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LaserWriter 8.x: Margins for Apple LaserWriters (9/94)

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TOPIC -----

I am having a problem in which a few lines at the bottom of the page are printed on the second page. The form is in FileMaker and fills the entire page from border to border. It prints OK on a LaserWriter IIG, but 2 or 3 lines get moved onto the second page if the same document is printed on a LaserWriter Pro 810. I am using the LaserWriter 8 driver and have the page size set to US Letter on both printers. Is this normal? Is the print area slightly smaller on the LaserWriter Pro 810 than on the LaserWriter IIG? Is there any solution other than reducing the size of the form?

DISCUSSION -----

When using the LaserWriter 8 driver the imageable area is defined by information contained in the PPD file. The imageable area in the PPD file is determined by the engineering staff based on print engine, memory, and controller requirements. As you can see from the chart below each printer is slightly different which would account for the problems you are experiencing.

This chart indicates the margins defined by the LaserWriter 8 PPD file for each printer listed when printing on a standard letter page. To check this information for other page sizes go into page setup and click on the 'dog-cow' icon. The margins will be listed for the chosen paper size.

Printer	Standard				w/Larger Print Area			
	Top	Left	Bottom	Right	Top	Left	Bottom	Right
LW IINTX	.431	.431	.431	.403	.111	.208	.111	.208
LW IIG	.361	.306	.361	.306	.111	.208	.111	.208
Personal LW 320	.431	.431	.431	.403	.111	.125	.208	.167
LW Select 360	.431	.431	.431	.403	.194	.194	.167	.194
LW Pro 630	.431	.431	.431	.431	.111	.139	.208	.153
LW Pro 810	.431	.431	.431	.403	.194	.222	.194	.236

The margins set aside for the LaserWriter Pro 810 are slightly larger than those on a LaserWriter IINTX or LaserWriter IIG. One possible workaround is to select

the Larger Print Area option in page setup to decrease the margins and increase the imageable area. Another option is to slightly decrease the size of your FileMaker layout to fit within the constraints of the LaserWriter Pro 810 PPD file. If the problem still persists then the PPD file could be modified using a text editor to define the same imageable area as that found in your LaserWriter II PPD file. Although this may eliminate the two-page problem that you are experiencing, the page may be clipped if the imageable area extends into the 'protected area'. The 'protected area' is determined by the print engine manufacturer and is designed to prevent the accidental dumping of toner onto any part of the printer other than the paper.

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