



Backup and Restore Printers in Windows

How to Backup and Restore Printers in Windows

Published by [Shawn Brink](#)

29 Dec 2017

Category: [Backup & Restore](#)

Information

In Windows, you can export (backup) printer queues, printer ports, and printer drivers from a PC to a ".printerExport" file. You can then use this file to import (restore) these printer queues, printer ports, and printer drivers to any PC.

This tutorial will show you how to backup and restore printers in **Windows 7**, **Windows 8**, and **Windows 10**.

Note

If you exported printers from a **32-bit Windows** PC, you will only be able to import them to a 32-bit Windows PC.

If you exported printers from a **64-bit Windows** PC, you will only be able to import them to a 64-bit Windows PC.



CONTENTS:

- **Option One:** To Backup (export) Printers
- **Option Two:** To Restore (import) Printers

OPTION ONE

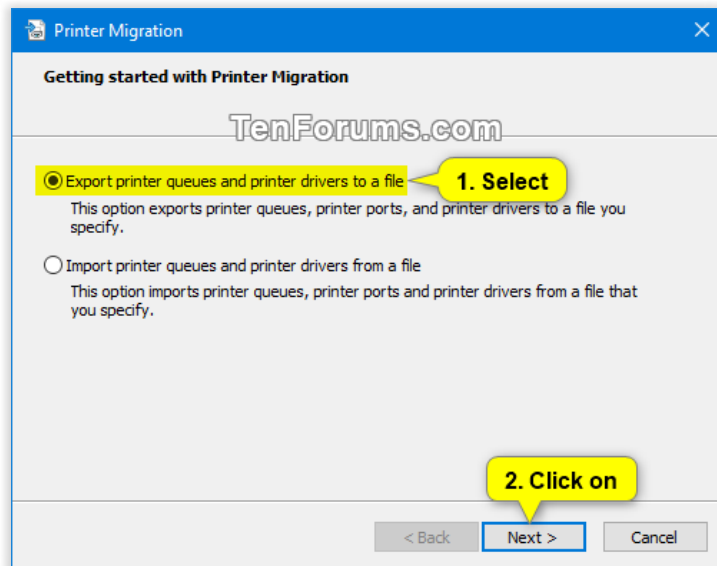
To Backup (export) Printers

1. Do **step 2** (Printer Migration wizard) or **step 3** (Printer Management) for which method you want to use to export printers.

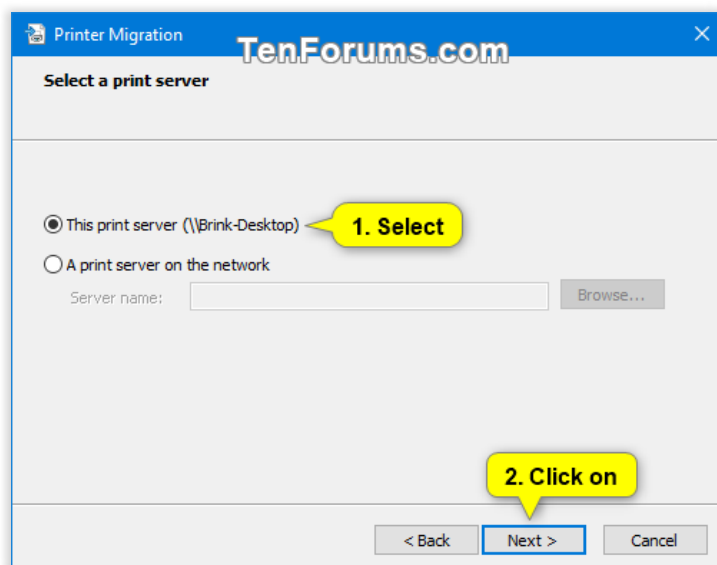
2. Export Printers on this PC using Printer Migration wizard

A) Press the **Win+R** keys to open Run, type **PrintBrmUI.exe** into Run, and click/tap on **OK** to open the Printer Migration wizard.

B) Select (dot) **Export printer queues and printer drivers to a file**, and click/tap on **Next**. (see screenshot below)



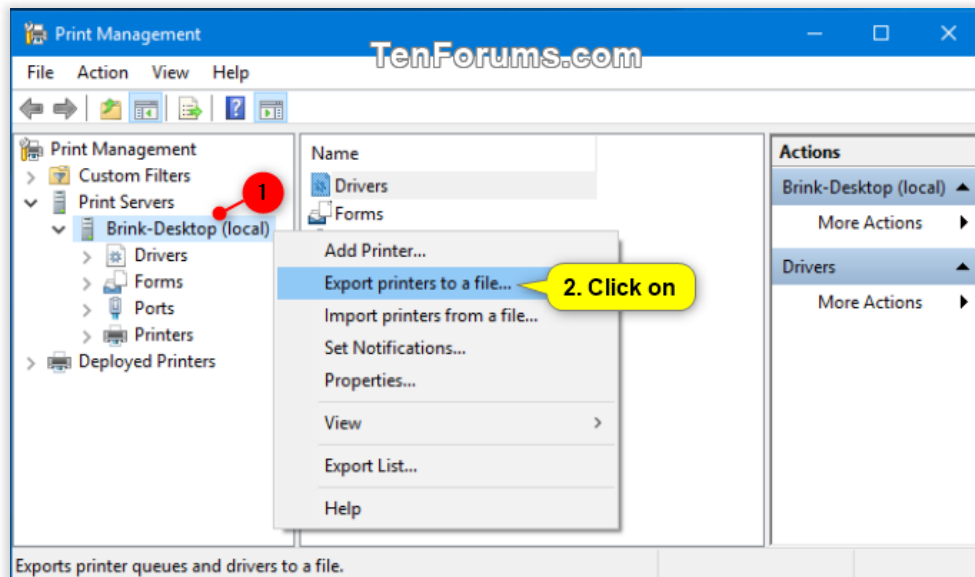
C) Select (dot) **This print server** to export printers from this PC, click/tap on **Next**, and go to [step 4](#) below. (see screenshot below)



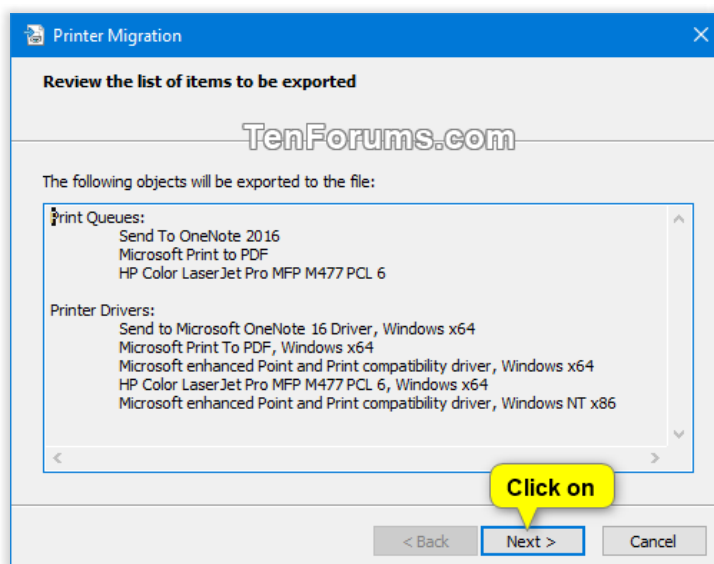
3. Export Printers on this PC using Printer Management

A) Press the **Win+R** keys to open Run, type **printmanagement.msc** into Run, and click/tap on **OK** to open Printer Management.

B) In the left pane of Printer Management, expand open **Printer Servers**, right click or press and hold on the **local** print server for this PC, click/tap on **Export printers to a file**, and go to [step 4](#) below. (see screenshot below)

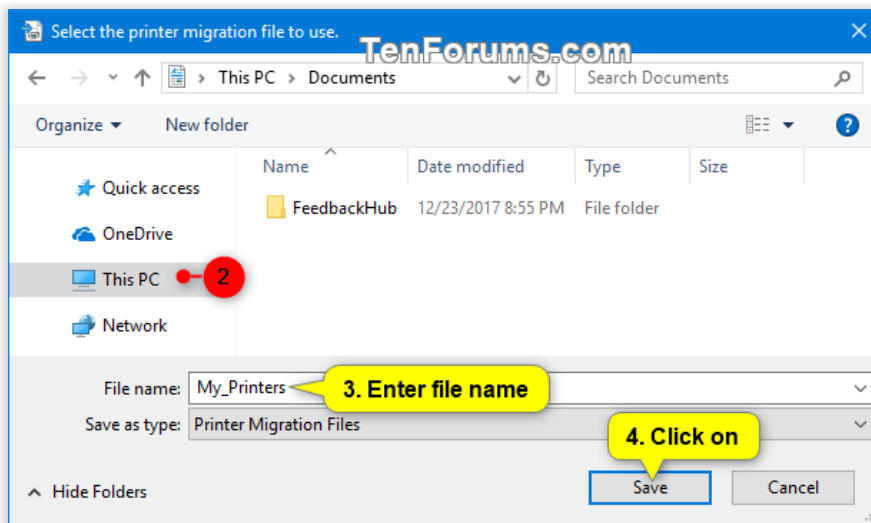
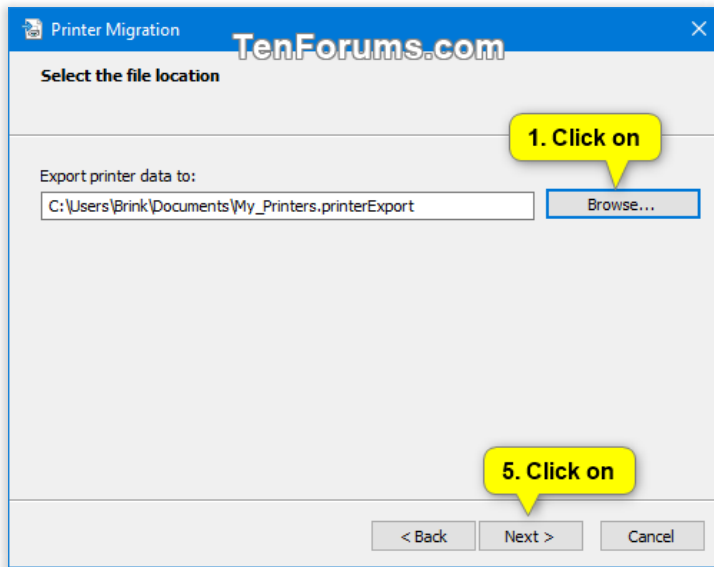


4. Click/tap on **Next**. (see screenshot below)

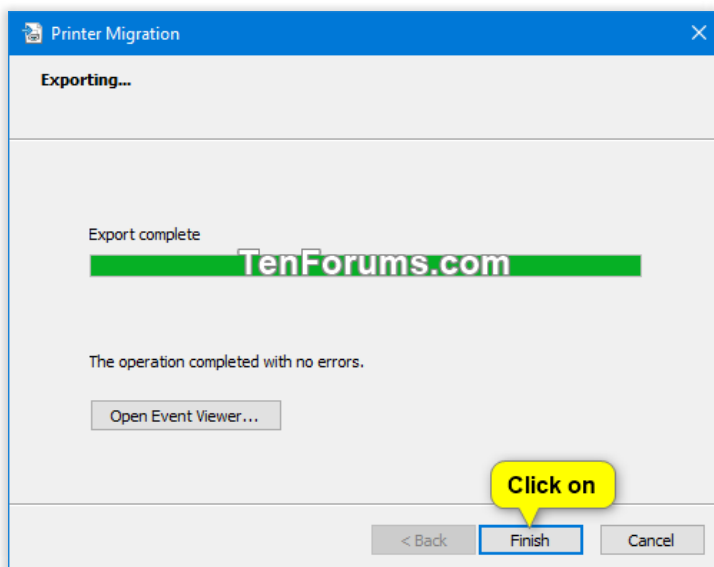


5. Perform the steps below to select the location where you want to save the exported ".printerExport" file to: (see screenshots below)

- A) Click/tap on the **Browse** button.
- B) Navigate to and select a **folder** where you want to save the file to.
- C) Enter a **file name** you want for the ".printerExport" file.
- D) Click/tap on **Save**.
- E) Click/tap on **Next**.



6. Click/tap on **Finish**. (see screenshot below)



OPTION TWO

To Restore (import) Printers

This website uses cookies to improve user experience. By using our website you consent to all cookies in accordance with our Cookie Policy. [Read more](#)

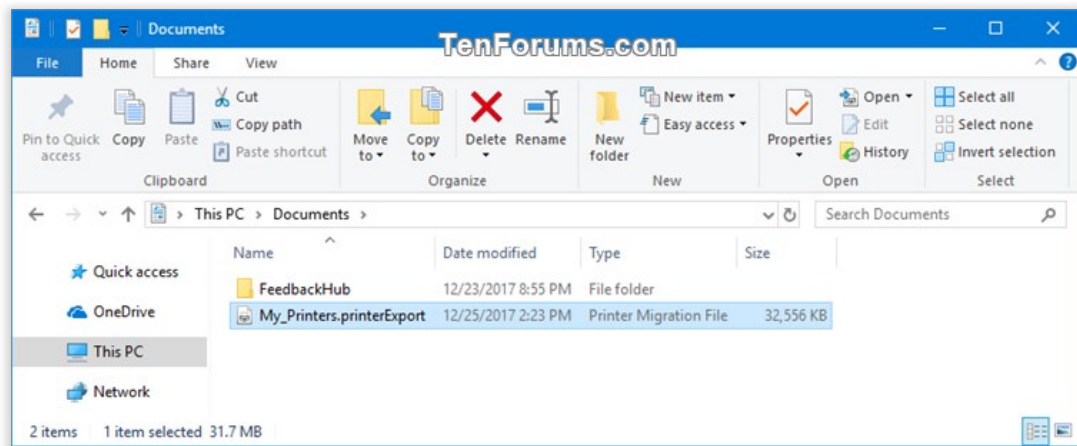
I agree

1. Do **step 2** (.printerExport file), **step 3** (Printer Migration wizard), or **step 4** (Printer Management) for which method you want to use to import printers that you exported from **Option One** above.

2. Import Printers Directly from .printerExport File

A) Open **Windows Explorer** (Windows 7) or **File Explorer** (Windows 8/10).

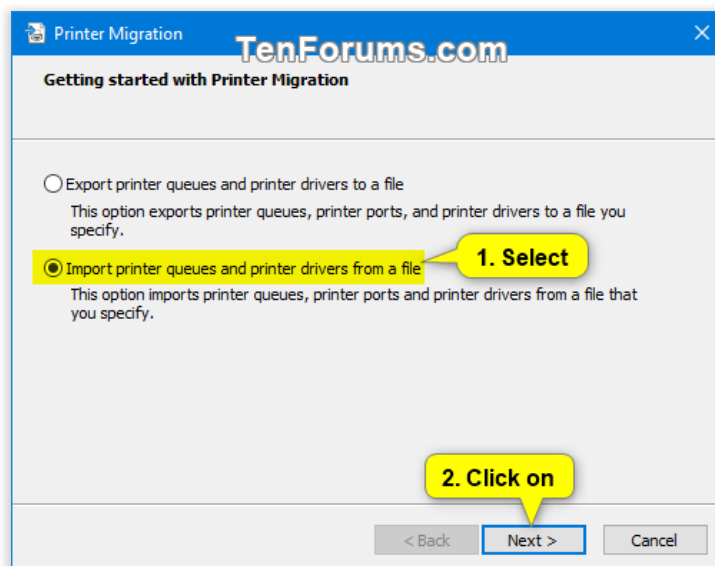
B) Navigate to where you saved the exported .printerExport file from **Option One** above, open it, and go to **step 6** below. (see screenshot below)



3. Import Printers using Printer Migration wizard

A) Press the **Win+R** keys to open Run, type **PrintBrmUi.exe** into Run, and click/tap on **OK** to open the Printer Migration wizard.

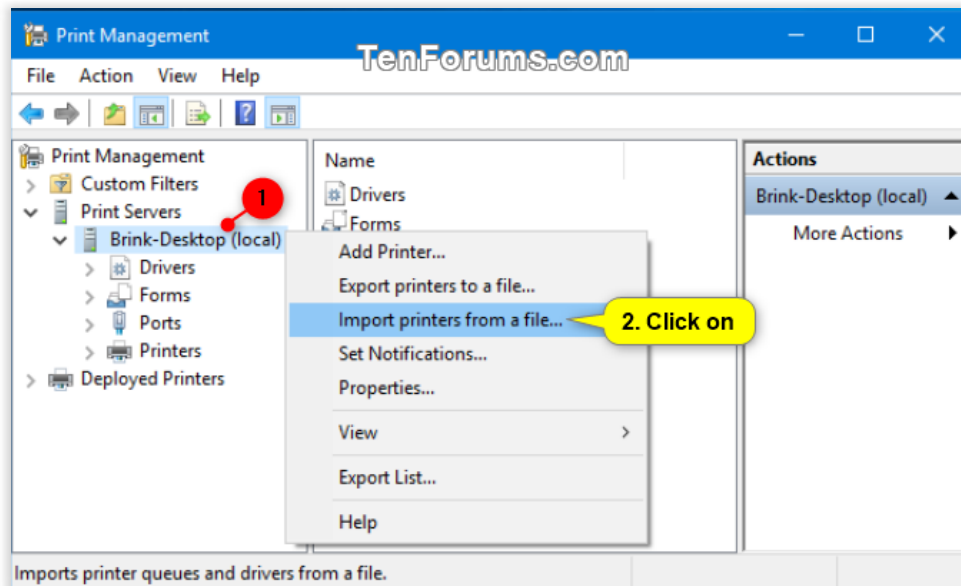
B) Select (dot) **Import printer queues and printer drivers from a file**, click/tap on **Next**, and go to **step 5** below. (see screenshot below)



4. Import Printers using Printer Management

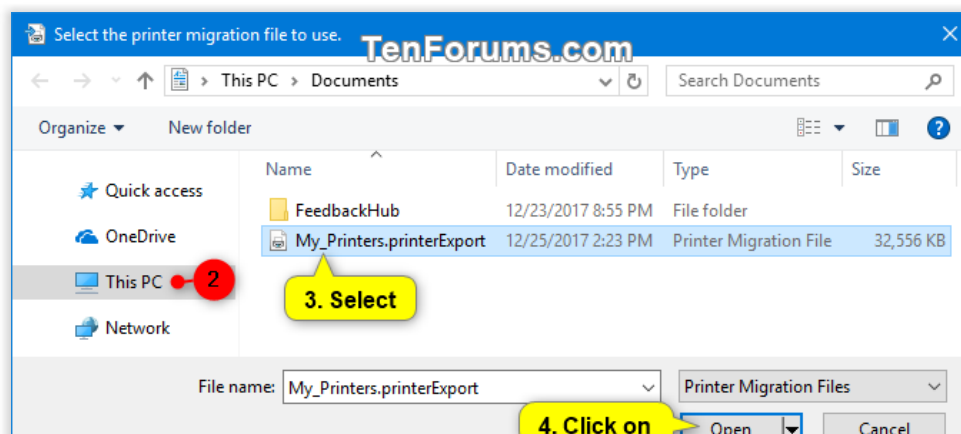
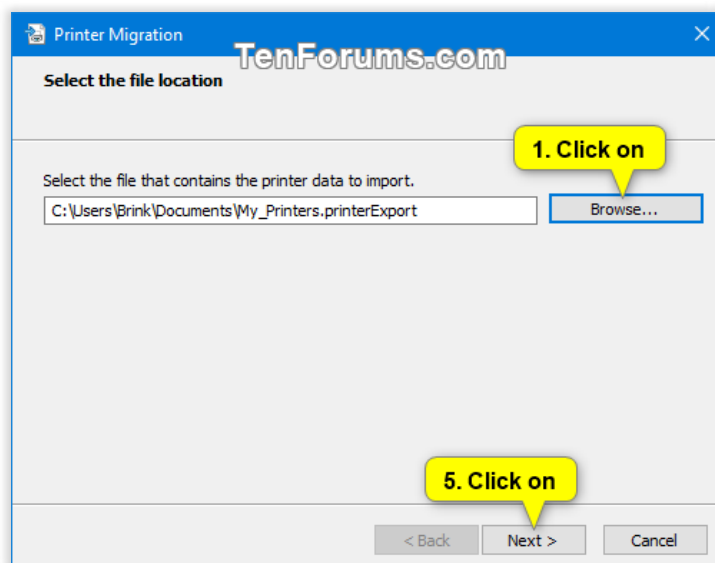
A) Press the **Win+R** keys to open Run, type **printmanagement.msc** into Run, and click/tap on **OK** to open Printer Management.

B) In the left pane of Printer Management, expand open **Printer Servers**, right click or press and hold on the **local** print server for this PC, click/tap on **Import printers from a file**, and go to **step 5** below. (see screenshot below)

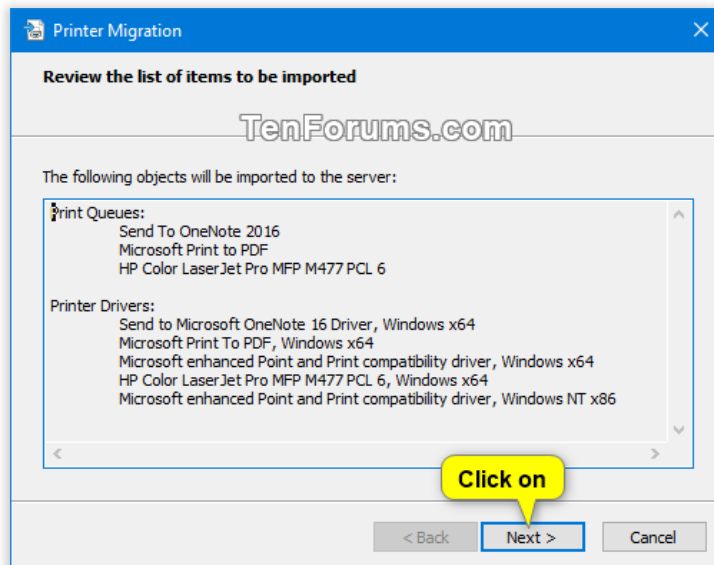


5. Perform the steps below to select the exported ".printerExport" file you want to import: (see screenshots below)

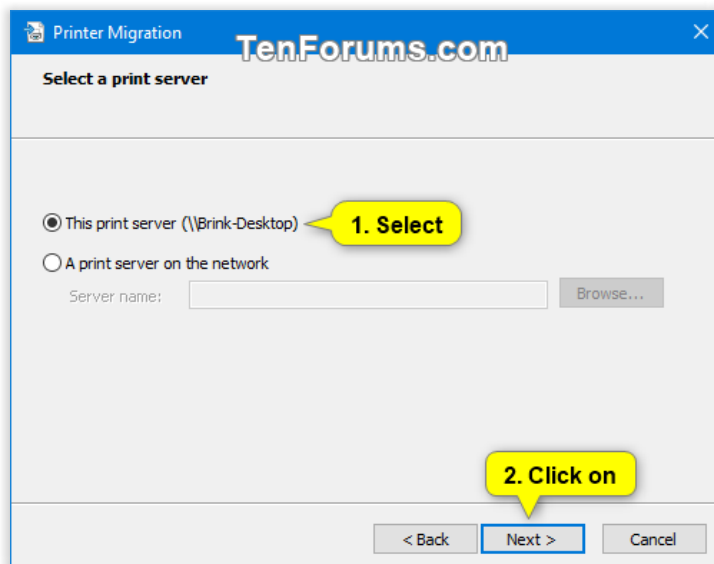
- A) Click/tap on the **Browse** button.
- B) Navigate to and open the location where you saved the exported .printerExport file from **Option One** above.
- C) Select the ".printerExport" file.
- D) Click/tap on **Open**.
- E) Click/tap on **Next**.



6. Click/tap on **Next**. (see screenshot below)



7. Select (dot) **This print server** to import printers to this PC, and click/tap on **Next**. (see screenshot below)

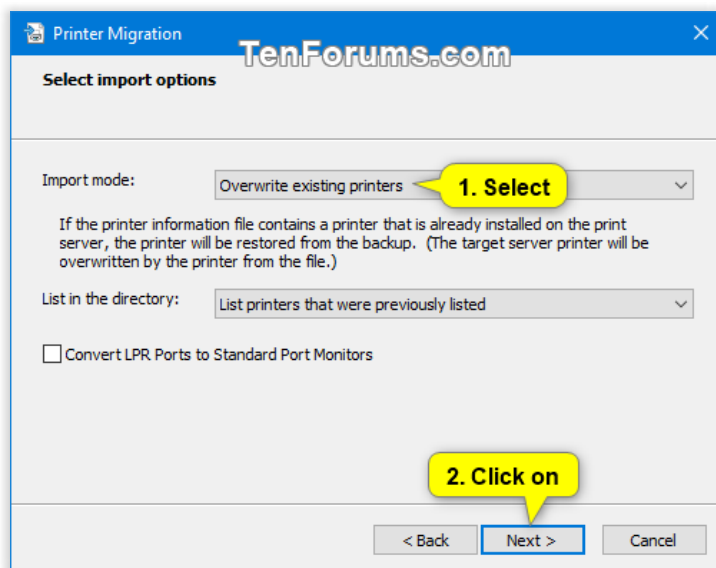
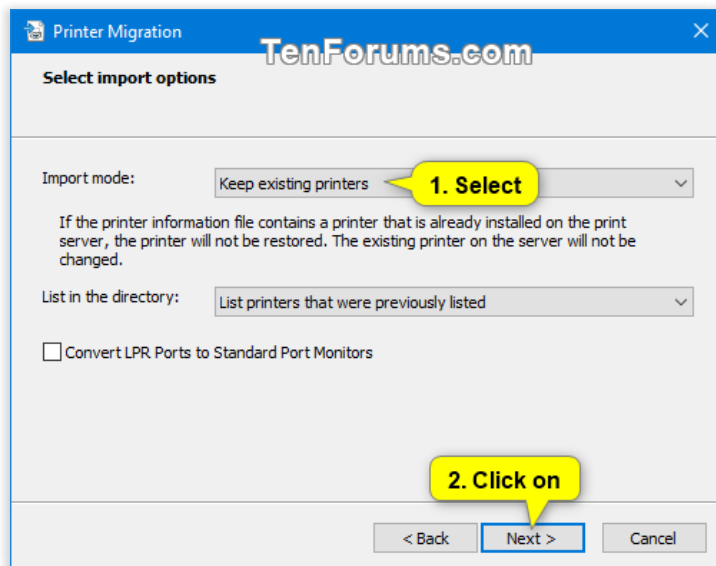


8. Select if you want to **Keep existing printers** or **Overwrite existing printers** for the import mode, and click/tap on **Next**. (see screenshots below)

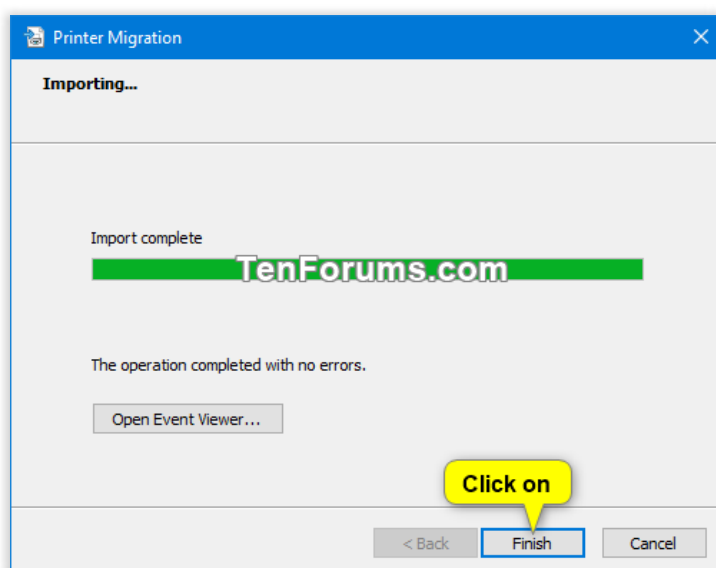
Note

Keep existing printers = If the ".printerExport" file contains a printer that is already installed on this PC, the printer will not be restored from the file. The existing printer on this PC will not be changed.

Overwrite existing printers = If the ".printerExport" file contains a printer that is already installed on this PC, the printer will be restored from the file. The existing printer on this PC will be overwritten (replaced) by the printer from the file.



9. Click/tap on **Finish**. (see screenshot below)



That's it,
Shawn

Related Tutorials

- [How to Set a Default Printer in Windows 10](#)
- [Create Printers Folder Shortcut in Windows](#)
- [How to Rename a Printer in Windows 10](#)
- [How to Share a Printer in Windows 10](#)
- [How to Add a Shared Printer in Windows 10](#)
- [How to Remove a Printer in Windows 10](#)
- [How to Uninstall a Printer Driver in Windows 10](#)

Tutorial Categories



Related Threads

Windows Backup & Restore: 4 hours to make a backup in Backup and Restore

Before Creators I had Windows Backup and Restore routine set to make a daily backup of my SSD which contains only the C drive and my programs. Documents, Pictures etc. are redirected to an internal spinning HDD where these folders are actually...

Backup and restore with Windows 10 in Backup and Restore

I am new to 10 and in the past version of Windows I have used the free version of Backup Maker for backing up my hard drive to an external drive. The program works okay but does have some issues I am not happy with. I thought I would try to use the...

Backup and Restore (Windows 7) in Backup and Restore

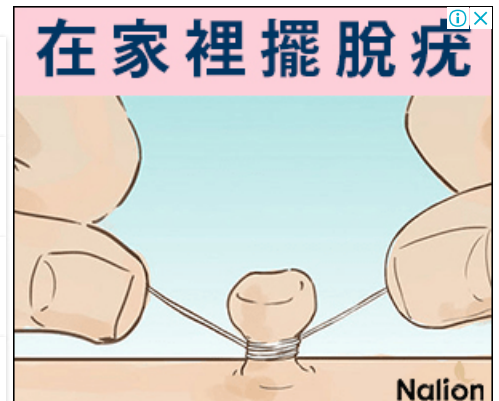
My PC originally came with XP (OEM). My upgrade procedure was to install an SSD and load 8.1 on that. When booting for the first time, I was surprised but pleased to see that I had the choice of 8.1 or XP. Subsequently, I opted to upgrade to Win 10...

What is -- Backup and Restore (Windows 7) Feature in Backup and Restore

I am running W10 and in the Control Panel there is an application called Backup and Restore (Windows 7). I played with it to see exactly what it was doing and I'm not sure and was hoping someone here may know what it is all about. Firstly, why...

✓ Backup and Restore Windows 7? in Backup and Restore

I installed Windows 10 29Jul2105, and that day I created a System Image Backup on both computers. On Sunday, on the desktop of both computers, I found a folder named Windows 7, created 02Aug2015; I have no idea how they were created. A short...



Tags for this Thread

[printer](#)
[View Tag Cloud](#)

Our Sites

[Vista Forums](#)
[Eight Forums](#)
[Seven Forums](#)

Site Links

[Contact Us](#)
[Privacy and Cookies](#)
[Terms of service](#)

About Us

Windows 10 Forums is an independent web site and has not been authorized, sponsored, or otherwise approved by Microsoft Corporation. "Windows 10" and related materials are trademarks of Microsoft Corp.

© Designer Media Ltd

All times are GMT -5. The time now is 05:04.

Find Us