LaserWriter Select 360 Parallel Port: Data Flow (3/94)

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TOPIC

We have a LaserWriter Select 360 connected to our Ethernet network via a NetQue from Emulex (software version 4.1). When a job is sent to the printer using LaserWriter driver version 8.1.1, the green LED flashes, but no document is printed. The same configuration with the version 7.1.2 of the driver works fine. If we print serially with the 8.1.1 driver however, the configuration works.

Can you explain the difference between driver LaserWriter 7.1.2 and 8.x, and why it's not possible to print via the parallel port using the NetQue device with LaserWriter 8.x?

DISCUSSION

The LaserWriter Select 360 parallel port is unidirectional, however the LaserWriter driver 8.x expects to receive information back from the printer. The driver relies on bidirectional communications because it sends out various queries to obtain information about the characteristics of the target output device (such as features, fonts, etc.) before beginning a print job. The 7.x LaserWriter driver does not rely on bidirectional communications.

Included below is an excerpt from the APDA developer notes on the LaserWriter Select 360 regarding the parallel port:

"The Centronics parallel interface is essentially an input-only channel. This means it transfers information from the host to the printer. However, the PostScript interpreter always deals with both the input and output sides of an I/O channel. When operating in Centronics parallel input mode, the printer sets up the 8-pin serial port for the PostScript language print operator. The output from this port may be ignored for simple one-way communication. However, important information may be output via this port. Printer errors are always reported, since the Paper Error signal on the Centronics interface cannot be relied upon to report all printer errors."

Support Information Services

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