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ISA and VESA Bus PC: Printing to LaserWriter Select (10/94)

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TOPIC -----

Our customer has connected a LaserWriter Select 310 to an IBM compatible PC with ISA controller. He can print using the windows drivers no problem. As soon as he hooks the printer up to an IBM compatible PC with VESA LOCALBUS controller, the printer doesn't work.

The circuitry inside of the parallel port is mapped identically to any other parallel port on any other IBM PC. The only difference is the speed of the Bus timing. VESA is at 33MHz and ISA is at 8MHz. He can connect the printer to any other non VESA computer and it will work.

He can connect an HP, a Brother, or any other non-Apple printer, and it will work.

DISCUSSION -----

The following discussion assumes all troubleshooting such as clean boot, trying to print from DOS, etc. has yielded negative results.

Printing does not interact with the expansion bus in any way. I suspect the problem is in the type of parallel port being used. Some computers are equipped with what is commonly referred to as a bi-directional or EPP parallel port. We have seen problems with these type of ports due to the non-standard pinout of these ports.

Sometimes it is possible to make the printer work by using a different cable with these ports - not all cables have all pins connected and by disconnecting some of the non-standard pins the printer can be made to work. This is a somewhat hit and miss proposition, so it is usually better to get another parallel port (since you can buy one for less than 20 dollars, it's a cost effective solution)

Some bi-directional or EPP ports have an option to turn off that functionality. Check the documentation to determine if that's an option.

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