

CLIENT VERSUS SERVER PRINT AUDITING

Workstation installations make more sense.

All valuable applications are installed on the workstation, including word processors, spreadsheets and e-mail. Print Audit is installed on the workstation as the workstation is where a print job originates from. The workstation is the only place to capture all the information related to a print job. Server based systems cannot capture, for example the application or computer name from where print jobs originate.

One hundred percent of all printing information is captured.

Server based solutions can not capture local printing or printing to devices that have their own print server built in. They say that they can but you have to purchase expensive add-ons or there is a workstation component. Keep in mind that you also have to know where all of the local printers are so that you can physically go to them and attempt to force the system to track their printing.

Most companies are moving away from print servers.

Microsoft has stated that print servers will soon be redundant because most new hardware printing devices have their own network address and can be printed to directly from the workstation. Thus an investment in a server based print tracking system will cost more to run in the future because your company will have to keep redundant technology up to date in order to keep the server solution running.

Print Audit is an all in one solution.

Server based solutions by their nature have to be broken up into costly components to capture, analyze, and recover costs. What you think you are getting usually does not constitute a full solution. What is required is discovered by trial and error.

Print Audit is easier to install and manage.

Most organizations are unaware how intrusive a server based print tracking solution is on their network and servers. In many cases you need to purchase separate pieces of hardware to be able to run a server based solution. All printer ports on a server will have to be switched to "monitoring" ports provided by the server solution. In most cases the install process is so complicated that you need to have a paid support person come in to set up the system. Print Audit can easily be setup and rolled out to thousands of workstations in half a day.

The hidden costs of server systems make them much more expensive.

In some cases a server based print auditing system may seem to be significantly less expensive than a client based print auditing system. The surface cost can be less but all of the above points also relate to costs that are not reflected in the cost of purchase.

- What printing and print data is being missed?
- What is the cost to keep redundant technology (print servers) up and running to support a server based print auditing system?
- What is the time required to set up, administer, and troubleshoot server problems that can potentially bring down your entire network?

If the price seems too good to be true then it probably is.