

A worker in a warehouse, wearing a high-visibility vest, is using a Zebra printer and a laptop on a wooden table. The printer is printing a label. In the background, there are shelves with various items, including a bag of white beads. The Zebra logo is visible in the top right corner of the image.

Zebra Cloud Print API

Visibility into every print job,
from send to complete

The Zebra Cloud Print API solution improves cloud printing for enterprise IT, developers, and ISV teams building at scale. It's available as an add-on within the Zebra Nucleus license,* and replaces the legacy Send File to Printer (SFTP) service, trading one-way commands for secure, two-way control, so cloud printing becomes a reliable, integrated part of any enterprise workflow.

Here is what it offers:

Reliable two-way control beyond “fire-and-forget” printing

- Receive real-time printer status (e.g., online, out of paper)
- Track the live progress of every print job and catch errors early, keeping workflows running smoothly
- Actively cancel pending jobs to reduce waste and prevent errors

Predictable budgeting

- A convenient per-printer annual subscription model
- Unlimited print calls for licensed printers

Simplified and secure management

- Access and manage the API through the Zebra Nucleus application
- Generate secure, scoped API tokens (e.g., read-only) for granular control

A legacy tool, transformed

From a developer-only utility to a fully supported cloud printing solution

How SFTP compares to Zebra Cloud Print API

Feature/Dimension	Legacy: SFTP	New: Zebra Cloud Print API
Primary role and scope	A simple cloud tool designed to send a print job or configuration file directly to a single printer.	A complete, secure cloud printing system that lets software send and fully manage print jobs across your entire fleet.
One-way vs. two-way printing control	One-way process (“fire-and-forget”): Once a job is sent, you have no way to track its progress, know if the printer is offline, or stop/cancel it. If the printer has an error, the job is silently lost.	Two-way printing control (interactive): ▪ Printer status: Reports alerts and errors (e.g., out of media, paused, out of service), for instant visibility into a blocked job. ▪ Job tracking: Every print request returns a job ID to query real-time progress. ▪ Cancel functionality: You can actively stop and delete a pending job.
Pricing and licensing	Per-call (usage-based): Paid: Variable, fluctuating monthly costs based on the total number of API calls made.	Per-printer subscription: Paid: Unlimited print jobs for licensed devices under a flat, per-printer subscription, providing predictable yearly budgeting.
How to access and manage	Only accessible and manageable via the Zebra Developer Portal.	Marketed publicly on zebra.com with dedicated support pages; accessed and managed through the Zebra Nucleus application.
Device connection method	Uses the printer's built-in WebLink feature to connect the printer to the user's isolated Nucleus tenant.	
Suggested file types	Supports ZPL and PDF formats.	
API architecture	REST API: Built on traditional HTTP web request methods (GET/POST). Excellent for simple web queries but has higher overhead for persistent, large-scale fleet communications.	gRPC API: Utilizes Google's high-performance, low-latency framework built on HTTP/2. It uses protocol buffers (Protobuf) for extremely lightweight, fast, and structured real-time communication between your applications and the cloud.

*Requires an active Nucleus license.

With Zebra Cloud Print API, cloud printing stops being a blind spot. See printer status in real time, track and cancel jobs on demand, and manage it all securely in Zebra Nucleus. A fully supported solution for enterprise printing at scale.

→ **Learn more about Cloud Print API**



The Zebra wordmark and logo are trademarks of Zebra Technologies Corp., registered in many jurisdictions worldwide. All other trademarks are the property of their respective owners. ©2026 Zebra Technologies Corp. and/or its affiliates. 09/2026.