

Forum:[Hack Forums](#)

Thread: [Your printer is watching you...](#)

Mr.Peanut - May 20, 2014, 9:08 pm

Yes this is old news, I get it. But for those of you who don't know.. There are 2 types of printers (there's more, but of the 2 general ones). There's inkjet printers and laser printers..

What are Yellow Stamps- These are stamps on "laser" printers that in fact mark on your printed paper a time/date stamp as well as the serial code of the printer, making it easy to track you down

The difference..

Inkjet- It spits out ink when printing, and the quality isn't as good. Though you're spending more money on ink, etc. There are NOT little yellow stamps on these kinds of printers.

Laser- This printer is better/higher quality.. I'd rather not get into how it prints as it's not why i'm posting this thread. Long story short, these yellow dots are printed on these types of printers..

TL;DR: My QUESTION is, can you hack/flash a laser printer (rather than using an inkjet) to where you can print things without it being traced.. Or couldn't you buy a used laser printer do whatever off another wifi connection, then destroy it? I mean can they prove you had it?

Note: I don't have any intent to commit any illegal crimes, but I mean I like knowledge and knowing what my options are for anything is always interesting..

(Apr 5, 2017 01:02 PM)M.D. Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) You should link this:

<https://www.eff.org/pages/list-printers-which-do-or-do-not-display-tracking-dots>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Printer_steganography

As well as...

<https://w2.eff.org/Privacy/printers/docucolor/>

This site has a decoder.

Pretty interesting subject actually.

0x03a8 - May 20, 2014, 10:14 pm

These yellow stamps aren't visible to the eye I suppose?

I didn't even know they did this -.-

this might be interesting to know.

I'm keeping an eye on this thread.

Perfectionist - May 20, 2014, 10:22 pm

I didn't know they did this :o

When I get home, I'll examine the shit out of my printed papers, looking for that tiny yellow dot.

Mr.Peanut - May 20, 2014, 10:25 pm

(May 20, 2014 10:14 PM)Semizias Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) These yellow stamps aren't visible to the eye I suppose?

I didn't even know they did this -.-

this might be interesting to know.

I'm keeping an eye on this thread.

It's not, but if you flash a blue led/flashlight you can probably see if if you really try.. or put it in the air towards light.. Just note, these are on laser printers only.. As there quality poses a threat towards counterfitts haha

Ac1db1tch3z - May 20, 2014, 10:44 pm

This is an interesting post.

Been around since early 2000's and this is the first time i've heard about it.

Following this thread

Mr.Peanut - May 20, 2014, 10:53 pm

Thanks for the support! I guess I'll actually have to make a detailed thread or something if more people are interested..

anonalonius - May 21, 2014, 2:04 pm

Paranoia? Can you get me a picture showing the stamp?

anarchy366 - May 21, 2014, 2:28 pm

Would definitely like to see a detailed thread on this topic, never been aware that this actually happens.

GameFreak - May 21, 2014, 2:51 pm

This is news to (I assume) a lot of people! Is there any proof of this? Or is it just some conspiracy theory?

V?rt - May 21, 2014, 3:23 pm

Well, This is a very interesting topic. I have a laser printer\copy machine. From what I've looked at, I can't find a yellow dot or anything on it. Keeping an eye on this thread though, I kind of want to know more.

HypnoPast - May 22, 2014, 11:26 am

Im very interested in this aswell.

Keeping an eye on this thread.

Niely - May 22, 2014, 1:02 pm

Hi guys!

This does exists, it's called printer steganography.

It's indeed only on laser pinters and used by most companies.

It are actually just a bunch of yellow dots placed in a square of one cm.

Their meaning is encoded but of course includes things like dates, names,...

The encryption for companies like Xerox are already been cracked.

Bet they will be only selling laser printers im the near future? :)

My advice: Go back in time, even before the Greece and their TROJANS. Draw and write everything on stone... No serious, just use inkt, however they can still trace a bit how old the inkt is. :)

Or do nothing wrong and share a paper with people you trust... Sad we also need to be carefully

with paper nowadays ;)

Ryner - May 22, 2014, 1:10 pm

Is the printer also a part of the Illuminati?

???Senpai - May 22, 2014, 1:11 pm

(May 22, 2014 01:10 PM)Ryner Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Is the printer also a part of the Illuminati?
Dun Dun DUUUUUUn!

Best regards,

Senpai ?

Dr.Rockzo - May 22, 2014, 1:31 pm

(May 21, 2014 02:51 PM)ApeDegree Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) This is news to (I assume) a lot of people! Is there any proof of this? Or is it just some conspiracy theory? This is a real thing though some people point that hitler made you register your typewriter & americans thought that it was against freedom of speech but we as americans haven't even noticed that we are doing this

xAMOKx - May 22, 2014, 1:45 pm

If there were black letters printed on the paper saying MR Peanut, what would you do to hide your name? Adding a few letters to make it say something like More Peeanout?
Just print random yellow dots on the paper and it wont be traceable.

Another way would be to just remove the yellow toner cartridge.

Color Profiles do not have an impact on the yellow dots btw. I once needed to get rid of the dots as i was working in a printing company. Solution was a new RIP software installed by Xerox.

Another fun thing is, that if you print a 100% yellow page, most printers will print 200% yellow dots.

thatguy411 - May 22, 2014, 2:23 pm

wow i did not know this i am going to look

Mr.Peanut - April 5, 2017, 1:19 am

This thread is 3 years old. I think this thread is still very relevant and can be something many new members learn, so I decided to bump it. The time of this thread being posted has no relevancy to it being "grave dug".

THC - April 5, 2017, 10:04 am

You can hack a printer, used to do it all the time with vulnerable printers, scanners, and fax machines.

Mr.Peanut - April 5, 2017, 12:51 pm

(Apr 5, 2017 10:04 AM)M.D. Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) You can hack a printer, used to do it all the time with vulnerable printers, scanners, and fax machines.

Very true, I would say there's some intermediate technical/computing skills required to do it right, but I believe it's definitely possible.

????Kosdff - April 5, 2017, 12:58 pm

Wow, never knew this very interesting :)

THC - April 5, 2017, 1:02 pm

You should link this:

<https://www.eff.org/pages/list-printers-which-do-or-do-not-display-tracking-dots>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Printer_steganography

As well as...

<https://w2.eff.org/Privacy/printers/docucolor/>

This site has a decoder.

Pretty interesting subject actually.

Mr.Peanut - April 6, 2017, 12:16 am

(Apr 5, 2017 01:02 PM)M.D. Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) You should link this:

<https://www.eff.org/pages/list-printers-which-do-or-do-not-display-tracking-dots>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Printer_steganography

As well as...

<https://w2.eff.org/Privacy/printers/docucolor/>

This site has a decoder.

Pretty interesting subject actually.

Thanks, just did. I'm surprised I could edit a thread this old. HQ links, I checked them out myself.

ItlWng - April 6, 2017, 2:22 am

I'm not 100% sure about how true it is, but someone told me few months ago about someone who hacked 3D printer.

I think that was a cheap 3D printer with open ports but if this is true and nobody knows (or more likely cares) about this vulnerability it could be very useful and maybe even harmful.

maybe 3D printer steganography is the new thing?

Mr. Robot - April 6, 2017, 2:26 am

Old stuff but yeah really interesting if you are worried about certain documents authenticity.

THC - April 6, 2017, 7:41 am

(Apr 6, 2017 12:16 AM)Mr.Peanut Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Thanks, just did. I'm surprised I could edit a thread this old. HQ links, I checked them out myself.

Holy shit I just realized this thread is 3 years old ?

Still relevant though. I think I saw a reddit post a while back about how a larger dark net vendor got busted because of this, they were printing their own labels or something and it led to this.

Richardroberts - January 9, 2025, 8:03 pm

The government is not going to let all these printers go out without a safeguard it most certainly is true I want to get around it I mean the Epson I got 2800 it is Linux based firmware why can it not be hacked re-written I wish new how I paid for it why can't I print what I want. Anybody tackled this issue someone has love to here from ya. Who decides what's right what's wrong the majority and the majority follows the smoothest talker the politician. Well I am like most of you doing my own thing follow my own code of conduct not the morals shoved down our throat by schools TV since we can remember and I want to free my printer but need some help lol

DramaKing - January 10, 2025, 10:45 am

(Jan 9, 2025 09:03 PM)Richardroberts Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) The government is not going to let all these printers go out without a safeguard it most certainly is true I want to get around it I mean the Epson I got 2800 it is Linux based firmware why can it not be hacked re-written I wish new how I paid for it why can't I print what I want. Anybody tackled this issue someone has love to here from ya. Who decides what's right what's wrong the majority and the majority follows the smoothest talker the

politician. Well I am like most of you doing my own thing follow my own code of conduct not the morals shoved down are throat be schools tv since can remember and I want to free my printer but need some help lol

Firearm serial numbers I get, but printout serial numbers? You just need the printer firmware, search for the string containing the serial number, edit it, and update the printer with it. Such a simple, unimportant change should not brick the printer.