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LaserWriter 8.4: Overview of Features & Benefits (8/96)

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TOPIC -----

This article contains an overview of the LaserWriter 8.4 software.

DISCUSSION -----

The LaserWriter 8.4 printer software ships with the LaserWriter 12/640 PS printer. This a new more powerful version of the LaserWriter driver the Mac OS.

Features

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- PowerPC Native.
- Improved Performance
- Single Pass Printing
- Improved User Interface
- Backward Compatible

PowerPC Native

The LaserWriter 8.4 driver is PowerPC native, allowing Power Macintosh users full benefit of the PowerPC processor.

The LaserWriter 8.4 driver also operates on 68xxx-based Macintosh computers.

Improved Performance

In tests performed by Apple on a Power Macintosh computer printing to a LaserWriter 12/640 PS, we have seen improvements in speed using LaserWriter 8.4 over previous versions of the LaserWriter driver. Using the new foreground printing feature further increases performance compared to background printing. Tests were performed by Apple using mainstream applications and printing medium to high complexity documents.

Note:

If you are using Adobe PageMaker 6.0.1 and are printing to the Apple

Color LaserWriter 12/600 PS, you may experience slower printing with LaserWriter 8.4. If this happens, Apple recommends using LaserWriter driver v8.3.4.

Single Pass Printing

With previous versions of LaserWriter software, when you printed a document, the print driver first created a spool file on the hard disk and the file was then parsed out to the printer incrementally. With single pass printing, print jobs are now sent directly to the printer, and no spool file is created on your hard disk.

This feature is very important to the graphic arts and publishing industries where a fast time to first page is very important, and their applications commonly create large spool files. Some of these spool files are larger than the remaining storage capacity of their hard disk. Single pass printing is available by selecting Foreground Printing in the Print dialog. Since Foreground printing does not create spool files, running out of disk space is no longer an issue.

Improved User Interface

The LaserWriter 8.4 provides a new and improved user interface for the print and page setup dialogs. This makes it easier to select desktop printers, and format the page for printing. When using Desktop Printing 2.0 (installed with LaserWriter 8.4), the desktop printer icons can be moved anywhere on the hard disk, and can be selected from the menu bar or control strip, as well as from the Print dialog.

Backward Compatible

All Apple LaserWriter printers--from the original LaserWriter to the Color LaserWriter 12/600 PS are supported using the LaserWriter 8.4 printing software.

Macintosh System Requirements

- Apple Macintosh or Power Macintosh computer with 8MB of RAM.
- Hard Drive with at least 5MB of free space (for printer software and fonts)
- System Software 7.1 or later

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