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LW Pro 810: Description of Virtual Printer (10/93)

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TOPIC -----

This article provides a description of the LaserWriter Pro 810's Virtual Printer Technology.

DISCUSSION -----

Virtual Printer technology enables one physical printer to provide PostScript and Printer Control Language (PCL) print service, and other custom services to network users. The administrator can set up a variety of "Virtual Printers"—all with their own specific network addresses—for a single physical Neptune printer. One virtual printer might default to landscape format, while another may be set up to print ledger or from a cassette loaded with executive stationery. There could be different "Virtual Printers" set up for each dpi resolution. In Macintosh-only environments, that may be the most prevalent use of Virtual Printer technology, useful for draft printing and final printing with no set-up changes. But, in mixed environments, there are lots of uses for this technology, saving users many steps of set-up for every print job.

With regard to emulation switching, Virtual Printer technology performs switching in a manner totally transparent to any user on the network. A LaserWriter Pro 810 responds to data addresses of specific Macintosh, UNIX or DOS PC's set up on the network and switches modes back and forth according to the data or IP address of the PC sending the print message. DOS files needing PCL mode will send their print messages to one "Virtual Printer" and PostScript files sent by Macintoshes or Windows PC's would be sent to a different "Virtual Printer" on the network. Both "Virtual Printers" in fact are the same Neptune printer printing to paper, but the printer never had to guess if the file was PostScript or PCL.

The ability to sort the data streams flawlessly—not having to attempt to read the application file header, as other sensing technologies do, and rely on uncertain code implementation to identify whether or not its PostScript —is a technological strength of the Neptune printers using Virtual Printer technology doesn't have to rely on guess-work. The data simply streams through the network according to the Virtual Printers configuration provided by the network administrator.

The enclosed binary file is an illustrated network of how Macintoshes and

PC's would utilize the Virtual Printer technology to print documents of both DOS PCL origin and Mac or Windows PostScript.

We can attach a binary file only to an AppleLink version of this article. If you are accessing this article outside of AppleLink, and you want to download the extension, follow these steps:

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