

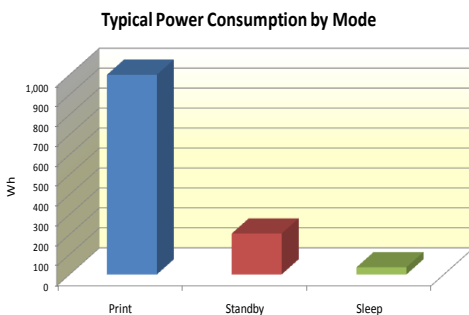


you don't leave the cooker on just in case you need a snack, so why...?

Printers and multifunctionals consume power in standby mode just in case other documents need printing.

Printers just keep on consuming power

Printers and multifunctionals consume power even when they are not printing. In sleep mode they consume a relatively small amount, but they only enter sleep mode after a long period of inactivity. Until then, they are in standby mode, consuming a significant proportion of the power consumed during printing.



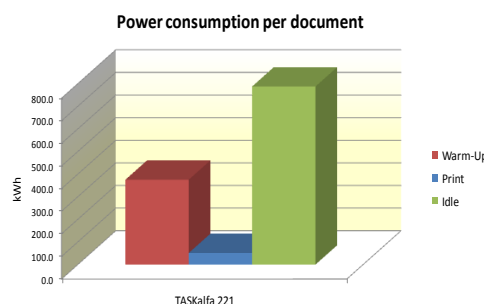
In action

Printers and multifunctionals wait in standby mode after they finish printing a document. They consume power while the 'inactivity timer' counts down. If no other document arrives, the power consumed has been wasted.

By default, they only enter sleep mode after a much longer period of inactivity - typically fifteen minutes.

Standing by in standby

Many printers and multifunctionals are configured by their manufacturers to wait in standby mode for fifteen minutes after a document has been printed. Bearing in mind that most documents take less than a minute to print, it is easy to see that more power is consumed in standby than during printing.



In action

In a light workload environment, a printer which waits fifteen minutes in standby mode uses more power in standby than it does printing.

Many manufacturers set their machines to wait fifteen minutes in standby mode to enhance performance. Reducing this time can save money and reduce environmental impact.

In many circumstances, more power is consumed in standby than by printing.

Bypassing standby and entering sleep mode quickly makes sense in low-workload environments.

A printer's setup menu lets you set how quickly it enters sleep mode.

Network management tools let you configure numerous devices at once without leaving the comfort of your desk.

To enter standby or not?

Printers use standby mode to make printing faster. They can print a document as soon as they receive it if they are in standby mode, but take up to a minute (or more) to warm-up if they are in power-saving sleep mode.

In a high-workload environment, where a printer receives documents in quick succession, standby mode makes sense. In quieter environments, it makes more sense to configure the printer to enter sleep mode as soon as possible.

Changing standby and sleep modes

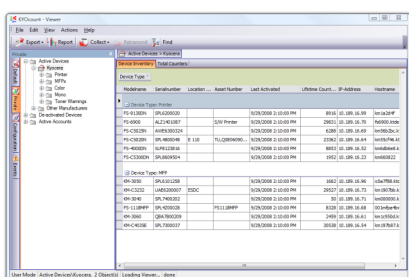
All printers and multifunctionals let you change the duration of the inactivity timer. The process is different for different machines so we can't provide 'one size fits all' instructions. However, we can tell you that the process is usually:

- Access the printer or multifunctional's setup menu
- Select the menu for Common or Device settings
- Select the option for Sleep or Inactivity Timer
- Set it to the minimum setting, preferably 1 minute

Automatically changing settings across a network

Making manual changes through the configuration menus of each printer and multifunctional on your network is time-consuming and impractical. Free network configuration tools update all networked machines at once from a desktop PC. Different manufacturers have their own configuration tools.

Once installed, the configuration tool will automatically discover that manufacturer's printers and multifunctionals on your network. You should select all of them and set the inactivity timer to 1 minute in a single command.



In action

Network management utilities let you configure the inactivity timer for numerous devices with one command.

Such network utilities are usually free but each brand of device usually needs that manufacturer's own tool.

Also in this series...

Overnight power consumption: switching machines off at night can be the simplest route to dramatic power savings.

Convergence: reducing the size of your fleet with fewer but more capable devices can transform your organisation's power consumption profile.