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LaserWriter IIf, IIg, NTR: Setting Serial Timeouts

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TOPIC -----

We have a number of LaserWriter IIf and LaserWriter IIg printers that have active serial connections to terminal servers. We have VAX print queues pointed at the terminal server ports so that users can access the printers.

When we send a print job to the printer's serial port, it prints the job and then goes into a "busy, status:Waiting" state. The printer stays in this state for 5 minutes, after which it returns to an idle state. During this time, additional print jobs sent to the serial port will print, but jobs sent to the LocalTalk or Ethernet ports won't print. These jobs must wait until the printer goes back to its idle state.

A possible solution to this problem would be to reduce the timeout period on the printer from 5 minutes to something less (for example, 30 seconds). We can do this by sending a PostScript command to the printer. What is the specific command?

DISCUSSION -----

Here is the PostScript Level 2 program to change the "WaitTimeout" value in the LaserWriter IIf and IIg, and Personal LaserWriter NTR:

```
<</WaitTimeout xx
  /Password (yy)
>> setsystemparams
```

"xx" is the timeout value in seconds and "yy" is the system password. If the system password is zero (the default), it's okay to leave out the "/Password" line. For example, if you want to change the "WaitTimeout" value to 30 seconds and have zero for a password, either one of the following PostScript Level 2 programs will do the job:

```
<</WaitTimeout 30
>> setsystemparams
```

or

```
<</WaitTimeout 30
  /Password (0)
```

>> setsystemparams

More important than changing the "WaitTimeout" value is properly terminating print jobs sent to the serial port. You do this by ending any print job with the CTRL-D character which is also known as an end-of-file character (eof). The CTRL-D character has an ASCII value of \$04. If this character is sent at the end of a print job, there will be no waiting at all for the serial port to time out.

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