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LaserWriters for Windows: Emulation Switching Software (4/93)

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TOPIC -----

I read that the LaserWriter Pro printers for Windows will ship with automatic emulation switching software, but that this software would not be sold separately. How can my customers who have purchased the LaserWriter Pros for a multivendor environment obtain this software?

Also, how does the software work?

DISCUSSION -----

We have licensed the automatic emulation switching software from LaserTools (based in Emeryville, California).

The product is a TSR (terminate and stay resident) called Printer Control Panel and works for both DOS and Windows environments. It supports the LaserWriter Pro 600 and 630, Personal LaserWriter NTR, and the LaserWriter Select 310.

You are correct in that we are bundling the software ONLY with our specific LaserWriters for Windows products. The reasoning behind this is that our license agreement with LaserTools requires us to pay royalties for every copy we ship. Thus, the current plan for acquiring the software separately is to have customers purchase the product either directly from LaserTools or any mail order house. (To locate a vendor's address and phone numbers, use the vendor's name as a search string.)

The product checks all print jobs from the PC and downloads the appropriate emulation switching PostScript commands to the printer. Thus, the "automatic" emulation switching takes place at the PC-level and not at the LaserWriter, since the LaserWriter cannot automatically sense the type of jobs coming in.

For the LaserWriter Pro and Personal LaserWriter NTR, emulation is switched to HP PLC (Printer Control Language). As for the LaserWriter Select 310, which does not support HP PLC, the LaserTools product will provide a "text only" mode, where ASCII text sent to the printer will be converted to PostScript and be printed.

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