

1. You click the Print button (or similar) that initiates the printing process
2. The software from which you are printing sends the data to be printed to the printer driver that you have selected.
3. The printer driver uses a page-description language to convert the data being printed into the Format that the printer can understand. The driver also ensures that the printer is ready to print.
4. The printer driver sends the information to the printer via whatever connection method is being used (USB, network, serial, and so on).
5. The printer stores the received data in its onboard print buffer memory.  
A print buffer is a small amount of memory (typically 512 KB to 16 MB) used to store print jobs as they are received from the printing computer. This buffer allows several jobs to be printed at once and helps printing to be completed quickly.
6. If the printer has not printed in a while, the printer's control circuits activate a cleaning cycle.  
A cleaning cycle is a set of steps the inkjet printer goes through to purge the print heads of any dried ink. It uses a special suction cup and sucking action to pull ink through the print head, dislodging any dried ink or clearing stuck passageways.
7. Once the printer is ready to print, the control circuitry activates the paper feed motor. This causes a sheet of paper to be fed into the printer until the paper activates the paper feed sensor, which stops the feed until the print head is in the right position and the leading edge of the paper is under the print head. If the paper doesn't reach the paper feed sensor in a specified amount of time after the stepper motor has been activated, the Out Of Paper light is turned on and a message is sent to the computer.
8. Once the paper is positioned properly, the print head stepper motor uses the print head belt and carriage to move the print head across the page, little by little.
9. The motor is moved one small step, and the print head sprays the dots of ink on the paper in the pattern dictated by the control circuitry. Typically, this is either a pattern of black dots or a pattern of CMYK inks that are mixed to make colors.
10. Then the stepper motor moves the print head another small step; the process repeats all the way across the page. This process is so quick, however, that the entire series of starts and stops across the page looks like one smooth motion.
11. At the end of a pass across the page, the paper feed stepper motor advances the page a small amount. Then the print head repeats step 8.
12. Depending on the model, either the print head returns to the beginning of the line and prints again in the same direction only or it moves backward across the page so that printing occurs in both directions. This process continues until the page is finished.
13. Once the page is finished, the feed stepper motor is actuated and ejects the page from the printer into the output tray. If more pages need to print, the process for printing the next page begins again at step 7.
14. Once printing is complete and the final page is ejected from the printer, the print head