How to auto-deploy a print queue to specific users or Departments

A print queue can follow the people who need it rather than the PCs. You can pick individual users, or everyone in certain Departments, and the queue is installed on whichever PC they are logged in to.

The user is identified through the **PDAgent Client**, so PDAgent must be installed on the PCs and the user must be logged in through the PDAgent Client for the PC to match.

How deployment zones work

A **deployment zone** describes a group of PCs running PDAgent. Each zone can match PCs in three ways, one tab each in the **New deployment zone** window:

- **Hosts**: by PDAgent or by computer name (hostname).
- **IP range**: by the PC's IP address.
- **User logins**: by the users, or Departments, logged in on the PC.

A PC matches a zone only if it matches **all** of the tabs. Leave a tab on its first option (**All hosts**, **All IP addresses** or **All users**) to ignore it.

A Queue Deployment set to **Selected deployment zones** is installed on a PC when **any** of its ticked zones covers that PC. Zones are shared, so one zone can be ticked on several Queue Deployments. The **Deployment zones** tab lists every zone with its **Name**, **Include or exclude**, **Match hosts**, **Match IPs** and **Match users** settings, and when it was created and last modified. Use **Edit** and **Delete** to change or remove a zone.

The same zones control self-install: if **Self install** is set to **Allowed for selected deployment zones**, users on PCs covered by a ticked zone can install the queue themselves from the **Install print queue** option in the PDAgent Client.

Set up the deployment zone

1. Open **Resource Manager**.
2. In the tree on the left, expand **Print Management** > **Print Queue Management** and click **Queue Deployments**.
3. On the right, double-click the Queue Deployment. If it does not exist yet, create it first: see *How to manually create a Queue Deployment* or *How to copy an existing Windows print queue to a new Queue Deployment*.
4. In the **Deployment scope** section, set **Auto deploy** to **Selected deployment zones**.
5. Click the **Deployment zones** tab, then click **Add**. The **New deployment zone** window opens.
6. In **Deployment zone name**, enter a descriptive name for the zone.

7. Set **Include or exclude**:
   - **Only include those matching search parameters**: the zone covers only the PCs that match.
   - **Include all except those matching search parameters**: the zone covers every PC except the ones that match.
8. Click the **User logins** tab and set **Match user logins**:
   - **Users selected below** to pick individual users, or
   - **Certain Departments** to pick whole Departments. If your site uses a different name for Departments, that name is shown instead.
9. Tick the users or Departments in the list.

   If you click **OK** without ticking any, Resource Manager warns you: with **Only include those matching search parameters** the zone would cover no PCs, and with **Include all except those matching search parameters** it would cover every PC.
10. Leave the **Hosts** and **IP range** tabs on **All hosts** and **All IP addresses**.
11. Click **OK** to save the zone.
12. Back on the **Deployment zones** tab, make sure the new zone is ticked, then click **OK** to save the Queue Deployment.

A PC matches when **any** of the users logged in on it through the PDAgent Client is one of the selected users, or belongs to one of the selected Departments.

> **Shared PCs and terminal servers:** the queue is installed for the whole PC, not just for the user who matched. On a PC that several people use, such as a terminal server, every user on that PC sees the queue once one matching user has logged in.

When the queue is installed

Each PDAgent checks for Queue Deployments whenever it refreshes its settings, so PCs that match the zone get the queue automatically. To apply the change straight away:

- to refresh one PC, click **PD Agents** in Resource Manager, right-click the PDAgent and choose **Refresh**, or
- to refresh every PC, click **PD Servers**, right-click the PDServer and choose **Send command** > **Refresh all connected PDAgents**.

If **Auto remove queues if not in zones or the Deployment is deleted** is ticked on the Queue Deployment, the queue is also removed from PCs that stop matching the zone. Queues that users installed themselves with **Self install** are never removed automatically.

Related articles

- *How to auto-deploy a print queue to IP ranges*
- *How to auto-deploy a print queue to specific PDAgents*
- *How to auto-deploy a print queue to specific machines using hostname matching*
- *How to manually create a Queue Deployment*
- For every setting on the Queue deployment window, see *Queue Deployment Configuration*.

Print Director version at time of publish: 2.5.15.3. Publish date: 03/11/2026.