# WPP Overview

On October 8th, 2024, Microsoft introduces the security portion of the Windows 11 2024 Update (version 24H2). This includes Windows Protected Print (WPP) mode. WPP brings major changes to the way printing works. So what do we need to know to be prepared to help our partners and customers during this major industry shift?

**Firstly, let's answer, what is WPP?**

WPP  builds on the existing IPP (Internet Printing Protocol) print stack where only Mopria-certified printers are supported and disable the ability to load third-party drivers. These changes are part of Microsoft's broader effort to secure the printing ecosystem on Windows, following a series of vulnerabilities and attacks in recent years. WPP blocks all third-party drivers and implements many new security protections. In short, this means the following:

- No more support for manufacturer drivers
- Less access to the print stack
- Spooler components have fewer privileges

**What challenges does this change bring?**

There are a few key things to keep in mind:

- The switch is optional, for now…
    - While it will become available for all starting in October, organizations won't be forced to make the switch until 2027.
- At least 30% of printers that exist will not be supported
- Activating WPP WILL DELETE ALL EXISTING PRINT QUEUES AND DRIVERS
    - We recommend that all administrators back up their printing environment before attempting to switch to WPP mode.

**How can ACDI and PaperCut help?**

At the moment, none of PaperCut's products support WPP, but as expected, there is already a plan. They are a part of the Mopria alliance and are working to address the changes with the WPP print stack.

For more information, check out PaperCut's article titled:

**[Windows Protected Print Mode 2024 guide](#)**

ACDI is also researching and preparing for these changes, providing the same award-winning support that we are known for.