A/UX: AppleTalk lpr Problem (9/94)

Article Created: 13 February 1991
Article Reviewed/Updated: 8 September 1994

TOPIC ---

At the UNIX prompt, I type: lpr /etc/hosts

The file does not print, and I repeatedly get the following messages on the
console:

   /usr/spool/lpd/AppleTalk/ofilter: pipe: cannot open
   /usr/spool/lpd/AppleTalk/ofilter: pipe: cannot create

I guess I should add that the lpr command uses the default entry in
/etc/printcap file. In the unmodified version (as distributed) it is the
AppleTalk entry, which should print on whatever printer is currently selected by
the Chooser.

DISCUSSION --

To let the AppleTalk printing service run correctly under the A/UX BSD printer
spooler (/usr/lib/lpd, lpr, ...), the following files under each printer
directory (for example /usr/spool/lpd/AppleTalk) should be owned by user
"daemon" and group "daemon":

```
            drwxrwxr-x   2  daemon     daemon    .
            drwxrwxr-x   7  daemon     daemon    ..
            -rwxr-xr-x   3  daemon     daemon    ifilter
            -rwxr-xr-x   3  daemon     daemon    ofilter
            -rwxr-xr-x   3  daemon     daemon    nfilter
            prw-rw----   1  daemon     daemon    pipe
```

The error message "...: pipe: cannot open" most likely indicates that the
ownership or groupship of any of the above files might have been incorrectly
set. Check yours, correct them, then restart the "lpr" command.

Because "lp" is the default printer in the BSD printer spooler system, the
"lp|at|AppleTalk" entry in /etc/printcap is chosen by the printer daemon
(/usr/lib/lpd). /usr/lib/lpd then passes all input file(s) to be printed to a
remote PAP (Printer Access Protocol) server for printing. This is done by the
input/output filter programs (ifilter, ofilter) provided under individual
printer directory (/usr/spool/lpd/AppleTalk), which is in turn invoked by the

"atprint" program which directly copies data to a remote PAP server.

Under "lpr", the destination PAP server is chosen as follows:

If the -Pprinter option of "lpr" command or the environment variable PRINTER is used or set, then the output goes to a specific printer. Otherwise, the system-wide default printer, the "lp" entry in /etc/printcap, is chosen, which is also the AppleTalk printer. The default AppleTalk printer is then chosen via the Chooser, from the Control Panel, or through the at_cho_prn utility.

We assume that you have correctly configured and set the AppleTalk in A/UX kernel.

Article Change History:
09 Sep 1994 - Reviewed.
31 Aug 1992 - Reviewed.

Keywords: <None>

==

This information is from the Apple Technical Information Library.

19960215 11:05:19.00

Tech Info Library Article Number: 6587