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AppleShare PC: Bitmapped Graphics With Epson LQ2500

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TOPIC -----

I have migrated from TOPS to AppleShare. I have a program written in BASIC that prints a form with half-graphic characters on MS-DOS.

This works fine with TOPS Netprint. However, I couldn't get this form to print with AppleShare. The half-graphic characters are converted. AppleShare PC has the Epson LQ2500 command set, and Netprint has the Epson FX80 command set. What exactly are the differences?

DISCUSSION -----

The Epson LQ2500 command set is a superset of the command sets belonging to the Epson LQ1000, LQ800, LQ1500, EX series, FX series, LX series, RX series, MX series, Epson printer, Standard printer, and Draft printer. Your problem is not due to a command set difference; it is with the IBM graphics character definitions and those of the ASCII character set defined by AppleShare PC.

You are using IBM graphic text characters, which are not a part of the LaserWriter's PostScript or the U.S. Standard ASCII character sets. Unfortunately, the characters defined for use by AppleShare PC stop at ASCII value 176. The graphic characters of the IBM character set begin at a higher value within the ASCII range.

Page 104 of the "AppleShare PC 2.0 User's Guide," shows the characters available from the Epson LQ2500 AppleShare PC option. Printing Epson graphics while using AppleShare PC Epson option does work. A program printing through AppleShare PC must use bitmapped graphics to generate lines or other graphics when using the Epson LQ2500 option.

There are a couple of possible workarounds that the TOPS Netprint program may have used to avoid this situation. The optional symbol set within the LaserWriter does include some horizontal and vertical line symbols. These may have been mapped into the same characters used by your customer's program. You can also create new character definitions within PostScript, and the IBM characters may have been recreated and defined as part of the LaserWriters ASCII character set.

AppleShare PC does not include either of these options for printing IBM graphic

characters. We can only suggest that you use a program that prints bitmapped graphics for its form design or use TOPS Netprint.
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