

Windows Protected Print Mode

Secure, encrypted printing without the headaches

What is Windows Protected Print (WPP)?

Windows Protected Print Mode is a new print pathway built into Microsoft Windows. Instead of sending jobs in cleartext, it **encrypts every print job end-to-end** – from the user's PC to the print device. This ensures sensitive documents can't be intercepted or exposed in transit.

- **Encryption by default** – Every job is automatically secured.
- **No driver dependency** – Standardized across devices, no custom drivers required.
- **Future-focused** – Part of Microsoft's ongoing security-first approach.

The Need WPP Helps Fulfill

Organizations today face rising risks around document security and compliance. Traditional print paths often leave jobs vulnerable:

- Jobs are sent unencrypted over the network.
- Output trays can expose sensitive information if the print job is left unattended.
- Auditing and compliance requirements (HIPAA, GDPR, etc.) demand higher security.
- WPP closes the security gap by locking down the path from computer → spooler → printer.

Adoption Friction for Print Users

While WPP is powerful, it can also create challenges for everyday users:

- Limited device compatibility – Not every MFD or driver fully supports WPP.
- User confusion – Jobs may fail or disappear if sent to unsupported devices.
- Reduced flexibility – Features like "print anywhere" or "Find-Me Printing" aren't natively included.
- Added IT burden – More helpdesk calls when jobs don't release as expected.

How PaperCut MF Bridges the Gap

PaperCut MF complements WPP by making secure printing **practical and user-friendly**:

- **Find-Me Printing with WPP** – Users send encrypted jobs, then release securely at any Sharp (or other) device.
- **Authentication at the device** – Badge, PIN, or SSO ensures only the right person releases a job.
- **Reduced IT friction** – PaperCut's embedded apps smooth out the user workflow, minimizing confusion.
- **Audit & compliance** – Full tracking, reporting, and policy enforcement layered on top of WPP's encryption.

The result? Microsoft provides the lock. PaperCut provides the key to make it usable in real workplaces.

Takeaway

- **WPP secures the data path.**
- **PaperCut MF secures the user experience. Together, they deliver double-lock protection without slowing users down.**