Work Like Tomorrow.™

KOFAX POWER PDF ADVANCED AND THE SECURE IT ECOSYSTEM

KOFAX

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INTRODUCTION

With data breaches on the rise due to hackers with malicious intent and, more often, simple carelessness, the security of your systems and data are of utmost importance. Hackers are looking for any and every entry point into your network, and desktop software can be a vulnerable target, especially desktop software that's installed on every computer. While free tools like PDF readers, for example, are tempting, they often carry many hidden costs that aren't considered when they're deployed to users in a business. Among these are a seemingly constant need to patch security vulnerabilities, since these free readers are among the most exploited software applications in the world. When not remedied, cybercriminals will utilize both well-known and new ("zero-day," or those not previously seen) vulnerabilities in software like Adobe Flash, Adobe Reader, Java Runtime Environment, web browsers and core Windows components as a gateway to launch malicious code on victims' PCs.

We take the security of our customers seriously and have designed security into our product architecture, development, testing and support processes. Learn more about Kofax Power PDF Advanced and the tools available to administrators to ensure that deployments are fully compliant with your organization's security policies.

From extended application security to protect against the unauthorized use of sensitive information, to integration with familiar tools that make administering enterprise-wide deployments easy, Kofax Power PDF Advanced delivers uncompromised value at a lower overall cost.

WHAT IS KOFAX POWER PDF ADVANCED?

Kofax Power PDF Advanced allows business users to create, convert, edit, and share PDF files, and comes complete with enterprise-grade security settings and controls that don't limit worker productivity while protecting critical business information.

Users can create industry-standard PDF files that are easily opened by authorized colleagues, customers, and suppliers when applying Document Open Passwords. Now, with the new ISO 23000-2 standard PDF 2.0 format, these passwords are even stronger since users are able to include non-alpha characters, and only 256-bit AES encryption is used.

When preventing modification or reproduction is required, Permissions Passwords can be set to restrict editing, copying and printing of PDF files except for those who have the password.

Removing information is easy with Redaction. The user can enter a search phrase, and the software will locate and redact (permanently remove) that information from the current file or all PDFs in a specified folder.

Often overlooked, document metadata can also expose sensitive information or other clues for hackers looking to gain access to an organization's system. Using the Remove Document Elements feature, users can remove metadata, comments, bookmarks, file share destinations and other embedded data that could be used to gain unauthorized access to sensitive information.

Kofax Power PDF Advanced features a full suite of eSignature Tools to electronically sign documents to ensure document integrity and authenticity and replace the time-consuming wet signature signing workflow.

These processes can be fully automated using the Advanced Processing capabilities that include watched folders and batch converters. With Kofax Power PDF Advanced, there is no compromise: user productivity increases and so does information security.

PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT & TESTING CONSIDERATIONS

The Kofax Power PDF Advanced development team uses rigorous, secure development practices that include code reviews by a leading application security house comprised of some of the top security experts in the industry. These experts are embedded into our software development workflow to ensure that assessments and vulnerability remediation are completed during logical points throughout the process.

Additionally, we use only TAA-compliant components in Kofax Power PDF Advanced, including the OCR, which utilizes our very own OmniPage Capture SDK. Other PDF software products use third-party components, some of which are created in non-TAA compliant countries. This may expose your organization to potentially malicious software code that could lead to a data breach or disruptions to your business operations.

PRODUCT DEPLOYMENT & USE CONSIDERATIONS

MICROSOFT SCCM, GPO AND AD

With Kofax Power PDF Advanced, administrators can easily import and publish updates via the Microsoft System Center Configuration Manager (SCCM). This ensures that your managed Windows desktops are always current with the latest security updates.

Applying security policies is easy since Kofax Power PDF Advanced is fully compatible with the Microsoft Group Policy Object (GPO) and Active Directory (AD) framework; it allows administrators to automate the management of their fleet of Windows desktops. It also provides centralized management and configuration of operating systems, applications, and users' settings in an Active Directory environment.

JAVASCRIPT

The PDF file format is a very reliable, autonomous portable container not only for information, but also for Javascript code, enabling advanced tasks related to form manipulation and validation. Many organizations are choosing to disable Javascript execution entirely, but what happens when they want to utilize a form that they've created themselves, or by a trusted partner?

Kofax Power PDF Advanced allows administrators some flexibility here with the Configuration Wizard, and they can choose to either completely disable Javascript or to only allow Javascript to be executed in PDF documents that contain a trusted certificatein effect "whitelisting" certain authors/creators so that users can take advantage of the form automation and validation that Javascript code can provide.

The Configuration Wizard is a UI app that makes the process easy, but admins can also choose to do everything directly from the command line. There are hundreds more settings that can be enabled/disabled in the Configuration Wizard, ensuring that your deployment meets your exact security and compliance requirements.

CLOUD FILE SHARING

Effective document collaboration relies on the ability to share and receive documents with other parties, often outside of your organization. As such, the use of cloud file sharing sites and hosted document management systems like Dropbox, Sharepoint and Box.net have been adopted by businesses of every size and in every industry.

Kofax Power PDF Advanced allows customers to configure secure connections to many popular file share sites and document management systems. Administrators can set these up at the time of deployment with the Configuration Wizard in the Connectors section.

FILE ENCRYPTION

While these cloud file sharing sites are certainly a great way to collaborate on documents, they're also a prime target for hackers. In early 2019, popular tech news site TechCrunch reported that sensitive information from tens of thousands of mortgage and loan customers' documents was left exposed on an unsecured server. These were documents of customers of some of the most well-known banks in the United States, on a server with no password. Of course, most of the documents weren't password protected either, likely because customers had a false sense of security since they were dealing with their banks.

With incidents like this on the rise, organizations need to ensure that they're making it easy to password-protect documents using the strongest encryption algorithms possible

Kofax Power PDF Advanced is one of the few PDF productivity applications to support the latest ISO standard: ISO 32000-2, also known as PDF 2.0. This format no longer allows users to encrypt documents with the outdated 128-bit AES, and now includes AES 256-bit Revision 6–the strongest encryption level commercially available.

Sensitive information from tens of thousands of mortgage and loan customers' documents was left exposed on an unsecured server.

TechCrunch

PRODUCT SUPPORT CONSIDERATIONS

We understand the stressful situations that IT admins face every day while they support dozens, hundreds or thousands of desktops across their organization. Administrators must maintain control and perform rigorous testing before rolling out patches and updates onto company devices. These patches are not only time-consuming, but also carry many hidden costs. If not done properly, the potential for productivity-killing downtime can be huge.

The complexity and often time-critical nature of even predictable patching place a significant burden on IT operations. It consigns your team to a reactive state, forcing them to continually play catch-up whether or not a vulnerability is actually exploited. Many organizations consider patching resource-intensive and ineffective, yet perform it on some level both for regulatory reasons and to avoid extended risk.

Numbers may vary, but with an average of just 10 patches each year, the costs for patching can reach several million dollars for a larger organization. And 10 yearly patches is a vast underestimation for a popular PDF reader that's likely installed on every desktop.

IT admins will be pleased to know that Kofax Power PDF Advanced has not required a security-related hotfix in many years. In the event that one is required in the future, our customers will be notified in a timely manner.

For our enterprise customers who have a volume license agreement, prior to a releasing a hotfix we will publish a Knowledge Base article identifying the critical bug and that a resolution is being worked on. When the fix is available, customers with an active Maintenance & Support agreement are able to download it by logging into their account at our software and documentation download website.

Also, in order to alleviate the almost-constant patching necessary with Adobe Reader, Kofax offers an Enterprise PDF Reader to customers who do not require a full-fledged PDF solution. This is available from your Kofax PDF sales representative.

For our small business customers who have purchased licenses and downloaded the software from our e-commerce website, prior to a releasing a hotfix, we will publish a Knowledge Base article identifying the critical bug and that a resolution is being worked on. When the fix is available, customers receive a notification via the Common Software Updater utility, along with a link to download the patch.

CONCLUSION

Kofax Power PDF Advanced takes application security seriously. It's recognized by IT admins as a secure, easy-to-use tool that knowledge workers love. From extended application security to help protect against the unauthorized use of sensitive information, to integration with familiar tools that make administering enterprise-wide deployments easy, Kofax Power PDF Advanced delivers uncompromised value at a lower overall cost than any other PDF provider.

Allow us to answer your questions, or provide you with a demo or free trial of the software. See for yourself why thousands of customers have switched to Kofax Power PDF Advanced for their secure document collaboration needs.

Visit us at www.kofax.com.

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