How to set up an Elatec card reader

The Elatec OEM RFID reader works in **keyboard wedge** mode: it types the card number like a keyboard. It works on HP printers and on Lexmark printers that run Print Director. Print Director needs to know how to read the number.

Check what the reader sends

Out of the box, the reader sends the card number as decimal digits. To check, plug it into a Windows computer, open Notepad and swipe a card: digits 0 to 9 only mean decimal; letters A to F as well mean hex.

On an HP printer

1. Plug the reader into the HP printer's USB port. Until Print Director registers it, the panel may say that the USB device is not supported.
2. In Resource Manager, go to **Print Management** > **Shared Devices**, double-click the printer and click **Controller**. Check that **Controller Type** is **HP Integrated**.
3. On the **Authentication** page, set **Identification method** to **Card or keypad login** or **Card only**.
4. On the **Cards** page, under **USB device registration**, click **Choose known VID/PID**, choose **Elatec OEM RFID Device (Keyboard)** and click **OK**. This also sets **Byte conversion method** and **Data ordering** for that reader.
5. Under **Card reader settings**, choose whether users may register their own cards in **Self-register cards**.
6. Check **Byte conversion method**: **Keyboard wedge codes for decimal characters** if the reader sends decimal (the default), or **Keyboard wedge codes for hex characters** if it sends hex.
7. Set **Start bit** and **Bit length** to pick out the card number. For example, for an EM card with the number 5810327 printed on it, use **Start bit** 8 and **Bit length** 32.

Then initialise the printer, so the reader is registered on it: on the **Initialisation** page, click **Initialise** and check the output box. Click **OK + Refresh All**.

To check the result, swipe a few cards at the printer and click **View swipes** on the **Cards** page.

On a Lexmark printer

1. Plug the reader into the Lexmark printer's USB port.
2. In Resource Manager, go to **Print Management** > **Shared Devices**, and double-click the printer.
3. Open the **Controller** page and the **Cards** tab.
4. Set **Byte conversion method** to **Keyboard wedge codes for decimal characters** (or **Keyboard wedge codes for hex characters** if the reader sends hex).
5. Swipe a few cards at the printer, then click **View swipes** to see how each swipe was read.
6. Adjust **Start bit** and **Bit length** until the card number matches the one printed on the card or held in your access control system.
7. Click **OK + Refresh All**.

Related articles

- *HP Integrated controller settings*
- *Lexmark Integrated controller settings*
- *How to set up an HID Omnikey 5427 card reader*
- *How to set up the HP Universal Card Reader X3D03A on an HP printer*

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