



Brooktrout TR Series Fax Cards – Security

Secure Network Fax Servers with the Brooktrout TR Series of Intelligent Fax Boards

Brooktrout Technology is a leading supplier of intelligent fax boards and media processing hardware that enable the development of LAN Fax applications. Brooktrout's market leading TR series of intelligent fax boards, the TruFax, TR114 and TR1034 series, provides small, medium and enterprise customers with an efficient, centralized communications server, known as 'Network Fax', which enables the electronic delivery and receipt of documents.

Network Fax servers save a company time and money in terms of reduced labor costs and improved productivity. However, since the TR series of intelligent fax boards from Brooktrout are typically installed in a server that is on the network, an overriding concern that many IT professionals is the threat of someone breaking into the network through the fax server.

Fortunately for IT professionals installing a Brooktrout TR series intelligent fax board, security on the network fax server is an area of concern they need not worry about. This is because the TR series of intelligent fax boards from Brooktrout are DSP-based telephony boards that transmit information only via the T.30 fax communication protocol. T.30 is a fax handshake protocol that describes the overall procedure for establishing and managing communication between two fax devices. T.30 covers 5 phases of a fax procedure, which are the call set up, communication mode selection, message transmission, post message procedure, which includes end-of-message and confirmation, and call release, or disconnection. T.30 does not allow for the processing of data or the transmission of data and only allows for the transfer of T.4 and T.6 images, which are two fax standards using T.30 protocol. With a TR series of intelligent fax board from Brooktrout, trying to hack into the T.30 protocol is like trying to hack into a network through a fax machine.

Data modems, on the other hand, support both the V.90 and V.92 protocols, which are 56 kbps data transfer standards and have data exchange capability. The fact that a data modem allows the transfer of data, and not just fax images like a Brooktrout intelligent fax board, makes a network very susceptible to security breaches by would be hackers.

In addition to this, Brooktrout intelligent fax boards are also secure from files being passed using Binary File Transfer, or BFT. With Brooktrout's TR series boards, the BFT protocol can be enabled and disabled within the application by the administrator at the time of install. Consequently, having a TR series board in a server that's on the network poses no threat whatsoever to your network security.

The TruFax, TR114 and TR1034 series of intelligent fax boards from Brooktrout Technology provide safe, secure and reliable fax transmission capability. Through the use of the T.30 protocol, Brooktrout TR series fax boards transmit images in the same manner that two fax machines would send an image to each other. The use of T.30, combined with the ability to turn off Binary File Transfer, ensures that installing a Brooktrout intelligent fax board on your network poses no greater security threat than plugging a standalone fax machine into an analog telephone jack.

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