

THE POTENTIAL IMPACT OF PRINTER INTRUSIONS

According to a senior e-threat analyst at Bitdefender, Bogdan Botezatu, printers present a sizable potential security hole. “We get a lot of telemetry in our vulnerability assessment labs. The router is no longer the worst device on the internet. It’s now the printer.”³

This vulnerability can have profound effects on a business. With a single unsecured printer, you could be leaving your entire network of connected devices vulnerable to attack, giving hackers the ability to spy on your networked devices—and compromising the security of the whole network.

We’ve all seen the effects of security breaches. In the Spiceworks survey, respondents said the top five impacts of a breach are:¹



1. Increased help desk calls and support time



2. Reduced productivity/efficiency



3. Increased system downtime



4. Increased time on support calls



5. Increased enforcement of end-user policies

But a printer breach can be even more severe than that, particularly if you use a multifunction printer capable of storing printed data electroni-

cally. Print jobs stored to the printer's cache make it possible for hackers to gain access to sensitive personal or business information.

Even more concerning, hackers can access the broader company network through an unsecured printer, stealing things like Social Security numbers, financial information, or internal memos and documents. This stolen information can not only affect individual employees, but be used by the competition or cause serious harm to a company's reputation.

THE EASY SOLUTION: BUILT-IN SECURITY FEATURES

Clearly, companies need to address security even with their printers. Some of today's modern enterprise-level printers feature easy-to-use, built-in security that combats printer threats. These include:

- Automatic attack detection, protection, and healing
- Tracking use to prevent unauthorized use
- Simple sign-in options such as PIN or smartcards
- A proximity card reader that lets users quickly authenticate and print securely at a printer using their identification badge
- Secure encrypted printing for sensitive documents

When considering your next printer, whether desktop or multi-function, investigate integrated security safeguards—and be sure to activate them. With simple, printer-specific features like those, there's no reason to remain vulnerable through your printers; after all, with the Internet of Things, there are plenty of other access points to worry about—**your printers don't need to be one of them.**