



SECURITY AND RISK REPORT 2026

THE SECURITY MANDATE

Protecting modern print in Australia and New Zealand



01 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

PRINT HAS BECOME A SECURITY BLIND SPOT

Information security is now a defining business priority across Australia and New Zealand. Print rarely receives the same attention as networks, applications, and endpoints, yet it handles sensitive information across offices, homes, and hybrid workplaces.

More than one in two organisations (56 per cent in Australia, and 52 per cent in New Zealand) reported a print-related security incident in the past 12 months. Investment is increasing; however, governance has not kept pace with the way people now print across offices, homes, and other locations.

Organisations that incorporate print into broader security and governance frameworks are better positioned to close the gap.

KEY FINDINGS

Findings from 408 IT and business decision-makers across Australia (AU) and New Zealand (NZ) fielded March - April 2026.



56% AU / 52% NZ

Experienced a print-related security incident

More than half of organisations experienced a print-related security incident in the past 12 months.

No. 1

Vulnerability

Work-from-home and remote printing

Home and remote printing is the leading print-related vulnerability, ahead of abandoned print jobs on shared devices.



34% AU / 36% NZ

Report a major control gap

One-third of organisations report a major print security gap: inconsistent authentication in Australia and the absence of secure release printing in New Zealand.



72% AU / 61% NZ

Plan to increase print security investment

Most organisations expect to increase investment in print security over the next 12 months.



34% AU / 32% NZ

Prioritise security when selecting print solutions

Security certifications and controls are the top criterion when selecting a print solution.

02 THE OVERLOOKED GAP

PRINT RARELY MAKES THE SECURITY AGENDA

Cybersecurity attention is typically focused on endpoints, cloud environments, networks, applications, and identity. Print rarely receives the same scrutiny.

More than half of organisations, 56 per cent in Australia and 52 per cent in New Zealand, reported a print-related security incident in the past 12 months. Of these, 16 per cent in Australia and 19 per cent in New Zealand rated the incident moderate or major.

Printers and multifunction devices are often treated as office equipment rather than information assets. Yet they process, store, and transmit sensitive data across networks, cloud platforms, and business systems.

Vulnerabilities within print environments can expose confidential information, create compliance risks and provide access points into broader technology ecosystems. The research shows these risks affect organisations across Australia and New Zealand.



Australia

Experienced a
print security incident



New Zealand

Experienced a
print security incident



Australia

Rated incident
moderate or major



New Zealand

Rated incident
moderate or major



03 WHERE PRINT IS VULNERABLE

HYBRID WORK OPENED NEW EXPOSURE POINTS

Hybrid work has changed how information is created, shared, and accessed. As print activity moves across offices, homes, and customer locations, organisations are managing information in environments that are harder to govern consistently.

The research shows clear and consistent risks across Australia and New Zealand, with some important differences in the control gaps each market is most likely to face.

Almost half of organisations in both countries are yet to close fundamental gaps in print security governance, even though the tools to do so already exist.

Australian organisations are more likely to report challenges with authentication consistency, while New Zealand organisations are more likely to identify gaps in secure document release.

TOP VULNERABILITY ACROSS BOTH MARKETS



34% AU / 33% NZ

Work-from-home and remote printing risks
cited as the leading vulnerability in both markets

MOST COMMON CONTROL GAP



URGENCY TO IMPROVE PRINT SECURITY



69% AU 32% NZ

Unsecured print jobs left on shared devices

The second most frequently cited challenge

04 WHY URGENCY IS BUILDING

COMPLIANCE AND RISK ARE RAISING THE PRIORITY

69 per cent of Australian organisations rate print security improvements as a high priority for the next 12 months. In New Zealand, the figure is 52 per cent, showing that most organisations in both markets are moving in the same direction.

Compliance requirements are also influencing priorities. ISO 27001, the Essential Eight, and CPS 234 require a whole-of-environment approach; however, print has not always been included in scope. Only 10 per cent of Australian organisations and 9 per cent of New Zealand organisations report compliance alignment as a control already in place, making it one of the least adopted controls measured.

Print security decisions are also being made against wider business pressures. These include margin pressure, talent constraints and geopolitical uncertainty.

TOP BUSINESS PRESSURES

Margin pressure

AU **14%** NZ **24%**

Talent constraints

AU **18%** NZ **8%**

Geopolitical uncertainty

AU **13%** NZ **18%**

CONTROLS MOST IN PLACE

User authentication

Secure release printing

Firmware updates

Encrypted print transmission

CONTROLS LEAST IN PLACE

Compliance alignment

Security assessments

Data loss prevention / watermarking

SIEM integration



05 INVESTMENT DECISIONS

SECURITY IS SHAPING HOW BUYERS CHOOSE

72 per cent of Australian organisations and 60 per cent of New Zealand organisations expect print security spend to rise over the next 12 months.

Security certifications and controls are now the top buying criteria, at 34 per cent in Australia and 32 per cent in New Zealand, ahead of ease of deployment, user experience, and total cost of ownership.

Ease of deployment and management ranks second, weighted slightly more by New Zealand organisations (25 per cent) than Australian organisations (21 per cent). User experience for hybrid

work and total cost of ownership round out the core decision criteria, with integration with identity providers and support for mixed-fleet environments becoming important differentiators once the fundamentals are met.

Multifunction printer hardening and firmware updates are the leading areas for increased investment in both markets (50 per cent AU, 41 per cent NZ), with secure release printing close behind (49 per cent AU, 40 per cent NZ).

Buyers are looking for security that is built in, supported by clear evidence, and straightforward to manage at scale.

72%

AUSTRALIA

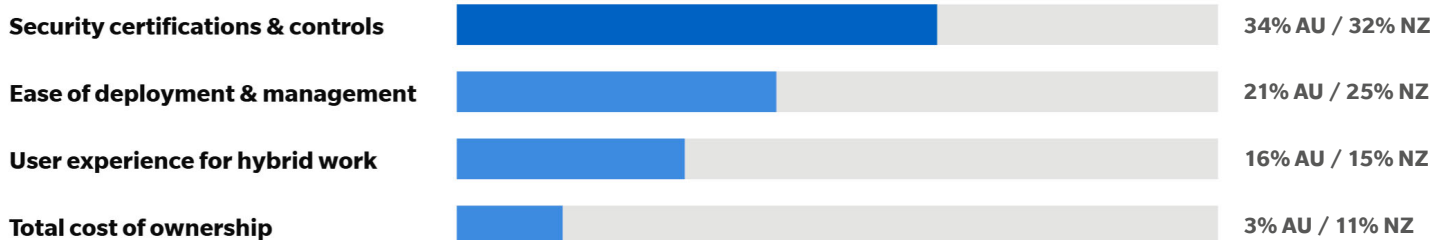
expect print security spend to increase in the coming year.

52%

NEW ZEALAND

expect print security spend to increase in the coming year.

TOP CRITERIA WHEN SELECTING A PRINT SOLUTION



MFP hardening & firmware updates

Top planned spend increase in both markets

50% AU · 41% NZ

Secure release printing

Following closely behind

49% AU · 40% NZ



06 RECOMMENDATIONS

BUILDING A SECURE PRINT ENVIRONMENT

For many organisations, improving print security starts with using existing capabilities more consistently. The findings highlight five practical priorities:

- 01** **APPLY CONSISTENT AUTHENTICATION ACROSS LOCATIONS**
 Users should meet the same controls in every office, on every device; however they connect. Inconsistency is the most cited challenge for Australian organisations.

- 02** **REVIEW THE USE OF SECURE RELEASE PRINTING**
 This is the largest reported gap in New Zealand. Most enterprise environments already support secure release printing, which holds documents until an authorised user is present at the device.

- 03** **BUILD POLICY AROUND REMOTE AND HOME PRINTING**
 Home and remote printing is the top vulnerability in both markets. Organisations need clear policies for printing, storing, and disposing of sensitive documents outside the office.

- 04** **MAINTAIN DEVICE SECURITY AS INFRASTRUCTURE**
 Apply regular firmware updates, security assessments, and active management. Networked print devices should be maintained with the same discipline as other connected infrastructure.

- 05** **INTEGRATE PRINT INTO THE BROADER CYBERSECURITY FRAMEWORK**
 Only 10 per cent in Australia and 9 per cent in New Zealand report compliance alignment. Bring print into the same governance, monitoring, and security frameworks as the rest of the environment.

07 CONCLUSION**CLOSING THE PRINT SECURITY GAP**

Security investment and governance expectations are rising and technology decisions are increasingly shaped by security requirements.

Awareness and investment are increasing; however, implementation remains inconsistent. Many organisations have not yet aligned controls, policies, and capabilities across print environments.

Organisations that incorporate print security into wider information protection strategies will be better positioned to manage risk, support compliance, and protect sensitive information. Every point of access plays an important role in maintaining security, compliance, and trust.

ABOUT THIS RESEARCH

All respondents held direct involvement in buying or specifying print, security, or cloud solutions, from CIOs, CTOs and CISOs to IT managers, infrastructure leads and risk, finance, and line of business leaders.

Industries represented: professional services, financial services, government and public sector, manufacturing, healthcare, education, retail and wholesale, media and technology, and utilities.

408

IT and business
decision-makers surveyed

2

markets, Australia and
New Zealand

50–5k+

employee organisation
size range

2026

fielded March–April, online

**ABOUT OMDIA**

Omdia is a technology research and advisory firm focused on helping technology companies and enterprise decision-makers navigate the connected digital economy. Through a global network of analysts, Omdia delivers expert analysis and strategic insight across IT, telecoms, and media sectors. Omdia is part of Informa TechTarget, listed on the London Stock Exchange.

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Konica Minolta Business Solutions Australia

1800 789 389

sales@konicaminolta.com.au

konicaminolta.com.au



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