

HP network imaging and printing management vs. Ricoh



HP printers and MFPs are easier to network and manage remotely than competing devices.

	HP	Ricoh
HARDWARE		
Printer/MFP/device	✓	✓
Internal print server	✓	✓
External print server	✓	
WiFi (802.11x) print server	✓	✓
Bluetooth™ print server	✓	✓
Home PNA print server	✓	
Printer EWS	✓	✓
Print server EWS	✓	✓
Print appliances	✓	✓
SOFTWARE		
Printer drivers	✓	✓
Printer install wizard	✓	✓
Network printer installer		
Status monitor	✓	
Printer server firmware update	✓	
Client management		✓
Web management	✓	✓
Job accounting	✓	✓
Asset management	✓	
Deploys pre-configured drivers	✓	
MOBILE SOLUTIONS		
Mobile printing driver	✓	
Enterprise printing	✓	
Direct PDA printing	✓	

Significant differences between these printers could impact... control over your imaging and printing environment:

Greater discovery capabilities — HP Web Jetadmin offers 11 methods of discovery vs. only 2-3 for Ricoh SmartNetMonitor.

Usage reporting — An inexpensive (\$500) report-generation plug-in for HP Web Jetadmin captures usage statistics by device. Combining this feature with HP Web Jetadmin's advanced discovery capabilities allows you to get a complete picture of your imaging and printing environment.

Tighter security — HP Web Jetadmin and HP JetDirect support SSL (Secure Socket Layer) and SNMP v.3 (Simple Network Management Protocol). Ricoh does support these higher levels of security.

Manageable Print Server Appliances — Offloading file servers saves money, reduces network traffic, and increases availability. While Ricoh's Print Cabinet is similar to HP's Print Server Appliance, you can't manage theirs with SmartNetMonitor.

Wireless printing with no tradeoffs — HP offers best-in-class wireless printing via WiFi and Bluetooth™ technology. While Ricoh does offer a wireless printing interface, you can't manage the device with SmartNetMonitor.

ongoing management costs:

Pre-configured drivers — HP Web Jetadmin lets you batch configure driver settings on all end-users' devices in one easy step. With Ricoh, you must configure one client at a time.

Support for non-Windows printing — Unlike Ricoh, HP offers configured model scripts to extend capabilities for non-Windows clients.

Remote discovery and management — HP Web Jetadmin's remote-discovery and remote-management capabilities are easy to use and extensive, making it simple to find, configure, and manage multiple printers at once.

HP Web Jetadmin with no tradeoffs — Ricoh's plug-in that lets you manage their devices via HP Web Jetadmin may not give you what you need. It does provide status, limited diagnostics, and the ability to configure the Ricoh network card. But unlike the real thing — an HP printer using Web Jetadmin — Ricoh's plug-in doesn't provide alerts or the ability to configure print paths and device settings, deploy pre-configured drivers, and manage device storage. Furthermore, it doesn't offer advanced diagnostics beyond what's supported in the standard MIB, usage reporting, or a remote control panel.

