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LaserWriter: Prepping a LaserWriter on a Mixed Network

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TOPIC -----

Is it possible to prep an Apple LaserWriter II without a Macintosh on the network?

I have mixed PCs, UNIX, and Macintoshes on LocalTalk network. I turn off the LaserWriters at night but in the morning a Macintosh user may not be the first person that prints. Does AppleShare PC handle this? Is there a TEXT PostScript version of the LaserWriter prep we can download via other types of CPU? Any idea on this topic would be appreciated.

DISCUSSION -----

AppleShare PC does not require that a LaserWriter be "prepped" by a Macintosh, or by sending a prep file from the PC before printing. It is capable of printing to a LaserWriter without any Macintosh assistance.

Some programs do require features that are only available in downloaded dictionaries, but these products typically include their own LaserWriter driver that handles this. If a user writes PostScript code on the PC that requires features provided by Laser Prep, they can extract the substance of Laser Prep from a Macintosh, and then download it from the PC along with their code.

Capturing the Laser Prep code on a Macintosh can be done by separating it from any PostScript file that has been generated, by holding down Command-K at print time. Here is the procedure:

- 1) Use the Chooser to select a LaserWriter, and turn off Background Printing.
- 2) Open a word processor and create an empty document.
- 3) Choose the Print... command in the File menu.
- 4) Click OK.
- 5) Immediately hold down the Command and k keys.
 - the k key dumps a PostScript image with Laser Prep
 - the f key would dump a PostScript file without Laser PrepHold the keys down until you see the Print Status dialog box.

The Print Status dialog box will say "Creating PostScript File." When the program is through printing, you will find a text file in the current application's folder called "PostScriptn," where n is a number that increments from 0 for each print job. If this is your first try, the file should be named "PostScript0."

Now that you have the PostScript file, you can extract the Prep section by editing it with your word processor. Cut out the section at the end that represents the empty print job. It should begin after the file's first blank line and look something like this:

```
T T 0 0 730 552 -31 -30 761 582 100 72 72 1 F F F F T T T F psu
(Bill's Macintosh IIX; document: Untitled)jn
...and so on...
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What remains can be transferred to the PC, and downloaded from there to the LaserWriter whenever needed (along with the user's code).
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