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Macintosh-to-DEC Printer Solutions

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TOPIC -----

I need to interface a DEC LN03R printer to a Macintosh II. Do you have any suggestions?

DISCUSSION -----

We are assuming that you are talking about the DigitalScriptPrinter LN03R.

To connect the ScriptPrinter directly to the serial port of the Macintosh, you need a cable with the correct pinouts to support all signals between the printer and the Macintosh. Second, even though the ScriptPrinter is PostScript-controlled, you need a driver on the Macintosh so you can select from the Chooser. To our knowledge, there is no such driver. One alternative is to print to a disk file from the application, and send the file to the printer using a terminal emulation program. With the correct cable, you can communicate to the printer using a terminal emulation program, like MacTerminal, over the serial port. This is not very convenient.

Another alternative is to use the printer on the network. With Alisa Digital Printer (ADP) support system, an option for AlisaTalk for VAX/VMS, Macintosh users can print to Digital PostScript devices, such as the LN03R ScriptPrinter and the PrintServer 40. To the Macintosh user, the Digital PostScript device looks like an Apple LaserWriter.

ADP makes use of VMS system queueing and printing. Features include forms and paper-type control, optional job-flag and trailer pages for job identification, paper tray selection, and support for the Adobe system typeface pack. One VMS receiver process handles all Macintosh users; a new process for each job is not necessary. The software uses standard Digital Print symbionts and automatically loads the Laser Prep dictionary to the front of each Macintosh job submitted.

Another product called PacerPrint from Pacer Software, Inc., offers similar features. For more information on the Alisa Digital Printer support system or PacerPrint, search the Technical Info library using keywords "Alisa or Pacer".

Finally, PATHWORKS (formerly LanWORKS) for Macintosh, the new Apple-Digital Alliance product announced May 1, 1990, available later this year, will offer

this capability. The service is called VAXshare Print Server, and it will support Digital's LPS20, LPS40, ScriptPrinter LN03R, and Apple's LaserWriter, LaserWriter Plus, LaserWriter IINT, and LaserWriter IINTX.
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