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LaserWriter: Using in a Classified Environment

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Article Change History

08/25/92 - REVIEWED

- For technical accuracy.

TOPIC -----

I use my LaserWriter II in a classified environment. Does the LaserWriter II contain any non-volatile RAM that can be used to store classified information?

DISCUSSION -----

It would be very difficult to store a user program or data in the LaserWriter printer's EEROM or ZPRAM. The only documented way to write information to non-volatile memory is to use the PostScript operators as defined in the "PostScript Language Reference Manual". There is a way to write directly to non-volatile memory, but Adobe does not make this information available to the public.

Here's a list of LaserWriter printers and the amounts and locations of non-volatile memory:

Printer	Amount & Location of Non-Volatile Memory
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LaserWriter	512 bytes of EEROM
LaserWriter Plus	512 bytes of EEROM
LaserWriter IISC	none
LaserWriter IINT	512 bytes of EEROM
LaserWriter IINTX	2048 bytes of ZPRAM
LaserWriter II f	8192 bytes of EEROM
LaserWriter II g	8192 bytes of EEROM
Personal LaserWriter LS	none
Personal LaserWriter SC	none
Personal LaserWriter NT	2048 bytes of EEROM

The EEROM and ZPRAM components are soldered into place and cannot be removed easily for servicing. There is no way to erase the non-volatile memory via PostScript.

Most sites operating in a classified environment have a designated security officer who is responsible for ensuring that no equipment with non-volatile RAM or other storage capabilities is released from the classified area. Providing the EEROM and ZPRAM information listed above should be sufficient for the security officer to determine whether the board can be released from a classified environment.

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