FRIGHTENING FACTS ABOUT PRINTER SECURITY

Of all the devices in your office, printers are among the least well-defended. Nobody really thinks of them as security risks—they just sit there, printing things and occasionally jamming. The fact of the matter, however, is that printers are extremely vulnerable. **LET'S LOOK AT THE NUMBERS.**

150,000 printers were breached in just a single attack on February 3rd, 2017. Although the breach was intended as a public service announcement, it could have turned malicious.[1]

35,851 printers are currently listed as exposed and vulnerable on the IoT search engine Shodan. Anyone viewing these printers could easily take them over.[2]

HOW DO PRINTERS GET HACKED?

Depending on what hackers want, they'll use a combination of social engineering attacks, software exploits, and malware in escalating order.

A **20-YEAR-OLD** vulnerability has let attackers compromise Windows machines by forcing them to install malicious drivers from infected printers.[3]

PORT 9100 can be used as a hacking tool on many printers, turning a printer into an FTP server that, in turn, stores malware and stolen documents.[4]

WHAT ARE THE CONSEQUENCES OF A PRINTER HACK?

For small and medium businesses, the consequences of any cyberattack can be devastating. What's more, you don't need to be directly hacked for your printer to cause a security breach. Accidents or errors involving printers often put companies in violation of HIPAA, PCI, and other compliance regimes.

The average cost per breached record is **$158**, but up to **$355** for healthcare records.[5]

In 2015, at least eight companies broke HIPAA regulations via printer error, affecting nearly **11,000 patients**.[6]

MAKE PRINTERS LESS PERILOUS WITH PCS

You don't want to worry about printer security—so let PCS worry about it for you. The right solution involves HP Elite PCs linked to HP Enterprise printing solutions with self-healing security, all configured for maximum reliability and minimal downtime. For printer security done right, contact us at **www.pcsknox.com**.

[1] Blog, "A Hacker Just Pwned Over 150,000 Printers Left Exposed Online," BleepingComputer, Feb 2017
[2] Report, "Internet connected printers," Shodan, Retrieved March 2017
[3] Blog, "Own a printer, own a network with point and print drive-by," Vectra, Jul 2016
[4] Blog, "Printers as vulnerability," MacKeeper, Jan 2016
[5] Report, "2016 Ponemon Cost of Data Breach Study: Global Analysis," IBM, June 2016
[6] Blog, "Another HIPAA Breach Courtesy of a Printing Error," HIPAA Journal, Dec 2015

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