

# Re: Is Fax Dead Yet?

---

*Source:* <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.electronics.design/2008-04/msg03720.html>

---

- *From:* Paul <Quiller123@xxxxxxxxxx>
  - *Date:* Tue, 22 Apr 2008 23:53:45 -0700 (PDT)
- 

On Apr 22, 9:31 pm, "Anonymous Remailer (austria)" <mixmas...@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

Paul wrote:

On Apr 22, 2:10=EF=BF=BDpm, Nomen Nescio <nob...@xxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

Paul wrote:

=EF=BF=BD =EF=BF=BD =EF=BF=BD  
=EF=BF=BD Email and the modern scanner  
=

has made the FAX

a dinosaur.

You must not spend much time in the business world. I recently had to manage a major project for a world wide banking conglomerate that everyone knows by name, and everything "important" was done using FAX. Absolutely nothing sensitive could be transmitted via email, encrypted or otherwise.

I also recently went through a credit card dispute after being swindled on a Christmas present purchase (bastards!). Every scrap of paper and every statement I made had to be faxed. They wouldn't even give me an email address, or even surf to the web site I built

## Re: Is Fax Dead Yet?

that had everything nicely organized, documented, and explained in detail. A web site hosted tight in my own living room no less.

I also do quite a bit of work for a largish law firm dealing primarily with international property and copyright law. They've gone largely paperless internally, but I'd estimate over 90% of their external (non-hardcopy) correspondence is still FAX. They actually decrypt archived documents before transmission and use a networked Xerox "all in one" to FAX documents when it would actually be \*easier\* to email them if their clients would only put in place a free server and exchange keys properly. The whole thing could be done transparently, and documents would be delivered directly to the "addressee" rather than routed through whoever happens to "check the FAX machine" that hour. ;-)

FAX dead? Not from where I sit it isn't. I can only guess at why it's so, but if I had to my best would be that crypto is a "black box" and FAX feels more "natural". FAX is (allegedly) a direct transmission too, while everyone seems to have at least some small, if sometimes alarmist, grasp of how "evil" email can be because it's routed through every Tom, Dick, and Jane server on the planet. FAX transmissions are simply trusted more than email and crypto, and oddly enough, for some valid reasons.

=20

I'm not saying it's completely dead, YET.

I'm saying it's not even feeling aged yet. First hand experience tells me it's here to stay for any foreseeable future. Some of hte reasons

Re: Is Fax Dead Yet?

may be more valid than others, but the reasons are what they are. :)

=20

But it will be, once people realise it's not any more secure than email. Also, it's super easy and free to make your own PDF files now.

You're wrong about the security. On a level playing field FAX is somewhat more secure than email because a FAX isn't sent through a mutable chain of hops in clear text form, where any casual observer can sniff and fondle it. Telephone calls do route through switches, but they far harder to compromise than data routers or mail servers.

You're wrong in the sense that PGP is very popular now (see other threads).

And if someone wants to snoop on you, they're gonna find a way, even if they have to tap into your line.

=20

I've had to use a FAX maybe once in 3 years or so.

As I said you must not spend a lot of time out in the business world. I FAX quite a bit actually. Several times a week at least.=20

Doesn't surprise me that the business world is back in the stone ages.

But this is all coming from someone who still watches tapes on a VCR, and still buys used tapes.

=20

But the industry has apparently stopped making new VCR tapes, so it's only a matter of time.

=20

I'm sure there are still people who have 8-track tapes too....

VHS and 8-track aren't valid analogies. For one they're mostly luxury items and a luxury industry. For another, there's a issue of fidelity

Re: Is Fax Dead Yet?

that simply does not exist within the realm of FAX versus scanned/mail.

=20

What's so luxurious about a VCR tape?

I just buy them because it's not worth it for  
me to spend money on a DVD that i end up not liking.  
Which makes used tapes a great way to see new movies.