

## **'Rogue' multi-function copiers are major compliance risk, says eCopy**

Mar 01 2007 Joanne Wallen

Multi-function printer, scanner, copier and fax devices may be able to save space and money in an office but could be a major security breach and compliance headache, according to software provider eCopy.

"These devices can revolutionise businesses and there is a great cost justification for using them. All of the major single device manufacturers are producing them. However, attached to an IT network without the right security in place, they become 'rogue devices', and no IT manager worth his salt would touch them," Alan Cornwell, eCopy's general manager of European operations, told *Complinet*.

Cornwell pointed out that if the device is attached to an IT network without the right authentication processes and archive trails, it presents a major security loophole, particularly since most devices now have large screens and virtual keyboards, enabling anyone passing by to log into the network, and even to access business applications.

"These devices are often sitting in the middle of an office. Anyone can go up and use them and get into the IT network. Without the right security and audit, firms are leaving themselves wide open to fraudulent, criminal and subversive acts," Cornwell said.

eCopy has developed software that runs on any manufacturer's device and provides different methods of authentication over and above the usual username and password option. It can accept common access card authentication or biometric identification. The software also creates a full audit trail, with e-mails sent from the copier/scanner device, for example, being recorded as sent by the individual user.

For those devices that do not have sufficient processing power built in, eCopy also provides ScanStation, a standalone PC that plugs into the device and enables the authentication and audit trail facilities.

### Data scraping

eCopy's ShareScan OP is software that enables paper documents to be scanned and turned into digital documents for feeding into document management systems or directly into enterprise applications. The software "scrapes" data out of the digital documents and can feed it directly into any one of around 150 different business software applications, such as an enterprise resource planning system.

Cornwell said the system eliminated the need to take and store multiple copies of

documents for passing from one department to another. It cuts out the need for re-keying information and thereby eliminates user error. Once the document has been scanned on entering the building, it can be encrypted, passed around the business and automatically archived in a completely secure manner.

eCopy's customers include Lexington Insurance, which is part of AIG. Outside of the financial services sector, it has a number of large legal clients and government departments.

In the US, one client, FCS Financial, used the software to turn tens of thousands of loan applications into PDF documents for electronic routing and archiving. The software also enables multiple users to view and highlight the document and add their own annotations. The firm reckoned it reduced the time it took to process loan applications by 30 per cent.