

LaserWriter: PostScript Command For DTR Protocol

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To interface a LaserWriter with an IBM compatible, WordPerfect 4.2, which now claims support for the LaserWriter, furnishes a segment of PostSript code with the file name INITWRT.PS. This file, according to their instructions, is to be sent to the printer via the serial port to change the EEROM so that the LaserWriter will thereafter support a hardware protocol, specifically DTR.

Leaving out the comments and password checking, the essential PostScript code that is sent to the LaserWriter is

25 9600 7 SETSCCBATCH

The channel and baud numbers are default, but the LaserWriter Technical manual mentions only integers 0 through 3 for the parity position and mentions nothing about 7.

The code would have no effect on the AppleTalk Network. This code makes changes strictly in the LaserWriter and then only where specified by the code (batch or interactive). This code does not affect the "SPECIAL" mode. SCCBATCH is only for the "9600" or "1200" switch positions in Diablo emulation mode for using PostScript with the printer. The "SPECIAL" mode is controlled by SCCINTERACTIVE, and the line

25 9600 7 SETSCCINTERACTIVE.

could control the Diablo 630 mode functions under 9600 and DTR protocol.

The only problem is that unless the user has a LaserWriter Plus or a LaserWriter with 2.0 (or later) ROMs in it, this "7" command is useless. Since the LaserWriter only supports Xon/Xoff flow control, any command sent to set up DTR handshaking will not function, and there may actually be some strange actions from the printer if it is attempted. If they don't have 2.0 or later ROMs in their LaserWriter, do not use this code. Copyright 1988 Apple Computer, Inc.

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