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AppleShare PC: How to Print Color

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TOPIC -----

Is it possible to print to a color printer through AppleShare PC? I am running a PS/2 with AppleShare PC 2.01, Windows 3.0, and Paintbrush from Windows connected to an NEC Colormate printer. If I configure the Paintbrush from Windows to print black and white, I can get a printout, but it doesn't work in color mode.

DISCUSSION -----

As you know, the two types of printing that AppleShare PC supports are PostScript and Epson LQ2500 emulation. The PostScript mode assumes your application knows how to communicate correctly using PostScript and just passes the data to the printer without modification. This is called pass-through mode.

Epson LQ2500 emulation works a bit differently, in that AppleShare PC must translate the plain text and Epson printer control codes into text and codes for the printer being used; PostScript LaserWriters and ImageWriters are supported.

In the case of LaserWriter Epson emulation, an Epson emulation dictionary is downloaded at the start of each job. Once this is done, the print data is sent to the emulation dictionary for interpretation and printing. Because ImageWriters have essentially no processing abilities, they require AppleShare PC to do all the translation for them. Unfortunately, no color emulation features are provided in either mode.

The only way we can think of to get color printing from AppleShare PC would be to use a color PostScript printer with software that supported it. Since AppleShare PC just passes the PostScript print data to the printer, it will let any PostScript data, color commands included, be sent.

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