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> Microsoft warns that new Windows updates may break printing

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Microsoft warned that starting with this week's optional preview updates, temporary mitigation provided one year ago to address Windows Server printing issues on non-compliant devices will be removed, potentially breaking printing.

As Redmond explained last year, a known issue might cause print and scan failures on multiple Windows Server versions (<https://www.bleepingcomputer.com/news/microsoft/windows-10-july-security-updates-break-printing-on-some-systems/>) after installing the July 2021 security updates on Windows domain controllers (DCs).

The known issue impacts printers, scanners, and multifunction devices non-compliant with CVE-2021-33764 hardening changes and using smart card (PIV) authentication.



"The affected devices are smart card authenticating printers, scanners, and multifunction devices that don't support either Diffie-Hellman (DH) for key-exchange during PKINIT Kerberos authentication or don't advertise support for des-ed3-cbc ('triple DES') during the Kerberos AS request," Microsoft explained (<https://www.bleepingcomputer.com/news/microsoft/microsoft-shares-mitigation-for-recent-windows-server-printing-issues/>).

Luckily, according to Microsoft, all affected smart card authenticating devices will work as expected and won't be impacted if using username/password authentication.

Temporary mitigation disabled across affected Windows Server versions

On Thursday, Microsoft said that the temporary fix has now been disabled by this week's optional preview updates on Windows Server 2019 systems. This change will lead to printing and scanning failures in Windows environments with non-compliant devices.

"Starting on July 21, 2022, this temporary mitigation will not be usable in security updates. The Windows July 2022 preview update will remove the temporary mitigation and will require compliant printing and scanning devices," the company said (<https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/windows/release-health/windows-message-center#2859>) in a Windows message center update.

The temporary mitigation will also get removed on all affected Windows Server versions (Windows Server 2019, 2016, 2012, and 2008) by next month's Patch Tuesday security updates that will be released on August 9, 2022.

"All updates released on this day or later will be unable to use the temporary mitigation," Microsoft explains (<https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/topic/kb5005408-smart-card-authentication-might-cause-print-and-scan-failures-514f0bc5-ecde-4e5e-8c5a-2a776d7fb89a>) in an updated support document.

"Smartcard-authenticating printers and scanners must be compliant with section 3.2.1 of the RFC 4556 specification required for CVE-2021-33764 after installing these updates or later on Active Directory domain controllers."

To find non-compliant devices that will fail authentication after installing July 2022 or later updates on Windows DCs, admins should check logs on their Active Directory DCs for audit events identifying RFC-4456 incompatible printers added after deploying February 2022 Windows Server updates.