



SECURE PRINTING TOP TIPS

When it comes to IT security, many businesses simply overlook their network-connected printers and copiers. An unsecured printer is a backdoor into your network just waiting to be exploited.

Modern Networks provides IT, telecoms and printers as a managed service. Here are our top 10 tips to help you secure your business printers.

1. Apply the latest firmware updates

Printer firmware updates usually contain fixes for serious security vulnerabilities and new features that can make your printers more secure.



2. Printer administration tools

Select a vendor agnostic printer management tool that enables you to add new printers, troubleshoot problems and make overall administration of your printer fleet easier and more secure.

3. Local IP addresses

When setting up your printers on the network ensure they are assigned local or internal IP addresses. These are hidden from the outside world.



4. Close those ports

Some printers come with potentially harmful ports wide open. Basically, disable printer settings and open network ports that you are not using. If ports are closed then an attacker cannot exploit them.

5. Enforce walk-up access policies

Enforce walk-up access controls on your printers: nothing is printed until the user enters a PIN code, username and password or swipes an ID badge. This prevents confidential documents sitting in the printer tray where anyone can take them.



6. Secure mobile printing

Remote workers often want to print documents from their mobiles. However, it is important that your IT administrator or service provider have setup secure remote printing. Manufacturers such as Sharp and Toshiba provide mobile print and scan solutions for iOS and Android.

7. Encrypt data in transit

If you want to run a printer over the Web and avoid data being intercepted by hackers, then enable SSL to ensure all data is encrypted in transit.



8. Full disk encryption

Just like computers, your printers have hard drives. Throughout a printer's life, the hard drive will collect data. To prevent that data falling into the wrong hands you should ensure that your printers have disk encryption (encoding the data so no one else can access it).

9. Wipe the hard drive

When buying or leasing new printers, you should check they can encrypt data saved to the hard drives. You must also check that you can wipe the hard drives clean of old data when required. When you replace old printers, ensure you have the hard drives professionally wiped before you dispose of them.



10. Replace old printers

Typically, old printers are less secure than new ones. They also tend to be less reliable, less efficient, more wasteful and costly to run.



At Modern Networks, we offer you a fully managed print solution that takes away the pain of managing your printer fleet. Our managed print solution provides you with the latest printers, copiers and A3/A4 multifunction devices.

We automate ink and toner replenishment, drive down costs and reduce administration. We can monitor, manage and maintain your printer network. We give you back the visibility and control required to make your printer fleet a business asset.