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# WHAT IS AIRCASTPROM3?

AirCastPro<sup>™</sup>3 is a wireless print server that brings dye sublimation printers easily to iOS®, iPad OS®, Android®, Mac®, Windows®, and Linux devices.

#### Getting started with AirCastPro™3 is simple:

- → Power your AirCastPro™3 device.
- ★ Attach your printer to one of the AirCastPro™3 USB ports.
- ★ Connect your device to the AirCastPro™3 hotspot or connect AirCastPro™3 to your network.
- \* Start Printing!

Printing to AirCastPro™3 is done via AirPrint®/IPP, FTP, USB Flash Drive, Guest Upload, or using the hot folder feature— opening up a wide range of workflow possibilities for event and photo booth operators.

AirCastPro™3 is loaded with features: instant borders, overcoat watermarking, color controls, reprint gallery, instant slide show gallery, and more.

In summary, AirCastPro<sup>™</sup>3 is incredibly simple for a first-time user to get up and running, while at the same, the fastest, most powerful and feature-rich print server of its kind that is suitable to a seasoned professional.



## AIRCASTPROM3 FEATURES

## \* Familiar Controls, Improved Navigation

AirCastPro<sup>™</sup> users will feel right at home. With AirCastPro<sup>™</sup>3, we've added a navigation menu to better access the features you need.

## \* Printer Backup

Assign another printer to seamlessly process prints should your primary printer run out of media.

## Printer Auto-Discovery

Plug in your printer and let AirCastPro<sup>™</sup>3 do the rest; discover and configure your printer for you.

## Lightning-fast HEIPr™ Engine

First introduced in AirCastPro™II, HEIPr™ remains the fastest and most powerful imaging engine available in a compact print server configuration.

## \*USB Flash Drive Printing

Plug in your flash drive, media card, or just about any storage device. AirCastPro™3 will scan your storage device for images and automatically print them for you.

## Print with Hot Folders

You can now drag and drop your images to one of AirCastPro<sup>™</sup>3's hot folders for quick, easy and worry-free printing.

## \*FTP Printing

AirCastPro<sup>™</sup>3 includes the ability to print via FTP. Connect your device through FTP, choose your print folder, and upload your images to print instantly.

## \*Panoramic Printing

Print 2 and 3 panel continuous or Frame panoramic prints, from 6x14 to 8x36 (Citizen CX-02, CX-02W and DNP DS620a, DS820, and Primera IP60).

## ★ Guest Photo Upload

Allow your guests to upload and print photos via web page. AirCastPro™3 lets you set your own upload limits for guests.

## \*Print Size Override

Unlike other print servers, AirCastPro<sup>™</sup>3 can be set to allow the user to print any size the installed media allows, without the need to reconfigure (iOS/iPadOS 16.x, 17.4 or later).

## \* Dynamic Slideshow

Use the available HDMI port with any TV/monitor to display your photos as you print.

AirCastPro™3 also lets you connect to its builtin slideshow from any tablet, computer, or Smart TV through a web browser.

## : Instant Borders

AirCastPro™3 can add borders automatically to any of your prints... and you can create as many instances of a printer with varying borders as you like.

## \* More Supported Printers

Many Sinfonia, Citizen, Mitsubishi, HiTi, Primera, FujiFilm, DNP, Sony, Shinko, and Kodak printers are supported by AirCastPro™3.

## \*Overcoat Watermarking

Add custom overcoat watermarks to your prints (Most Citizen and DNP Printers).

## \*Current Print Size At-A-Glance

Each printer instance configured will display the current, configured print size.

## \* Media Levels At-A-Glance

See how much paper your printer has right from your printer's listing with AirCastPro™3's visual paper gauge.

## Reprint Gallery

Need to reprint an image? The Reprint Gallery lets to see the image, choose the number of prints, and change the printer if you need.

## \* Photo Archive

Access individual photos or choose to archive all photos into a downloadable zip archive.

## Hotspot & Internet

Customize your hotspot access point if you choose. Connect to a wireless network to enable internet through your AirCastPro™3 hotspot access point.

## \* Tethered Connections

AirCastPro™3 supports USB Mobile, Ethernet (Local Link), and Ethernet DHCP tethering.

## \*User-selectable ICC profiles

Users can select a variety of color profiles associated with their printer— or use their own custom ICCs.

## \* Print Pools

Use any mix of printers to create printer pools for your high-output events.

## Print From all of Your Devices

AirCastPro<sup>™</sup> 3 goes beyond AirPrint: you can share your connected AirCastPro<sup>™</sup> 3 printers with your computers too!

## \* Password Protection

Prevent unauthorized access to your AirCastPro™3 settings.

## \* Select Network Advertising

Allow or deny your printers to be seen on select networks.

## **★** Multi-Lingual

Localized for 19 languages: English, Spanish, French, German, Dutch, Danish, Finnish, Norwegian, Swedish, Portuguese, Italian, Polish, Russian, Hungarian, Turkish, Greek, Japanese, Korean and Chinese.



## QUICK START

#### **POWER UP**

Your AirCastPro<sup>™</sup>3 comes with a 5v micro USB power cable. Plug the micro USB end into the AirCastPro<sup>™</sup>3 unit. There is no power switch on the unit itself and will power on once it is plugged in.

#### CONNECTING TO THE AIRCASTPRO™3 HOTSPOT

Once you have powered your AirCastPro™3 unit, its hotspot broadcast should be detectable after about 10-30 seconds after powering the unit on. Use the device of your choice to connect to your AirCastPro™3 unit and look for the "AirCastPro" hotspot in your wifi connection setup:

SSID : AirCastPro Password : aircastpro

#### FIRST TIME CONNECTION

Once connected to the AirCastPro<sup>™</sup> hotspot, use a web browser to go to this address:

http://AirCastPro.local

or

http://192.168.4.1

When you connect for the first time, you will need to enter your name and email address to activate AirCastPro™3. You will only need to do this once.

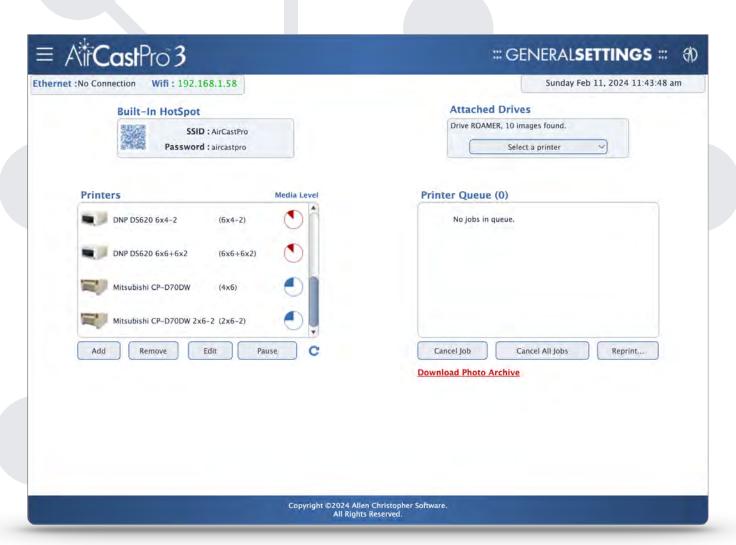
After activating AirCastPro™3, you will be directed to the AirCastPro™3 General Settings page.

With your printer connected and powered on, AirCastPro™3 will discover and configure your printers.



# GETTING TO KNOW AIRCASTPROM3

## GENERAL SETTINGS



The AirCastPro™3 / AirCastPro™3 General Settings page

This is the main landing page for AirCastPro™3. Access to all options and settings can be found here.

#### **NAVIGATION MENU**

AirCastPro™3 includes a significant number of new features. To keep things easily accessible and organized, AirCastPro™3 uses a simple Navigation Menu.



AirCastPro™3 contains a lot of features— each will be explained in detail later in this Guide.

AirCastPro™3 Navigation Menu

#### **ABOUT PANEL**

Information in the About Panel can be vital in diagnosing issues or assessing the overall health of your AirCastPro™3 unit.

: Lifetime print count

: Registration information

\* Software version

**Uptime** 

;★· CPU, RAM, & Disk usage

\* CPU Frequency

\* CPU temperature

\* Services Status

To access the About Panel, press the AirCastPro<sup>™</sup>3 logo in the upper-left corner of the General Settings page or select "About…" in the Navigation Menu:



Press the AirCastPro™3 Logo to access the Info Panel.



AirCastPro™3 Info Panel

To close the Info panel, click/press either on the panel window itself or anywhere on the General Settings page.

#### **POWER PANEL**

This is where to shut down or restart AirCastPro<sup>™</sup>3.

To access the Power Panel, click/press the power icon located in the upper-right of the General Settings page.



Press the Power icon to access the Power Panel.



#### **NETWORK PANEL**

The Network panel shows the status of ethernet and wifi interfaces. If connected, the interface will show the assigned IP address. Connecting to a Wifi network allows internet access through the AirCastPro™3 Hotspot.



#### Connect to Wifi

To connect AirCastPro<sup>™</sup>3 to a wifi network, use the Navigation Menu, click "Network Settings" and then click "Wifi" or press/click on the Wifi label. The wifi connection dialog will open.

Select a wifi network from the Available Networks List. The SSID field will auto-fill with the network SSID. Enter the wifi password into the password field. Press "Save" to continue.

#### Disconnect from Wifi

If you wish to disconnect from a wifi network, use the "Disconnect" button located on the bottom-left corner of the wifi dialog window.

#### Connect to Ethernet

To connect AirCastPro<sup>™</sup>3 with an ethernet cable, plug the ethernet cable into the ethernet port on the back of your AirCastPro<sup>™</sup>3 unit. AirCastPro<sup>™</sup>3 supports DHCP Ethernet, peer networking (Local Link), and mobile USB tethering.



#### DATE & TIME PANEL

The current date and time are set by selecting your region. Select the nearest city to your location.

Default units of measurement (imperial/metric) can also be set in this panel.

To access the Date & Time panel, use the AirCastPro<sup>™</sup>3 Navigation Menu and select "Time/Date" or press/click on the edit icon located next to the Date & Time display on the General Settings page.

Sunday Feb 11, 2024 12:59:13 pm



Built-In HotSpot

#### WIFI HOTSPOT PANEL

The Wifi Hotspot Panel provides access to change your hotspot name (SSID), password, and frequency. A hotspot access QR code is automatically generated, allowing users to scan the QR code with a mobile device to automatically connect.

To Change the hotspot SSID, password or change the frequency, press/click the edit icon in the lower-left area of the Hotspot panel. This will open the Hotspot dialog window.

Clicking on the QR code will give you the option to print it for easy user access.



SSID: AirCastPro

Password: aircastpro





#### MDNS/AUTO-DISCOVERY

mDNS/Auto-Discovery broadcasts the name of your AirCastPro™3 unit allows your connected printers to be discovered on a network. Opening the Navigation Menu will show your current mDNS name and the AirCastPro™3 hotspot IP address.

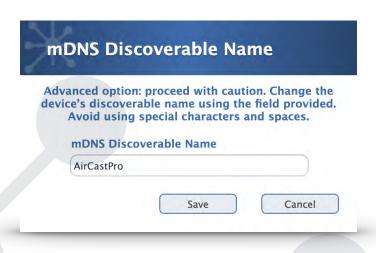
To edit mDNS settings, open the Navigation Menu, click "Advanced...", and click "mDNS/Discovery".

NOTE: Changing the mDNS name will also change your access to the General Settings page and AirCastPro's network share volume. You will need to use the new mDNS name in your browser to connect:

http://MyNewName.local

A reboot of AirCastPro<sup>™</sup>3 may be necessary for your changes to take affect.





#### PRINTER LIST

The Printer list gives you a summary of configured printers/print pools, current print size, and their media levels. Below the list box are controls to add, remove, edit and pause your printers/printer pools.

Printer Auto-Discovery progress will show below the Printer List.





#### PRINT QUEUE

The Printer Queue will display a thumbnail of incoming images, how many prints are in progress, what printer/print pool the image is assigned, as well as the status of each print.

Below the Print Queue are controls to cancel single prints as well as cancel everything in the Print Queue.

If a print error occurs (print size/media mismatch, out of paper, printer door error, etc), a yellow, rectangular "caution" symbol will appear above the Printer Queue. Clicking on the caution symbol will show a list of all errors and provide an option to clear the error log.



Printing Image 2666 on Mitsubishi\_CP-D70DW

23 Aug 2021 16:02:35 EDT

Printer Queue (1)

#### REPRINT GALLERY

The Reprint Gallery can be opened by clicking the "Reprint" button found below the Print Queue.

The Reprint Gallery will display previous print jobs, beginning with the most recent. Each image will attempt to select the printer that it assigned but will allow you to select any current printer that is configured by  $AirCastPro^{TM}3$  as well as set the desired number of copies.

Images in the Reprint Gallery can be deleted individually or the entire Reprint Gallery can be cleared at once.

**Note:** Images will be deleted automatically after 24 hours.





#### PRINT SIZE

Use the Printer Size popup to set the default print size. The Printer Size popup will only list print sizes available for the installed media.

#### ICC PROFILE

AirCastPro<sup>™</sup>3 will attempt to select the default ICC profile for your printer. Other profiles, made for specialty paper, for instance, may also be available. Your custom ICC profiles will be included in this list.

#### OVERCOAT FINISH

This controls the finish of your print. AirCastPro™3 uses the printer's default, which is "Glossy" in most cases.

#### Citizen CX-02 **Print Size ICC Profile** 6x9 CX2\_0101.icc **Overcoat Finish** Watermark Glossy Select an Image... Portrait Border Landscape Border Select an Image... Select an Image... Remaining Prints: 159 / 180 Firmware: 01.30 Save Cancel Serial: CXBC38007374

#### WATERMARK

This lets you select the watermark image you wish to use for your prints. You must select one of the "Partial" options in the Overcoat Finish menu to activate (See Overcoat Watermarking for more information).

### LANDSCAPE/PORTRAIT BORDERS

Use your own custom borders for prints. See "Print Borders" for more information.

#### REMAINING PRINTS

If your printer is online, AirCastPro<sup>™</sup>3 will poll your printer for media levels. If your printer is offline, the Remaining Prints count will be an estimate.

#### FIRMWARE VERSION

This shows your printer's firmware version. Please note that not all printers will show a firmware version.

#### SERIAL NUMBER

This shows your printer's serial number. Some printers, like the Primera IP60 allow you to set a unique serial number, which is necessary if using more than one of the same printer with AirCastPro $^{TM}$ .

## PRINTER COLOR SETTINGS

#### BRIGHTNESS

Controls the brightness of your prints. AirCastPro™3 defaults to "None".

#### CONTRAST

Controls the contrast of your prints. AirCastPro™3 defaults to "None".

#### SATURATION

Controls the saturation of your prints. AirCastPro™3 defaults to "None".

#### COMPOSITE GAMMA

Sets the gamma of your prints. AirCastPro<sup>™</sup>3 defaults to "1100".



† Please note that Brightness, Contrast, Saturation, and Gamma controls have no effect if the Color Correction option is set to "Raw".

 $AirCastPro^{TM}3$  is tuned to provide optimum prints for your printer and as a result, encourage users to color correct images before printing to  $AirCastPro^{TM}3$ .

## PRINTER ADVANCED SETTINGS

NOTE: Available options will vary depending on the manufacturer and printer model. Below are some of the most common options.

#### **COLOR MODEL**

Lists available color models (RGB, CMY, CMYK, etc). The default value is "RGB"".

#### COLOR PRECISION

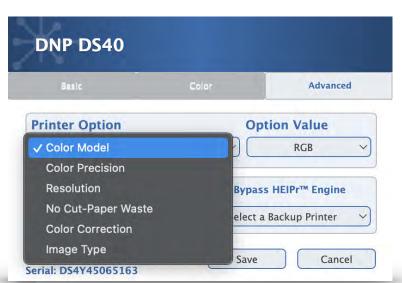
Sets the value of color reproduction.

The default value is "Best".

#### RESOLUTION

Some printers offer various print resolutions.

The default value is "300".



#### PRINT SPEED

Sets the printer speed. AirCastPro™3 uses the printer's default, which is usually "Normal" or "Fine".

#### NO CUT-PAPER WASTE

Set this option to "True" to reduce paper waste. AirCastPro™3 defaults to "False".

#### COLOR CORRECTION

Provides varying degree of color correction. AirCastPro™3 defaults to "Raw", leaving your images untouched.

#### IMAGE TYPE

Sets the type of file expected to print. AirCastPro™3 defaults to "Photo".

#### REMOVE EXCESS WHITESPACE

Some images are converted to PDF format and are embedded with whitespace padding. If you find that your image is overly zoomed or shows areas of unwanted whitespace, Select this option.

#### FILL THE PRINT AREA

Fills the entire print area with the image using center-weighted cropping.

Deselect this option of you want the image to fit to the page size with no cropping. Unless the image and print area are the same aspect ratio, there will be margins of whitespace.

#### BYPASS HEIPR™ ENGINE

AirCastPro<sup>™</sup>3 ships with the brand-new, even faster HEIPr<sup>™</sup> v3 Engine.

The HEIPr™ Engine is responsible for adding

borders, resizing and cropping images if needed, and converting a multitude of image formats into a printable format. In most cases, it is a good idea to keep  $HEIPr^{\text{\tiny TM}}$  on.

There may be situations where the source image matches the print output and the file is small enough where bypassing  $HEIPr^{TM}$  is the best solution for printing. Select this option to deactivate the  $HEIPr^{TM}$  Engine.

#### **BACKUP PRINTER**

With AirCastPro<sup>™</sup>3, you can assign a backup printer to take over should your primary printer run into a paper jam or run out of media. Note that you can only select a different physical printer as a backup; instances of the same physical printer cannot be used.



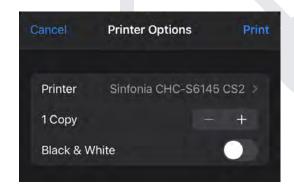


# PRINTING WITH AIRCASTPROM3

## PRINTING WITH IOS® & IPAD OS®

\*For iOS® 13 or later

- 1. Connect to the AirCastPro Hotspot or the same network AirCastPro<sup>™</sup>3 is connected.
- 2. Be sure at least one printer is connected and configured with AirCastPro™3.
- 3. Go to an App you wish to print an image/document (ex. Photos App).
- 4. Find the print option in your App. Some Apps will place the print function within the "Share" option.
- 5. In the Print dialog, select a printer. Your printer will show "AirCastPro" as its location.
- 6. Print the document.







## PRINTING WITH ANDROID®

- 1. Connect to the AirCastPro Hotspot or the same network AirCastPro™3 is connected.
- 2. Be sure at least one printer is connected and configured with AirCastPro™3.
- 3. Open the Settings App, go to Default Printing Service and turn it on. Use the search option to quickly find "Default Printing Service".
- 4. Find the print option in your App. In some Apps, the print option can be found in the ellipsis icon.

5. Press the reveal icon to show available printers. Select a printer from

the list. Your printer will show "AirCastPro" as its location.

6. Print the document.







AirCastPro<sup>TM</sup> 3 is compatible with some  $3^{rd}$  party Apps like Mopria and "Let's Print Droid". If you have issues using Android native printing, download the free Mopria app from the Google Play Store and use it to connect to your AirCastPro<sup>TM</sup> 3.

## PRINTING WITH WINDOWS®

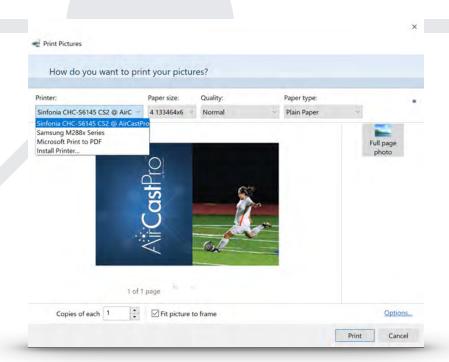
- 1. Connect to the AirCastPro Hotspot or the same network AirCastPro™3 is connected.
- 2. In the Windows Settings Panel, got to the Printers & Scanners section.
- 3. Press the "Add a printer or scanner" button to search for your printer.
- 4. When you see your printer in the discovery list, select the printer and then press the "Add device" button.
- 5. A progress bar will display the installation process. It may take a moment to install and configure your printer.







Once completed, your printer will be available for use.



## PRINTING WITH MAC OS®

- 1. Connect to the AirCastPro Hotspot or the same network AirCastPro™3 is connected.
- 2. Open the Mac OS System Preferences, go to the Printers & Scanners section.
- 3. Press the Plus (+) button below the printer list to search for your printer.
- 4. When you see your printer in the discovery list, select the printer and then press the "Add" button.





Once completed, your printer will be available for use.



## PRINTING WITH LINUX

- 1. Connect to the AirCastPro Hotspot or the same network AirCastPro™3 is connected.
- 2. In the Windows Settings Panel, got to the Printers & Scanners section.
- 3. Press the "Add a printer or scanner" button to search for your printer.
- 4. When you see your printer in the discovery list, select the printer and then press the "Add device" button.
- 5. A progress bar will display the installation process. It may take a moment to install and configure your printer.



Once completed, your printer will be available for use.





# ADVANCED FEATURES PRINTER INSTANCES

#### WHAT IS A PRINTER INSTANCE?

A Printer instance is a representation of your physical, attached printer. AirCastPro™3 lets you create as many variations of your attached printer as you wish. A printer instance appears as its own, independent printer to your devices.

#### WHY ARE PRINTER INSTANCES USEFUL?

There are a number of reasons why you may need additional instances of your attached printer. The most common reason is to take advantage of multiple print sizes supported by your installed media.

You may want to create different instances with varying printer settings:

- : Instance using 4x6 print size
- : Instance using two 2x6 print size
- : Instance using 4x6 print size with a graphic border
- \* Several instances of the same print size, each with a different graphic border
- : Instances using Overcoat Watermarking (or as with borders, varying instances of watermarking)

These are just a handful of scenarios where multiple instances of the same printer are useful.

#### How to create another instance of your printer

With your printer attached and powered on, press the "Add" button (General Settings Page, below the Printer List). Follow the steps provided in the "Add Printer" dialog.

## PRINTER POOLING

#### What is a Printer Pool?

A Printer pool is a collection of two or more printers working together as a single printer to manage high print volumes, "load balancing" incoming jobs and sending them to the printer with the least amount of prints in its queue.

A Printer Pool will also redirect jobs away from a printer that has stopped because of an error (paper jam, out of paper, etc), keeping your workflow moving. Once created, a Printer Pool will show no differently than any other printer available to your devices.

Even though a printer may be part of a Printer Pool, you can still select and use any printer outside of the pool.

- A Printer Pool must contain at least two printers.
- There is no limitation on the number of printers in a pool.
- Printers in a pool do not have to be the same make or model.
- \*Printers with different print sizes can be a part of the same pool, but it is not advised.
- If a printer in your pool receives an error (depleted media, paper jam, etc), incoming jobs will be diverted to other printers in the pool automatically until the error is resolved.

#### Pro Tip:

The first printer added to a pool should be the fastest of your printers—it will receive priority over other printers in your pool.

In order to create a Printer Pool, the printers you wish to use must already be configured in AirCastPro™3.

#### CREATING A PRINTER POOL

Creating a Printer Pool requires at least one printer set up in AirCastPro™3. If at least one printer has been

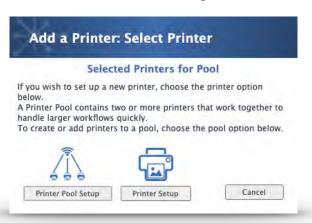
set up, pressing the Add Printer or Pool control will bring up an option to create a printer pool:

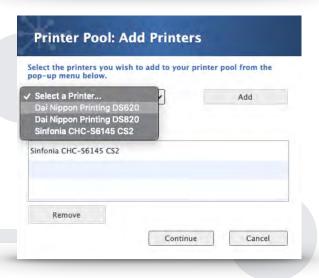
- 1. Press the "Add" button below the Printer List, on the General Settings page.
- 2. In the next dialog window, press the Printer Pool Setup
- 3. Use the Printer Selection pop-up menu to select a printer.
- 4. Use the Add Printer button to add it to your pool.
  Use the Remove Printer button (directly below the
  Selected Printers for Pool list) to remove a printer from
  your pool.
- 5. Press the Continue button once you have added the desired printers to your pool.
- 6. You can assign both Portrait and Landscape graphic borders to your Printer Pool.

  Use the Landscape and Portrait pop-up menus to select the image(s) you wish to use.
- 7. Press the Finish button to create your Printer Pool.

Your new Printer Pool will now show in the Printers and Pools list, with the "Pool" tag added to its name.









## **NETWORK SHARE VOLUME**

AirCastPro™3 can be accessed through its network share volume via SMB. AFP (Apple) is also supported for legacy Macs.

There are several reasons you would need access to AirCastPro™3's shared volume:

- Add your own graphic borders
- Add your own Overcoat Watermarking graphic
- Access AirCastPro™3's hot folders

Make sure your device is connected to the AirCastPro hotspot or connected to the same network that AirCastPro™3 is connected.

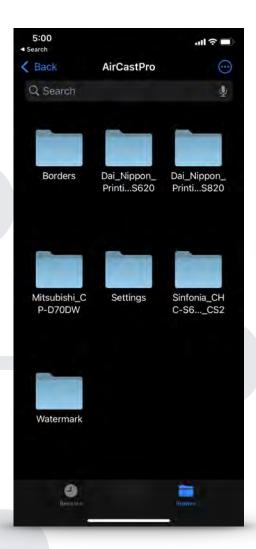
On the AirCastPro Share volume, you will see these directories:

- Borders: This is where your AirCastPro™3 border images are stored. Borders should be saved as PNG images.
- Watermark: This is where your AirCastPro™3 Overcoat
  Watermark images are stored. Watermark images should be
  black & white, saved as JPG images.
- Settings: This is where your password protection file is stored.

  Removing the password file will reset access to the

  AirCastPro™3 General Settings page.

Hot folders are also located in the AirCastProShare volume. Each hot folder will correspond to the name of the printer it represents.



#### AIRCASTPRO SHARE ADDRESS & CREDENTIALS

**Network Address:** 

smb://AirCastPro.local

or

smb://192.168.4.1

(Only if you are connected to the AirCastPro Hotspot)

User Name : aircastpro Password : aircastpro



AirCastPro™3 Network Share QR Code. Scan to connect.

## CONNECTING FROM IOS® AND IPAD OS®

\*For iOS® 13 or later

1. Connect to the AirCastPro Hotspot or the same network AirCastPro™3 is connected.

Open the Files app.

In the upper-right corner of the Browse page, click the ellipsis (...). Select the "Connect to Server" option.

- 2. In the Server field, type: aircastpro.local
- 3. The next screen will ask if you wish to connect as a Guest or Registered User. Choose "Registered User" and enter the following credentials:
- 4. Name: aircastpro Password: aircastpro

Press the "Next" link at the top of the page. If the information was entered correctly, The AirCastProShare volume should be available.





## CONNECTING FROM ANDROID®

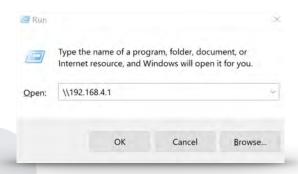
Connecting to AirCastPro™3's shared volume with Android® requires use of a third-party application capable of accessing SMB (samba) network volumes such as X-plore File Manager. Server address, username, and password is the same as connecting via iOS® (see Connecting from iOS® and iPad OS®).

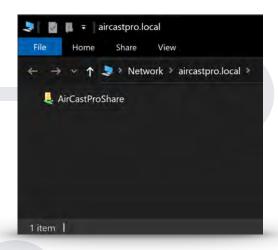
## CONNECTING FROM WINDOWS®

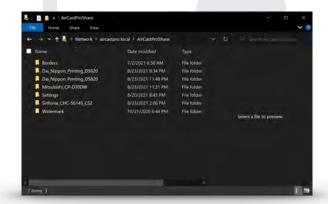
- Connect to the AirCastPro Hotspot.
   Press the Windows Key and "R" key to open the Run dialog.
- 2. Enter the address in the Run text field: \\192.168.4.1
- 3. If you have iTunes® installed, you can use the mDNS name: \aircastpro.local
- 4. Press the "OK" button.
- 5. When prompted for user information, connect as a registered user:

Name: AIRCASTPRO Password: aircastpro

The AirCastPro Share volume is now accessible.







## CONNECTING FROM MAC OS®

Connect to the AirCastPro Hotspot.

#### Method 1

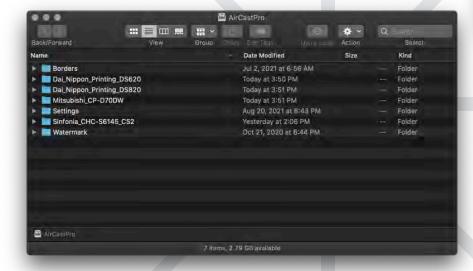
In a web browser, enter smb://aircastpro:aircastpro@aircastpro.local

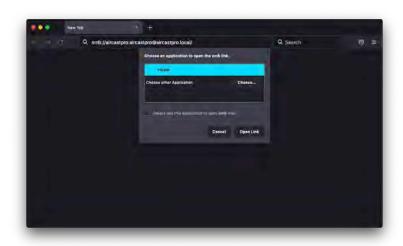
The browser will ask for permission to use the Finder.app to connect.

#### Method 2

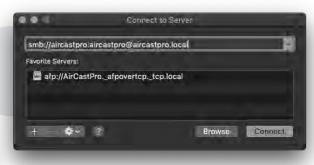
From the Finder, press CMD + K to open the "Go to Server..." dialog.

Enter the address in the provided field smb://aircastpro:aircastpro@aircastpro.local





Method 1 using web browser to connect to AirCastPro™3



Method 2 using "Connect to Server" to connect to AirCastPro™3

#### CONNECTING FROM LINUX

Go to the Network browse in your Linux Desktop Environment.

Find the AirCastPro shared volume.

When attempting to open the volume, you will be asked for your credentials:

User Name : aircastpro Password : aircastpro

## HOT FOLDER PRINTING

#### WHAT IS HOT FOLDER PRINTING?

Simply put, hot folder printing is the process of copying one or more images into a designated folder, which lets AirCastPro<sup>™</sup>3 print these images. Hot folder printing can be used with laptops as well desktop computers as well as iOS® and iPad OS® (iOS® version 13 or greater).

Your workflow may need a solution where a photographer needs to regularly download images for print or you may use a photo or imaging app that allow you to save images in a location of your choice. Either way, hot folder printing is the easiest way to move your photos from disk to prints.

#### CONNECTING TO A HOT FOLDER

- 1. First, be sure to have your printer connected and configured by AirCastPro<sup>™</sup>3. Feel free to customize your printer settings as needed but be sure to leave the "Create Hot Folder" option selected.
- 2. Next, connect to the AirCastPro shared volume (see the section Network Share Volume for more information).
- 3. When connected, you should see a folder that shares the name of your printer. This is the hot folder associated with that printer.

  Dragging & dropping one or more images into this folder will begin the process.



For convenience, hot folders can be aliased (Mac OS®) or Mapped as a network drive (Windows).

## PRINT BORDERS

With AirCastPro™3, you can automatically add a graphic border to your print.

#### SELECT A BORDER

Open the Edit dialog of the printer you wish to add borders. In the Borders section of the Edit dialog, use the pop-up menus to select landscape and portrait versions of your border.

NOTE: AirCastPro<sup>™</sup>3 will attempt to detect your image's orientation and will automatically select the appropriate border. If you plan to print only one orientation, you can use the corresponding border orientation and leave the other without a border.

After making your selection(s), click "Save".



#### ADDING YOUR CUSTOM BORDERS TO AIRCASTPRO™3

When creating your custom border, the image should:

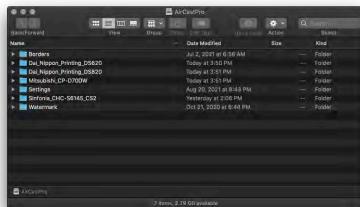
Match the size of your print (ex. 4x6 print should be 1200x1800 pixels).

\* Saved as a PNG file.

If you plan to process both portrait and landscape oriented images with AirCastPro™3, consider creating portrait and landscape versions of your border.

#### LOADING YOUR BORDERS INTO AIRCASTPROM3

- Connect your Phone, tablet, or computer to AirCastPro™3 and access the Network Share Volume (See Network Share Volume).
- Copy your custom border graphics to the "Borders" directory.
- Go to the AirCastPro™3 General settings page with your web browser, choose the printer you wish to add your borders and press the "Edit" button below the printer list.
- In the Edit dialog, use the Border landscape and portrait menus to select your new border graphics. Press "Save" to apply the changes to your printer setup.



# OVERCOAT WATERMARKING

- \*DNP DS620, DS820, & QW410
- \*Citizen CX-02W, CX-02, & CZ-01

# What is Overcoat Watermarking?

Overcoat Watermarking is the process of using an image to "etch" itself into the finish of your print.

You've seen this done with official ID cards, advertisements, and copyrighted images. Imagine your print with its glossy finish. Now imagine "dull" areas in the finish, perhaps in the shape of your logo.

Overcoat Watermarking is subtle, most noticeable when light strikes the surface of your photo just right.



## CREATING A GRAPHIC FOR OVERCOAT WATERMARKING

- For best results, your graphic should be black, set onto a white background.
- Your finished graphic file should match the dimensions of your print size (ex. 4x6, 1200x1800 pixels).
- \*Your finished graphic should be saved as a JPG file.

# LOADING YOUR OVERCOAT WATERMARK GRAPHIC INTO AIRCASTPROM3

- 1. Connect your Phone, tablet, or computer to AirCastPro<sup>™</sup>3 and access the Network Share Volume (See Network Share Volume).
- 2. Copy your custom Overcoat Watermark graphic(s) to the "Watermark" directory.
- 3. Go to the AirCastPro<sup>™</sup>3 General settings page with your web browser, choose the printer you wish to add your Overcoat Watermark and press the "Edit" button below the printer list.



4. In the Edit dialog, use the "Option" pop-up menu and select "Overcoat Pattern". Next, use the "Value" pop-up menu and select any value that contains "Partial". Doing this will reveal the Watermark pop-up menu. Select your custom Overcoat Watermark graphic in the pop-up menu. Press "Save" to apply the changes to your printer setup.

# **GLOBAL SETTINGS**

Global settings control the overall behavior of your AirCastPro<sup>™</sup>3. There are two available settings in this section, both of which control how you print with AirCastPro<sup>™</sup>3.

#### **DEFAULT INSTANCES**

When attaching a printer to AirCastPro<sup>™</sup>3, the factory default is to install multiple instances of your printer for your convenience. As an example, a Citizen CX-02 with 6x8 media will install the following printer instances:

- : Citizen CX-02
  - This instance is meant to print any whole size prints (2x6, 3.375x6, 3.5x6, 3.75x6, 4x6, 6x6, 6x8).
- Citizen CX-02 2x6 2

  This instance is meant to print only 2x6 2 cut prints.
- Citizen CX-02 6x6+6x2This instance is meant to print only 6x6+6x2 cut prints.
- Citizen CX-02 6x2 4

  This instance is meant to print only 6x2 4 cut prints.
- : Citizen CX-02 6x4 2

  This instance is meant to print only 6x4 2 cut prints.

# WHY CREATE INSTANCES FOR "CUT" PRINT SIZES?

<u>IPP/AirPrint does not recognize cut sizes</u> (ex:  $2x6\ 2$ ) as a selection option. Instead, AirCastPro<sup>™</sup>3 tells IPP/AirPrint that it is a 4x6 print and will perform the 2x6 cut for you.

As a result, any cut size prints must be presented as its own printer instance.

With "whole" sizes (4x6, 6x6, 6x8, etc.), IPP/AirPrint can easily recognize these sizes and can be selected from the iOS print size option in the iOS print dialog. This is why only one instance (Citizen CX-02) is created for these sizes.

## PRINT SIZE OVERRIDE

Because IPP/AirPrint can recognize whole print sizes, you may wish to enable the "Print Size Override" option.

This option lets a user select the size they wish to print from their device, rather than use the single, default size set in  $AirCastPro^{TM}3$ .

As an example, your Citizen CX-02 printer may be set to 6x8 as your default print size. You may decide that you wish to print a 6x6 instead.

With "Print Size Override" enabled, you can select your print size from your device's print dialog to print the desired size. This eliminates the need to make any changes in AirCastPro™3 in order to print the size you need.

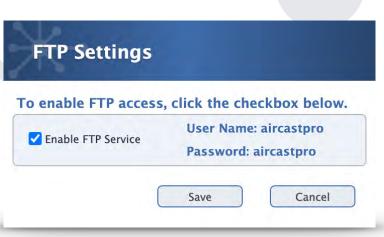
# FTP UPLOAD

AirCastPro<sup>™</sup>3 provides FTP services, allowing direct access to your AirCastPro<sup>™</sup>3's hot folders.

## ENABLE FTP SERVICE

- To enable FTP service, go to the AirCastPro™3 General Settings page's Navigation Menu, go to the "Advanced…" section, and click on "FTP Settings".
- Click the "Enable FTP Service" checkbox.

Your user name and password will be displayed in the dialog. If you wish to change your password, please refer to "File and FTP Access" in the AirCastPro™3 Security section of this guide.



## CONNECT TO AIRCASTPRO™3 WITH FTP

Use your device's FTP service or an FTP client to connect to AirCastPro<sup>™</sup>3. You will need to know your user name, password, and port used to connect.

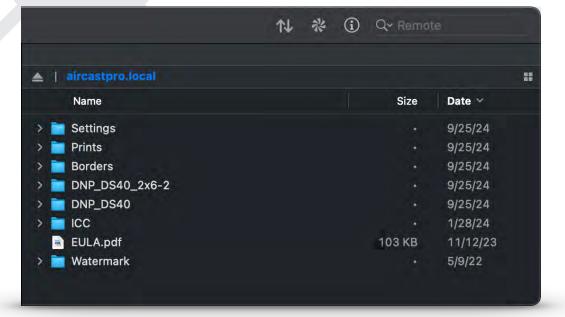
**User Name**: aircastpro (this cannot be changed)

**Password**: aircastpro (default, but can be changed in the <u>File and FTP</u> Access dialog)

Port: 21

Once connected, you can upload directly to your AirCastpro™3 hot folders, border, or watermark folders.







# AIRCASTPROM3 SECURITY

Securing your printers rarely, if ever, comes to mind when running an event. The reality is that any device residing on the same network as your printers can potentially access them, not to mention your AirCastPro Settings page or Share Volume as well.

Your security has been a priority since the first AirCastPro<sup>™</sup> and have expanded your options with AirCastPro<sup>™</sup>3. With AirCastPro<sup>™</sup>3, all of your security options have been consolidated into a single area, "Security", which can be found in the Navigation Menu.



# SETTING PASSWORDS FOR AIRCASTPROM3

#### SETTINGS PAGE ACCESS

Creating a password for the **Settings Access** section will force password authentication when accessing the AirCastPro<sup>™</sup>3 General Settings Page. If you don't want to use a password, clear both fields and save (not recommended).



## PRINTER ACCESS

The **Printer Access** controls determine the visibility of your printers over the networks your AirCastPro<sup>™</sup>3 is connected to.

If you require internet access but have to connect to someone else's wifi / ethernet, it is recommended that you disable Outside Wifi and Ethernet access. You can connect to the AirCastPro™ Hotspot, which will redirect outside internet access through the hotspot and keep your printers off of an outside or open network.

# Security Settings Access Printer Access Print Sharing Over Networks Hotspot is always enabled Outside Wifi Save Cancel

#### FILE AND FTP ACCESS

Your **File Access** password allows access to AirCastPro<sup>™</sup>3's Network Share Volume and FTP service. While you can change the password, the user name will always be **aircastpro**.



# RESETTING YOUR PASSWORD

# GENERAL SETTINGS PAGE RESET

If you forget the password to access the AirCastPro<sup>™</sup>3 **General Settings page**, a "Reset Password" option will appear after your incorrect attempt. Click

on the Reset Password text to restore it to the default "aircastpro" password.

Be sure to immediately change your Settings Access page password after it has been reset.

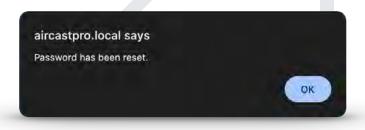


## FILE ACCESS AND FTP RESET

If you forget the password to access the AirCastPro™3 **Share Volume or FTP**, a "Reset Password" option

is available under the "File Access tab of the Security dialog window.. Click on the Reset Password text to restore it to the default "aircastpro" password.

NOTE: Resetting any of your passwords will force them to default to "aircastpro".







# AIRCASTPRO™3 SLIDESHOW

AirCastPro<sup>™</sup>3 has a built-in slideshow module as well as various settings for customization. AirCastPro<sup>™</sup>3 gives you two ways to display your slideshow:

- Connect a monitor or TV to your AirCastPro™3 unit's HDMi port
- Use any device with a web browser to connect to the AirCastPro™3 Slideshow page.

# AIRCASTPROM3 SLIDESHOW WITH HDMI

Using a standard HDMI cable, and a monitor/TV, you can connect to AirCastPro<sup>™</sup>3 and display all of your incoming photos.

- With AirCastPro™3 powered down, plug in your HDMI cable to the HDMI port located on your AirCastPro™3 unit.
- Connect the other end of your HDMI cable to your monitor or TV.
- First, power your monitor/TV, then power your AirCastPro™3.

Once your AirCastPro™3 powers up, you will see the slideshow screen appear. If you have no photos available, you will see just the slideshow background or a message that says, "No Photos Yet!"

† Be sure that your monitor/TV is set to receive a signal from the HDMI port you've selected. Some monitors and TVs have multiple HDMI inputs.

# WIRELESS AIRCASTPROM3 SLIDESHOW

You can also connect to the AirCastPro<sup>™</sup>3 slideshow with any device that has a web browser, as long as the device is on the same network as your AirCastPro<sup>™</sup>3 or is connected to the AirCastPro hotspot.

There are no limits to how many devices you can run your AirCastPro™3 slideshow on; you can have multiple devices (iPads/tablets, Smart TVs, PCs, etc.) running your slideshow in multiple locations around your event.

To connect a device to the AirCastPro™3 slideshow:

- Make sure the device is on the same network as your AirCastPro™3 or is connected to the AirCastPro Hotspot.
- Open a web browser and got to <a href="http://aircastpro.local/slideshow">http://aircastpro.local/slideshow</a> (or <a href="http://192.168.1.4/slideshow">http://192.168.1.4/slideshow</a>). You can substitute any of AirCastPro's IP addresses in the URLs above.

# No Photos Yet!

# CUSTOMIZING YOUR AIRCASTPROM3 SLIDESHOW

There are a few settings to help customize the appearance of your slideshow. From the AirCastPro™3 General Settings page, use the navigation menu to open your Slideshow Controls.

## SLIDESHOW PHOTO STYLE

The Slideshow Photo Style option lets you select one of three options:

- Frame, Shadow. This option will add a white frame around the photo as well as a drop shadow.
- Frame. This option adds only a white frame around the photo.
- Shadow. This option adds only a drop shadow to the photo.

## SLIDESHOW BACKGROUND

Here, you can choose one of the ten background options for your slideshow.



# SLIDESHOW PHOTO SIZE

Your monitor/TV may have a reasonably high resolution, which will make your slideshow photos appear small. Use the photo size popup to increase the size of your slideshow photos.

NOTE: Changing the photo size will only affect incoming photos and will not resize existing slideshow photos.



# AIRCASTPROM3 PHOTO ARCHIVE

After an event, you may wish to create an archive of prints for your client, as a backup, or for other purposes. With AirCastPro™3, you can easily create a ZIP archive that can be downloaded to your device.

# CREATING AN ARCHIVE

From the AirCastPro™3 General Settings page, go to the navigation menu and click "Archive Photos".

The Archive Dialog will show how many photos can be archived.

- If you have one or more photos, you can click the "Create" button in the Archive Dialog to start building your archive file.
- A download link will appear below the Print Queue listbox when complete.
- You can download by clicking on the archive link that is provided or you can copy the ZIP file directly from your AirCastPro Share Volume.
- Do not power down your AirCastPro™3 while the archive is being created.

You can also delete an archive by clicking the "Delete Archives" button in the Archive Dialog. Archives, as with photos, will be automatically removed after 72 hours.

Creating or deleting an archive does not remove individual images contained in the Reprint Gallery or in the Prints directory on your AirCastPro Share Volume.



Printer Queue (0)

Cancel Job

**Download Photo Archive** 

No jobs in queue.

Cancel All Jobs

Reprint.

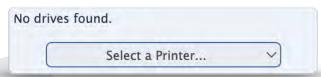


# PRINTING FROM ATTACHED DRIVES

# AUTOMATED BATCH PRINTING

AirCastPro<sup>™</sup>3 lets you attach a drive– USB Flash, SD, SD Micro, or any USB mass storage device– to batch print photos. AirCastPro<sup>™</sup>3 will recognize most formats including FAT32, ExFAT, NTFS, Mac OS Extended, and ext4.

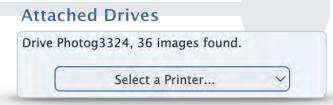
# **Attached Drives**



## HOW IT WORKS

Once your drive is plugged in and the drive is assigned to a printer, AirCastPro<sup>™</sup>3 will scan the drive for all readable image files and then print them to the printer of your choice.

- Step 1: Make sure "Select a Printer..." is visible in the Attached Drive popup menu. If a printer is selected, the drive will be scanned and images will be immediately sent for print.
- Step 2: Attach your drive to one of AirCastPro™3's USB ports. It should only take a few moments to mount the drive and scan for images.



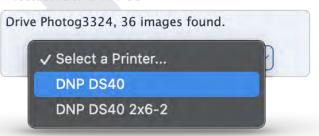
Step 3: Select the printer you wish to print with from the Attached Drives printer popup menu.

In the Attached Drives section, the status will update progress of the processing of your images. When complete, the drive will automatically unmount and will display "No drives found."

# Attached Drives



#### **Attached Drives**





# AIRCASTPROM3 GUEST PHOTO UPLOAD

AirCastPro<sup>™</sup>3, guests can share and print their own photos through a designated web page that allows them to upload a predetermined amount of photos.

# **ENABLE AND CONFIGURE GUEST PHOTO UPLOAD**

- User the Navigation Menu on the AirCastPro™3 General Settings page, go to "Advanced..." and then to "Guest Photo Upload".
- Click the "Enable Photo Upload" checkbox to toggle Photo Upload on or off.
- Select the printer from the popup menu that you wish to send your photos to.
- Set the limit of how many photos a single guest can upload.
- To access the Guest Photo Upload page, go to <a href="http://AirCastPro.local/upload">http://AirCastPro.local/upload</a> or <a href="http://192.168.4.1/upload">http://192.168.4.1/upload</a>.

**NOTE**: The <u>user must be on the same network as your AirCastPro<sup>TM</sup>3</u> in order reach the upload page and to send photos to AirCastPro<sup>TM</sup>3.

AirCastPro<sup>™</sup>3 sets a self-expiring cookie that tracks the number of prints sent from the guest's device. Please note that quitting the browser and restarting will also reset the cookie, in turn, resetting the upload count.



Photo Up		Press the plus (+) button on the upload box to add photos.  Press the "Upload" button to print.  Upload
	Copyright <b>©</b>	2024 Allen Christopher Software. All Rights Reserved.



# HELPFUL TIPS

There are a many ways to help streamline your workflow with AirCastPro<sup>™</sup>3. This section is meant to inspire you to streamline your workflow and create options for your events that give you a big competitive advantage.

# LEVERAGE THE POWER OF PRINTER INSTANCES

One printer is more than enough to take advantage of multiple printer instances:

- \* Use multiple borders and/or watermarks.
- Multiple print sizes.
- Separating different source processes (ex. An instance for AirPrint®/IPP, another for hot folder use).

#### PRINTER POOLING AND INSTANCES

What if you could create printer pool instances with the same printers and use them in the same way as printer instances?

Using the printer instance method, you can create printer pools to achieve the same basic purpose of creating an instance of a printer, but also leveraging several printers as well:

- You can create a printer pool to handle a specific print size (ex.: 4x6 or 2x6 prints) or other specific options.
- \* Several print pools can offer a variety of borders.
- Printers/Printer Instances can be a member of one or more Printer Pools. You can mix and match as you see fit.

## HOT FOLDERS INSTEAD OF PRINT DIALOGS

While the obvious power of hot folder printing lies with the ability of using one or more computers to connect and print images with AirCastPro<sup>™</sup>3 hot folders. The same is possible with iOS®, iPad OS®, and Android®.

Most of Apple's apps allow you to save images outside of the Photos app, using FILES. Some developers have recognized the added power of this as well.

Once you have established an SMB connection to AirCastPro<sup>™</sup>3 (see "*Network Share Volume*" for more information), you can use it as a destination for saving files. Choosing a hot folder as a save destination is all you will need to automatically trigger printing.

### KEEP YOUR PRINTERS PRIVATE

It is a necessity for many photo booth setups to have an internet connection. With AirCastPro<sup>™</sup>3, the photo booth (iPad) connects to the AirCastPro<sup>™</sup> Hotspot, while connecting the AirCastPro<sup>™</sup>3 to outside wifi feeds internet to the photo booth.

Let's pause for a moment.

In many cases, there's not need to think about the outside wifi connection other than connecting your AirCastPro™3. In doing so, your printers are accessible to anyone who has access to that wifi network.

To secure your printers, turn off printer sharing for Wifi and Ethernet in the. Printers secured!

## MULTIPLE AIRCASTPRO UNITS ON A NETWORK

You can run any amount of AirCastPro units on a network easily. The only requirement is that each AirCastPro<sup>TM</sup> unit must have a unique network name. To set up two or more AirCastPro<sup>TM</sup> units, follow these steps:

- Boot up your first AirCastPro™ unit. It's important that you configure each unit separately and without you additional units to minimize confusion.
- Go to the mDNS/Auto-Discovery panel and give your AirCastPro™ unit a unique name (ex: AirCastPro2).
- Next, go to the <u>Wifi Hotspot Panel</u> and change your SSID name to a unique name, preferably the same name used for your mDNS.
- Reboot your AirCastPro™. Remember the new mDNS and SSID name you've given it so you can access the General Settings page (ex: <a href="http://AirCastPro2.local">http://AirCastPro2.local</a>).

Repeat the process above for each additional AirCastPro™ you wish to add to your network.

## BE PREPARED: BUILD AN EVENT EMERGENCY KIT

Even the best-prepared events can go wrong quickly: the event location's wifi is not usable, you're in an area with congested Wifi, the event's network router has a firewall blocking file share and/or AirPrint/IPP printing ports, or even experiencing a ribbon break during your event. Here are some items you should have in your Event Emergency Kit (EEK):

- An Ethernet-to-Lightning cable or Ethernet-to-USB-C adapter, along with an Ethernet cable.

  This will allow you to tether your iPad/iPhone/Android device directly to AirCastPro<sup>™</sup>
- ★ A USB Charging cable for your iPad/iPhone/Android device. Not only can you charge your device, but you can also tether directly to AirCastPro<sup>™</sup> 3 by plugging the cable into one of the AirCastPro<sup>™</sup> USB ports.

If you have cellular service with your iPad, tethering to your AirCastPro™ will let you print while you still have internet service.

If you don't have cellular service with your iPad, you can tether with your iPhone/Android phone, utilizing your phone's hotspot. With your phone tethered to AirCastPro™, connect your iPad to your phone's hotspot. You should have internet and printing capabilities now.

- A USB Flash Drive, preferably a flash drive with both a USB A (standard USB end) and a lightning/USB-C connector. When a flash drive containing images is plugged into AirCastPro™3, you can have AirCastPro™3 print the images it finds to a printer automatically.
- Spare Media.

This speaks for itself.

A roll of clear tape and a decent pair of scissors.

It is not uncommon to experience a ribbon break with dye-sub printers. Use clear tape to repair the break, but be sure to advance your ribbon several panels beyond where the break occurred.

When a ribbon breaks, it can sometimes adhere to the paper roll, causing a paper jam as well as a ribbon break. Use your scissors to make a clean cut to your paper roll, feed it back into your printer, and get back to printing.



# SUPPORTED PRINTERS

# MITSUBISHI PRINTERS

CP-M1/CP-M15	Mitsubishi CP-D707DW	Mitsubishi CP-9550DW-S
Mitsubishi CP-D80DW	Mitsubishi CP-K60DW-S	Mitsubishi CP-9550DW
Mitsubishi CP-D90DW	Mitsubishi CP-9600DW	Mitsubishi P93D
Mitsubishi CP-D70DW	Mitsubishi CP-9500DW	Mitsubishi P95D

## SINFONIA PRINTERS

Sinfonia CHC-S1245/E1	Sinfonia CHC-S6245/CE1	Sinfonia S2145-5/S2
Sinfonia CHC-S6145/CS2	Sinfonia S2145/S2	Sinfonia CHC-S2245/S3

# CITIZEN PRINTERS

Citizen CX	Citizen CW-02/OP900ii	Citizen CZ-01
Citizen CX-W	Citizen CX-02	
Citizen CY/CY-02	Citizen CX-02W	

# **FUJIFILM PRINTERS**

FujiFilm ASK-300	FujiFilm ASK-2000	FujiFilm DX100

# EPSON PRINTERS

Epson SureLab D700

# SHINKO PRINTERS

Shinko CHC-S1245	Shinko CHC-S6145	Shinko CHC-S9045
Shinko CHC-S2145	Shinko CHC-S6245	

# HITI PRINTERS

Joyspace U826	Hiti P750L	Hiti P510L
Hiti P520L	Hiti P510K	Hiti P510S/Si
Hiti P525L	Hiti P518S	Hiti M610
Hiti P720L	Hiti P910L	Hiti P518A

Hiti P728L

# DAI NIPPON PRINTING

DNP DS40	DNP DS620	DNP SL10
DNP DS80	DNP DS820	DNP QW410
DNP DS80DX	DNP DSRX1	

# SONY PRINTERS

Sony UP-CX1	Sony UP-DR100	Sony UP-DR150
Sony UP-CR10L	Sony UP-DR200	

# KODAK PRINTERS

Kodak 305

# PRIMERA PRINTERS

Impressa IP60

# SWIFTFOTO PRINTERS

SwiftFoto KSF-10R



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