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GS/OS 5.0.4: Difficulty Downloading ImageWriter Emulator

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TOPIC -----

I'm printing to a Personal LaserWriter NT from an Apple IIGS running GS/OS 5.0.4. When downloading the ImageWriter emulator, the system on Apple IIGS freezes and the Personal LaserWriter NT just blinks. The emulator downloads fine (takes about 1.5 minutes) to a LaserWriter IINT or IINTX.

DISCUSSION -----

If you're downloading the ImageWriter emulator from floppy disk, the following information explains the probable reason for your problem.

While the Apple IIGS is reading data (the IWEM file) from the floppy, interrupts are disabled. The Personal LaserWriter NT responds faster than other LaserWriter printers for additional packets. Usually the Apple IIGS has interrupts disabled when the Personal LaserWriter NT makes this request, so it's ignored. Eventually, the Personal LaserWriter NT makes the request again and the Apple IIGS sends the next packet of data and then reads (and disables interrupts) again. The timing of the whole thing is such that it takes a very long time to download the IWEM from floppy. From a hard disk there is no problem.

This is fixed in GS/OS 6.0: the entire file is read into memory at the beginning of the download.

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