

# OctoPrint User Guide

OctoPrint is a web-based tool for monitoring and controlling the filament-based 3D printers at North End Makerspace. Nobody *has to* use OctoPrint – one can still print files using the tried and true SD card method. OctoPrint's benefits include:

- 1) No need to move an SD card between computer and printer, reducing the chances of lost SD cards and files.
- 2) Files can be saved in folders on each OctoPrint instance, enabling retention for member projects.
- 3) Any computer on the wifi in the space can check the status and time remaining on a print, increasing the turnover of completed or failed prints.
- 4) Printer and print job status notifications can be sent to Discord, enabling people to see status and job time remaining on current print jobs.

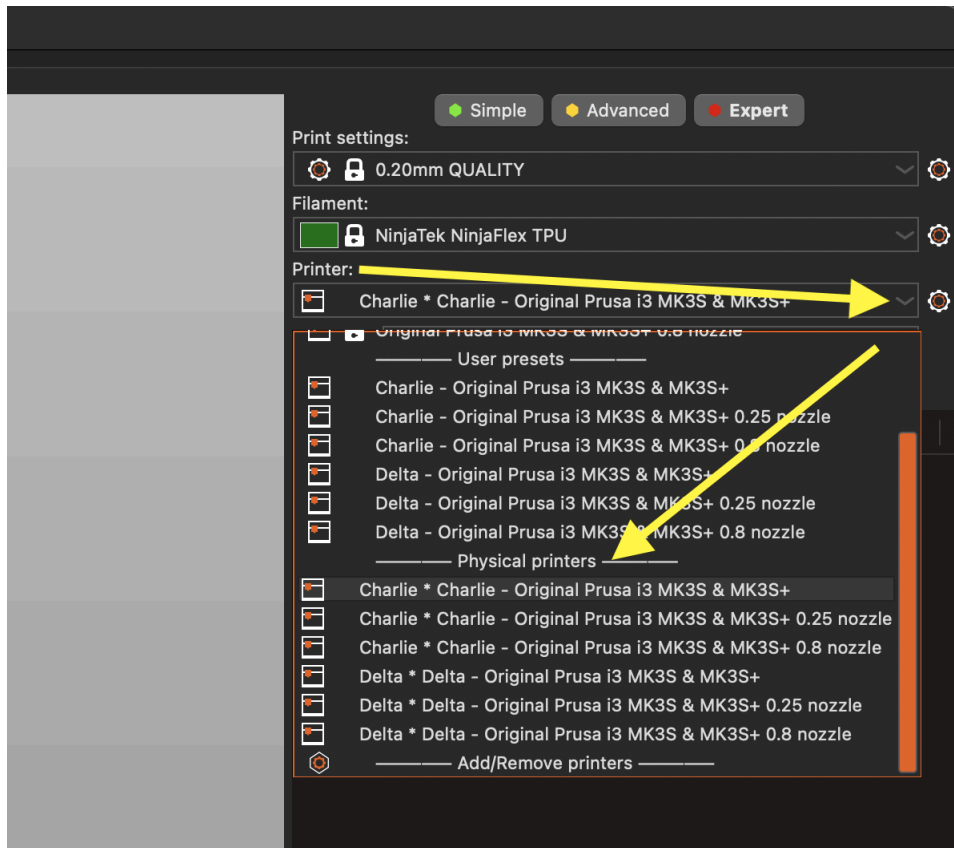
## Overview

General flow for preparing a file and sending it to a printer via OctoPrint:

- 1) Badger into the printer you intend to use.
- 2) Slice your model as you normally would using PrusaSlicer.
- 3) Select the target printer from the list of "Physical Devices" in PrusaSlicer.
- 4) Send GCODE to OctoPrint, optionally starting it immediately.
- 5) If you did not start your print immediately, open the OctoPrint bookmark for the given printer, select your file and start it.

## Select the “Physical Printer”

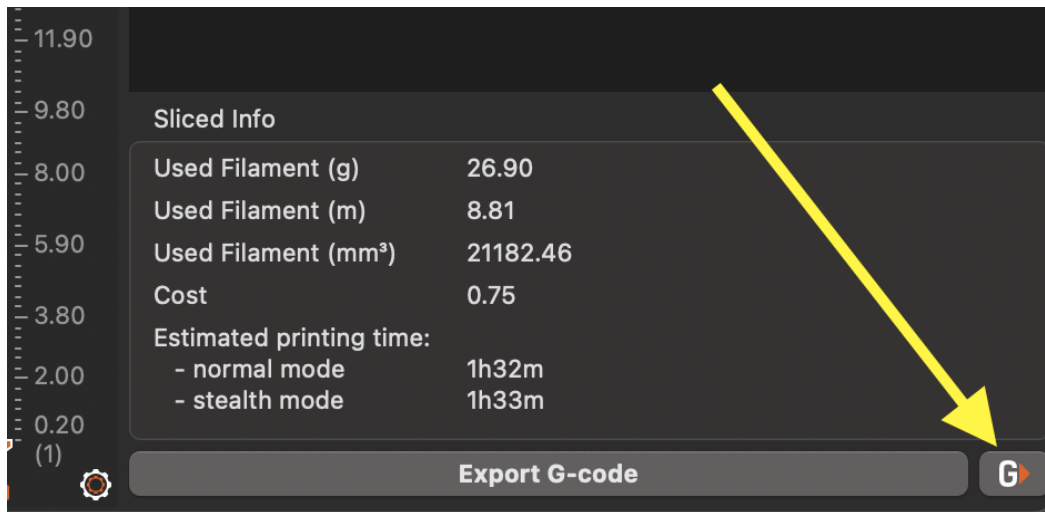
In order to send a file to OctoPrint, you need to choose a “Physical Printer” preset which has been configured to know how to talk to a given instance of OctoPrint.



Choosing a physical printer enables the upload button we see in the next step.

# Send a print job

Click the “G” button in the lower-right corner of the PrusaSlicer window to send a print to OctoPrint over the network. If you do not see the G button, you have not selected a Physical Printer (see previous step).



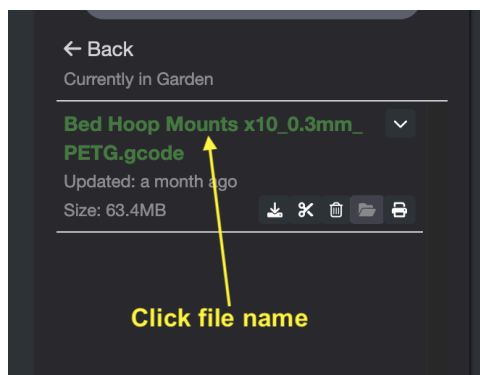
You still have the option to click “Export G-Code” if you prefer to save the file locally or to an SD card.

# Start a Print

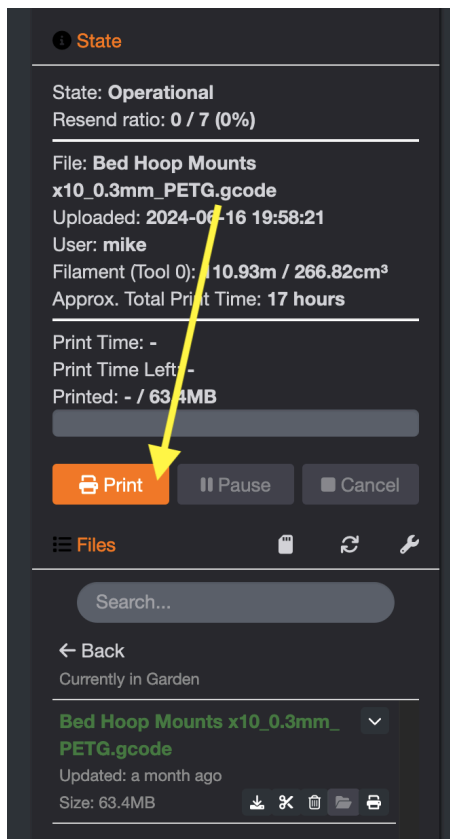
If you didn't start a print when you transferred your file, you can start it any time in OctoPrint. Open the web browser and note the bookmarks for each printer on the bookmark bar. You can also go directly to OctoPrint for a given printer by going to "<http://printername>". For example if you want to access OctoPrint for the printer named **blinky** then go to <http://blinky> using a web browser on a device connected to the makerspace wifi.

If you see a login prompt for OctoPrint, find the username/password in the laser room.

Once logged on, look in the lower-left corner to see the files available on this OctoPrint instance. Select your file by clicking on its name.



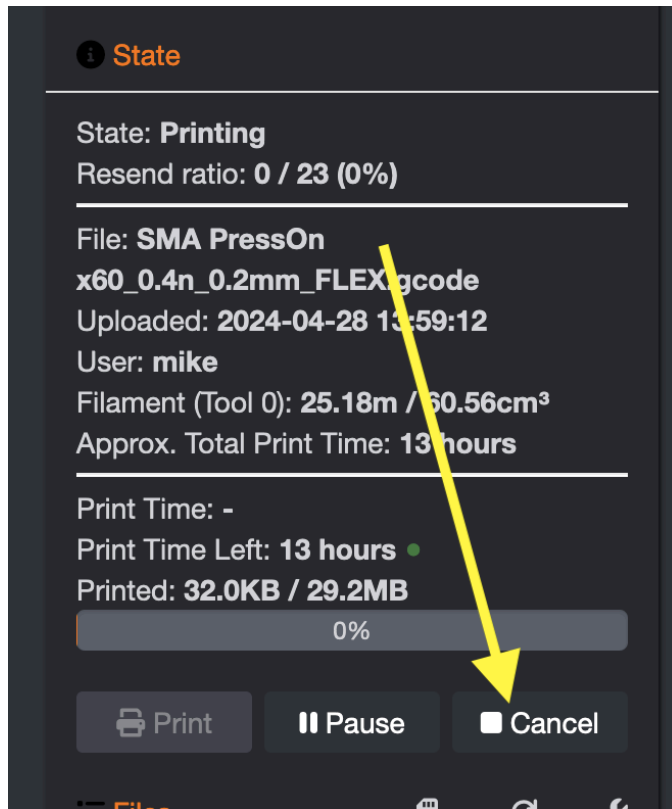
Your print file will load into the context area above the file browser.



**Make sure the printer is ready** - correct filament type and color loaded, bed prepared, etc. When ready, click "Print" to start!

# Stop a Print

In OctoPrint for your printer, click “Cancel” in the State view when you want to stop a job in progress:



## Print status notifications

OctoPrint will send status notifications to the makerspace Discord. Folks can use these messages to see printer and print job status, and to estimate when a current job will end.