



# Tech Info Library

## Macintosh: Using Slave Printers

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TOPIC -----

I support a group that uses DOS systems and wants to convert to Macintosh systems. In the DOS environment, the group uses "slave" printers and doesn't want to lose this functionality. With a DEC VT terminal, they can direct output of their sessions to the slave printer. This is not a "screen print" -- it prints an actual file.

With DOS machines running Kermit and using the parallel port, the attached printer can be made to emulate this "slave printer".

Does the Macintosh offer something similar?

DISCUSSION -----

You can do the same thing with the Macintosh, but you need to change your approach to take advantage of AppleTalk networks. In the Apple environment, printers can be shared on the network. Most terminal emulation software lets you save the host sessions in a buffer, and then you can scroll through the session and select the lines to print on a network printer, like an AppleTalk ImageWriter or LaserWriter.

If the user doesn't want to do this manually, PacerTerm (by Pacer Software, Inc.) lets you capture sessions in a log file. You can specify line feed filtering, Macintosh-to-Host logging or Host-to-Macintosh logging, or both. The log file can be appended to or overwritten. You can then print this log file to any network printer.

VersaTerm-Pro (by Synergy Software) is even more automated. It lets you turn on an option called "Print Stream", and anything printed to your terminal emulation screen is also directed to a buffer. When you end the host session, the file is automatically printed to the network printer you selected in the Chooser.

To locate a vendor's address and phone numbers, search with this syntax:

Vendor AND 3rd

where "Vendor" is the vendor's name.  
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