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Newton Print Pack: HP LaserJet print solutions (4/96)

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TOPIC -----

I have an Apple MessagePad and an HP LaserJet printer. How can I print from the Apple MessagePad to the HP LaserJet?

DISCUSSION -----

You have two possible options:

- 1- Use the "Choose Network Printer" option in Newton OS 1.0 and 2.0.
- 2- Use the Newton Print Pack

Use the "Choose Network Printer" option in Newton OS 1.0 and 2.0
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All Apple MessagePads have a built-in PostScript/AppleTalk driver, very similar to the Mac OS printer driver "LaserWriter8". This means any AppleTalk-based networked laser printer is compatible with the Apple MessagePad. Some HP LaserJet printers have PostScript and AppleTalk built-in, and almost all models can be upgraded to support these features. HP Technical Support recommended checking the startup page for individual printers.

The Apple MessagePad functions as a LocalTalk device and supports several physical connections, so a serial cable can be used for a direct connection. LocalTalk connectors allow the Apple MessagePad to print to any supported printer on the AppleTalk network.

Use the Newton Print Pack
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LaserJet printers with a parallel port can print from an Apple MessagePad using the Newton Print Pack. The Newton Print Pack is sold separately, and only has some specific LaserJet models lists. However, any Hewlett-Packard PCL-based printer should work with the Newton Print Pack.

The Newton Print Pack provides both a physical connection (serial to parallel conversion) and a PCL driver for the NewtonOS.

Troubleshooting note:

If you are trying to print to an HP LaserJet that you believe has PostScript/AppleTalk support, and you cannot see it in the "select a Printer" window, try printing directly to the printer with a serial cable. Sometimes an AppleTalk networking problem prevents the Apple MessagePad from seeing the printer properly.

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