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PacerTerm Print Issue to an Apple LaserWriter (5/96)

Article Created: 23 May 1996

TOPIC ---

Configuration: Macintosh running PacerTerm (3.10), DEC Mainframe (VT420
session). Printing to an Apple LaserWriter over the network.

Issue: When printing, the underlines come out as an Å. They are using the DEC
Supplemental character set.

DISCUSSION --

Getting underlines to print from the Macintosh VT terminal client (or any other
VT terminal emulation client for that matter) is not trivial.

• Underlined text on the PacerTerm screen (or any VT terminal client) is created
through standard VT escape sequences to start and stop underlining. In other
words, when text is to be underlined, an escape sequence is sent by the host to
start underlining, and another escape sequence is sent when underlining is to be
turned off. These escape sequences are what is captured by PacerTerm in the
session, so when the user selects print, these escape codes are in turn printed
(this is most likely what the Å is).

• Printing underlines typically are handled easily by DEC line printers attached
to the mainframe, or a terminal with a serial port. The DEC line printers are
able to "interpret" the above mentioned escape sequences (or any other line
drawing escape codes) and so can print underlines.

• PacerTerm supports serial printing via "AUX Printing" in the Terminal mode
settings. You may be able to connect a DEC line printer to the Macintosh
computer's serial port, though implementation could get quite messy. A
program/driver would be needed to handle the printer session -- sending escape
sequences to start and stop flow of the serial stream through the Macintosh
computer's serial port.

• As a "shot in the dark," you may try to cut-and-paste the data to a Macintosh
word processor to see if the underlines come through.

The bottom line is that printing underlines is not possible from PacerTerm at
this time. It's not an impossible feature to implement at the application level,
but there would have to be some intelligence in the application to "note" which
sections of text are underlined, and then integrate them with the calls made to

the Mac OS Font Manager.

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Keywords: knts,supt

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19960524 08:22:11.00
Tech Info Library Article Number: 19853