.io and see which project fits you.



Community Bonding

Join the OpenPrinting Telegram channel and start talking with the community.



Assignment

Ask a mentor for an initial assignment, complete it, and share the details over email.



Issue

Once your assignment is done, pick up a good-first-issue and start contributing for real.

Every OpenPrinting mentor was once a first-time contributor too — don't be afraid to ask questions.

Mistakes to Avoid



MISTAKE

Lurking without introducing yourself.



DO THIS INSTEAD

Say hello on Telegram — mentors notice active, curious people early.



MISTAKE

Waiting for the “perfect” issue.



DO THIS INSTEAD

Start with any good-first-issue — small fixes build trust fast.



MISTAKE

Skipping the assignment step.



DO THIS INSTEAD

Complete the initial assignment fully before asking for more.



MISTAKE

Going silent after getting stuck.



DO THIS INSTEAD

Ask in the open — the community would rather help than watch you struggle alone.



Thank You

Go find your good-first-issue.

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“OpenPrinting” name and logo are used courtesy of the Linux Foundation