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Color LaserWriter 12/600 PS: ECP Port in DOS & Windows (7/95)

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TOPIC ---

This article describes the ECP (Extended Capabilities Port) parallel port on the
Color Laserwriter 12/600 PS.

DISCUSSION --

Question:
What is the ECP standard?

Answer:
ECP (Extended Capabilities Port) is one of two modes of operation comprising the
IEEE 1284 standard for an enhanced parallel port that is compatible with the
Centronics parallel port commonly used on PCs.

Both ECP and its counterpart, EPP (Enhanced Parallel Port), offer high speed,
two-way throughput, which allows data to be sent at twice the speed of older
parallel ports. Specifically, ECP provides speeds up to 2 MB/second in each
direction. Additionally, ECP can use DMA (Direct Memory Addressing) and a small
buffer to provide smoother performance in a multi-tasking environment

Question:
Is this port compatible with non-ECP bi-directional ports and non-ECP
uni-directional ports?

Answer:
Yes, the port is compatible with non-ECP ports.

Question:
What capabilities are lost if you do not have an ECP parallel port on the
computer?

Answer
There is reduced performance and additional bi-directional capabilities, such as
the printer sending status back to the driver, are not available.

Keywords: <None>

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