

When Grandma Doesn't Have an Engineering Degree From M.I.T.



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If you can't go over the river and through the woods to Grandma's house this winter, drop her a line with **Hewlett-Packard's** Printing Mailbox and a service called Presto. The combination of the service and printer allows you to send e-mail messages and photos to computer-phobic parents and grandparents.

The Printing Mailbox is a printer with a telephone port and a power connector. To set it up, you just plug it in, add some paper and wait for incoming messages. The Presto service (www.presto.com) allows you to add e-mail addresses to a list of trusted senders to prevent spam.

The printer costs about \$149 from major online and offline retailers, and the service costs \$10 a month or \$100 for a year.

Presto can also create newsletters featuring the day's headlines. Administrators — the grandchildren, most likely — can create and send monthly photo calendars and manage the online mail filter.

The service is designed for the non-techno-savvy, which means settings are kept to a bare minimum. In fact, except for infrequent ink and paper changes, the device is intended to be maintenance-free, much like that other mailbox at the end of the driveway.