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LaserWriter: Printing Bold Characters from VAX

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TOPIC -----

I'm using a Quadra and Microphone II (version 4) to dial into All-in-One on a VAX. It works great, my screens look good, I can use PF keys, and so on. However, when I print to the LaserWriter IINT, anything that was bold prints out on 2 lines. I assume that it is doublestriking the line to get the bold effect, not realizing it's a LaserWriter image-based printer. The LaserWriter is connected to the Quadra.

Do you know of any drivers that would let the printer know what it's doing? Do you think Microphone would? Could I use the PATHWORKS printer drivers without installing PATHWORKS?

DISCUSSION -----

Your problem is caused by the VAX sending the LaserWriter control characters that are understood only by DEC laser printers or third-party printers with DEC emulation. On a DEC LN03, for example, in order to bold a string, you have to enclose the string with 2 control characters, one at each end. You also have to do this twice, for the top half and the bottom half of the string. When not interpreted, this prints out as two lines, sometimes with extra characters at the beginning or at the end of the string.

PATHWORKS uses a print symbiont called VAXshare symbiont to convert VMS text into PostScript data before sending it to the LaserWriters. Another symbiont, called the PostScript printer symbiont, transfers data to a Digital PostScript printer.

You'll need to send VMS text to the VMS queue system, and need a similar "symbiont" to do the translation to PostScript. Unfortunately, no vendor is selling just the VAX queue symbiont alone. They all come as part of the package. You might want to contact Pacer and Alisa to see if they sell the VAX print service separately.

MicroPhone won't solve this problem for you. And you can't use PATHWORKS' VAXshare print service without purchasing PATHWORKS for Digital.

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