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MacTerminal 3.0: Problems and Workarounds (11/94)

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TOPIC -----

We own a copy of the full-release version of MacTerminal 3.0. I realize that this is a totally rewritten program that takes advantage of the Communications Toolbox, but I have some problems. I'm not sure of the cause of the problems, or if there are ways to correct them. We've always tried to use the most current versions of software. This is our first experience with an upgrade that is not satisfactory or that we can't make satisfactory. Solutions to the problems are necessary for us to stay current with MacTerminal software.

- 1) Font substitution/printing problem: when using the 9-point VT100 screen font, the LaserWriter font substitutes to a very strange font. The printed font is not monospace and is not Courier. Therefore, items do not line up in vertical columns like they should.
- 2) Selection area/printing problem: clicking the mouse at a starting point and then shift-clicking at the end of an area is very inconsistent. In some cases, the entire document is selected. In other cases, only the current screen is selected. In very few cases, it works the way I'd expect and selects only the text between the click and shift-click operations.
- 3) Print accuracy: each time the printer encounters a screen-break line, it leaves extra space on the printed page. This is very sloppy looking.
- 4) Command-P for Print: why would anyone, on a regular basis, print their entire on-line session? I think Command-P should be Print Selection, just like in MacTerminal 2.3.1 and let that be the only print choice.
- 5) Settings, Connection..., Baud: the baud rate isn't saved properly. Even though I am connected to a 19,200-capable line, I choose to run at 9600. I can make the necessary changes then save the document, but each time I open the document or open the connection, it changes to

19,200.

- 6) Missing commands or capabilities: in MacTerminal 2.3.1 there were two commands in the File Transfer settings dialog box that don't seem to have equivalent commands/options in MacTerminal 3.0. They are Word Wrap Outgoing Text and Retain Line Breaks.
- 7) Send File: once the Send File "thermometer" disappears (reaches 100 percent) the text file that has been sent to our mainframe is not shown on the screen. I must do a screen refresh (Control-W) for the text to appear.

I believe that the NetSerial software is the key part. We are also using NetSerial to access our communications ports. Here is what we're using:

- Software:
 - MacTerminal version 3.0, created 7/18/90
 - Communications Toolbox version 1.0
 - Tools versions: VT102 v1.0.1 created 7/18/90; Serial v1.0 created 7/18/90; Text v1.0 created 7/18/90
- Hardware configuration: These things have occurred on Macintosh IIX, Macintosh IICx, and Macintosh SE.
- We are using Serial tool.

DISCUSSION -----

The following are some answers and workarounds to the above problems:

- 1) This has been fixed in System 7.5.
- 2) Selection area/printing problem: This is due to MacTerminal having no concept of an insertion point in cache (because it can't be edited). Perhaps it should display a non-blinking insertion point. Workaround by selecting one character at the one end of the desired selection area and then shift-clicking at the other end.
- 3) Print accuracy: You decided this was an incorrect observation on your part. If we change anything in a future version, it would be to not copy blank lines at the end of a screen when save screen is on (maybe have an option for this).
- 4) Command-P for printing a selection instead of for printing entire session: This is a good feedback and will be looked at.
- 5) Baud rate returning to 19,200 after document saved and re-opened: We believe this to be a NetSerial/Shiva problem with their serial look-alike driver. Engineering also had similar problems when we tried it, and Shiva was not responsive. Our guess is they only respond to setting the baud rate after the connection has been opened, and we call the serial driver to set it before the connection is opened.

- 6) Missing commands and capabilities in File transfer tool as compared to MacTerminal 2.3.1: Different interface with the same functionality--the wrap item in the text-file, transfer-tool settings dialog does do word wrapping. Line breaks are always retained.
- 7) Send File not echoing: This is a problem with the current text tool. The current workaround is using Control-W; it refreshes the screen after the transfer is complete.

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