VASION®

GUIDE

GOING SERVERLESS FOR MANUFACTURING

The Complete IT Guide on How to Eliminate Print Servers to Maximize Uptime and Productivity in SAP Print Environments

“Printers are the bane of my existence.”

– every IT Strategist ever

You’ve probably dreamt of a life free from print servers and the headaches they cause. And yet, they’re still here. Popping up and causing chaos as your manufacturing organization expands and opens new branches.

They’re a productivity killer, they spread like the plague, and you just want them gone. The problem is that you don’t know where to start, how to do it, or if it’s possible to eliminate print servers at all.

We’ve got good news!

It is possible, and it’s easier than you think.

Read on to discover how you can eliminate front-end print servers and maximize printer uptime for your manufacturing organization in five simple steps.

1. **Acknowledge servers as the problem.**
2. **Justify the value of going serverless.**
3. **Find a solution that checks all your boxes.**
4. **Get your boss on board.**
5. **Start a free 30-day trial with Vasion.**

1 ACKNOWLEDGE SERVERS AS THE PROBLEM.

The first step to solving any problem is clearly defining it. It's easy to designate printers as the culprit of your print management woes. They break, need servicing, stop the flow of documents, and you're always the one called in to fix everything when end users can't install printers or troubleshoot issues for themselves.

BUT, it's not your physical printers slowing end users down and stifling IT productivity, it's your print servers—and it's time to start pointing fingers at them. Here's why:

Unplanned Downtime

Print servers are a single point of failure. If a server goes down, critical documents like work orders, schematics, or quality control checks can't be printed, causing delays in production lines.

Print Job Bottlenecks

Traditional print servers often struggle to handle high volumes of print jobs simultaneously. This can lead to long wait times for workers who need documents printed, impacting their ability to complete tasks efficiently.

Complex Management

Maintaining print servers in SAP environments requires IT resources for configuration, driver updates, and troubleshooting issues. This can take away valuable time from addressing other critical IT needs related to production.

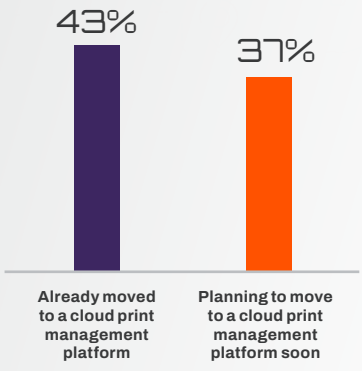
Security Concerns

Print servers can be vulnerable to security breaches, exposing sensitive information like production plans or customer data, leading to costly interruptions and compliance issues.

These are just scraping the surface of print server drawbacks. However, by eliminating print servers, you can create a highly available, resilient print environment that minimizes potential downtime and maximizes document output.

And you wouldn't be the only one to join the movement.

Manufacturers around the world are taking action. **According to Quocirca, 43% of organizations have already moved to a cloud print management platform, with 37% more companies reporting that they have plans to do so in the next two years**—making serverless printing the de facto standard moving forward.



Source: Quocirca

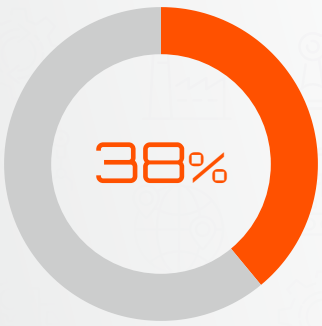
2 JUSTIFY THE VALUE OF GOING SERVERLESS.

You've acknowledged print servers as the problem. You don't want them around anymore.

It's time to dream a little and imagine life without them. Here are a few things to consider to help you piece together why going serverless is an absolute win for you, your team, and your users.

Money

The cost savings for simply reducing legacy infrastructure immediately impact your annual budget. You'll no longer have to splurge on management, licensing, and procurement for front-end print servers. Plus, you completely eliminate downtime caused by legacy print hardware. According to a report by **StorageCraft**, 38% of all failures in an organization are print server-based, and for every hour of downtime, manufacturers can expect to lose a **whopping $260,000**. Other financial benefits of eliminating print servers include scaling to meet business demands without purchasing additional hardware and leveraging cloud print automation features like advanced reports and analytics to better identify and reduce unnecessary printing.



of all failures in an organization are print server-based

Source: StorageCraft

Time

The time saved by going serverless is noticeable from the get-go. No more manual security patch installations, complex deployments, and traveling to offsite locations just to address printer issues. You'll also spend less time responding to helpdesk tickets to fix slow network printing or spooler crashes. Not to mention, you and your team will be able to scale as your organization grows by adding new users and printers to your fleet without having to erect another print server.

Resources

Conserving IT resources and maintaining print servers, especially in distributed environments, requires a great deal of labor. When a new location opens, you're hiring a whole new IT team to make sure other locations can thrive and users can print when they need to. Instead, a single admin can manage printers and document output for all branch locations from a single software. This frees up time for IT staff to focus on more critical tasks related to production software, network security, and other technical aspects that directly impact manufacturing processes.

3 FIND A SOLUTION THAT CHECKS ALL YOUR BOXES.

Now that you've crafted a list of "whys" for going serverless, it's time to make a list of requirements in order to find the right solution. For example, do you need a solution that centralizes user and system-level printing for greater visibility? What about automated printer redirects and deployments? Are there security features that you need to maintain compliance?

It's a lot to ponder. But finding a cloud print management solution that addresses the current and future printing needs of your manufacturing organization is a lot easier if it checks the following boxes:

☑ Centralize Printer and Driver Management

Increase visibility into printer and document workflows by managing all devices across your office locations on a centralized platform to free up valuable time for more critical tasks.

☑ Leverage Output Automation

Serverless print management solutions should come with built-in output functionality to ensure every document reaches its intended destination and provide greater control over document access, security, output costs, and more.

☑ Optimize Print Security

Minimize attack surfaces by reducing legacy infrastructure, keep print jobs local, and authenticate users before they release print jobs to protect confidential company data.

☑ Automate Printer Redirects

Avoid printer failures that threaten your bottom line by automatically rerouting print jobs to specific printers, ensuring optimal printer availability and redundancy.

☑ Connect with SAP Systems

Consolidate print management for your SAP environment to maximize visibility into the printing of shipping labels, invoices, and printing orders across your mission-critical production processes.

☑ Reduce Helpdesk Tickets

Automate deployments based on user location or empower users to install printers themselves to improve user productivity and limit calls to the IT helpdesk.

Ask these questions to potential vendors to help you find the perfect match:

Do they eliminate front-end print servers?

If you want to put an end to server failures and increase uptime, the answer better be, "*Yes*."

How long does it take to implement?

It shouldn't take months to get a solution up and running. The best solutions can do it in days.

Do they connect with SAP print environments?

You want to achieve redundancy and high availability for all print jobs. Make sure they connect to your back-end systems.

What security certifications do they have?

They're rare, but solutions with both ISO and SOC 2 certifications will meet your security needs.

What do customers say about them?

Ask for collateral and visit G2 to see how they match up against other solutions.

How is their support team?

They should provide 24/7, around-the-clock support—nothing less.

4 GET YOUR BOSS ON BOARD.

After organizing priorities and determining how going serverless benefits your organization, you've established every angle to build a response to naysayers and get leaders on your side. Now, it's time to put your due diligence to the test by pleading your case to your boss.

Here are a few questions about serverless print management your boss might ask, along with answers you can use word-for-word to win them over.

Q: Will going serverless cause downtime during and after implementation?
No, not at all. Implementation is seamless and can be done all at once or gradually, depending on how many servers are eliminated. After implementation, printer uptime and document output are maximized in the cloud—even in the event of a network issue.

Q: Is serverless printing secure?
Yes. Eliminating print servers minimizes attack surfaces and ensures vulnerabilities like PrintNightmare never happen again. Plus, all print jobs stay on the local network, and users have to verify their identity before printing or scanning confidential data.

Q: How will eliminating servers maximize productivity?
Cloud-based printing solutions can handle large print volumes efficiently and automatically prioritize and distribute jobs, ensuring workers receive documents quickly when needed. Additionally, end users can install printers themselves without calling the IT helpdesk, freeing up IT time and resources to tackle other projects.

Q: How does serverless print management impact printing in SAP environments?
Eliminating print servers enables connectivity between print and output capabilities with SAP systems, empowering IT teams to view all front- and back-end print activity from a single pane of glass, automate printer redirects in the event of a failure, and receive confirmation when print jobs are delivered.

Tip: Speak to the stats.

25hrs

lost each month by manufacturing plants from unplanned downtime

Siemens

$260k

wasted per hour of downtime in the manufacturing sector

Pingdom

46%

of unplanned downtime incidents directly affect customer service

IIoT World

Don't feel like your boss will believe your serverless printing pitch?

Don't worry. Here's our **useful blog post** to help you convince your boss that serverless printing is the best choice.

5 START A FREE 30-DAY TRIAL WITH VASION.

Now that you've thrilled your boss with your strategic plan to eliminate front-end print servers and maximize uptime by consolidating print management, all that's left is to put serverless print automation to the test—for free, of course.

Implementation is lightning-quick, too. You only need to share three minor details with our experts:

- **Your unique requirements:** Share your needs and concerns with us. Once we understand what you're looking for, our team will ensure all your needs are met.
- **Your IT goals:** Want more control and visibility into SAP printing? Trying to implement airtight security? We'll customize our solution to help you get the best outcomes (and output) possible.
- **How many printers you have:** Whether you have 10 or 10,000, we'll move all your printers away from front-end print servers to our secure SaaS platform.

It really is *that* simple.

Ready to deliver streamlined printer AND output automation across your manufacturing organization?

Don't wait.

Discover how Vasion helps organizations like yours minimize unplanned printer downtime and increase document output on an easy-to-use SaaS platform.

Learn More

VASION®