



Think your business network is secure? Better check your printers.

It took a hacker only 60 seconds to find 29,000 Internet-connected printers. Then hate-filled messages spewed out of the devices on at least 12 college campuses. The intruder easily gained access through an open Internet connection and unsecured ports on the printers.

The scope of this incident is unusual, but the vulnerability the hacker exploited is all too commonplace. More than half of information technology (IT) security professionals surveyed by the Ponemon Institute say they ignore printers in their endpoint security strategy.¹ This finding is shocking, considering IT professionals at 60 percent of these organizations acknowledge that a data breach involving a networked printer has likely occurred within their businesses.

The cost of cybercrime

Regardless of the source, security breaches are expensive. According to the “2015 Cost of Cyber Crime”, the average annual cost to resolve a cyberattack is \$7.7 million.¹ Unsecured printing jeopardizes private information, especially when you think about all of the confidential memos passed among the C-suite, and the sensitive documents about customers and employees that accounting and human resources handle daily. The potential ramifications — lawsuits, penalties, theft of confidential data and a tarnished brand — disrupt business operations and the bottom line. To put that scenario into better perspective, the mean number of days to resolve cyberattacks is 46 days, with an average cost of \$21,155 per day — or a total cost of \$973,130 over the 46-day remediation period.¹

Organizations devote ever-increasing resources to safeguard their data centers and internal networks. However, IT security strategies fail to address printers and multifunction printers (MFPs) even though they present many of the same security risks as any computer, server or cloud-based service connected to a company’s network.



Brother's Lazer Services | 472 Coolspring St Uniontown PA | 15401
800-290-4444 | www.brotherslazer.com



Source

¹Ponemon Institute, “2015 Cost of Cyber Crime Study: United States,” sponsored by Hewlett Packard Enterprise, October 2015.