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Printing Serial PostScript To LaserWriter: Dictionary Is Problem

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Some users have experienced a problem printing a PostScript file generated on the Macintosh through a serial device (such as a Sun 3/280) to a LaserWriter: there is no printout.

Generally, PostScript files generated on a Macintosh are "encapsulated" PostScript. Encapsulated PostScript files require that a dictionary of definitions be downloaded to the printer prior to the document being sent -- otherwise, the PostScript interpreter within the LaserWriter will not understand the abbreviated PostScript code, and the document will not be printed.

When printing a file directly to a LaserWriter from a Macintosh, the Macintosh usually verifies first that the correct dictionary of definitions has been sent to the LaserWriter. If the dictionary of definitions in the LaserWriter is NOT correct, then a header file (Laser Prep) is added to the beginning of the print job that prepares the printer for the forthcoming print job.

However, when the printer is placed into the serial mode, the dictionary of definitions is NOT retained, and MUST BE APPENDED to the beginning of each print job. This is done by holding down the Command and K keys when printing the Macintosh document. The same file may be generated without the header information by holding down the Command and F keys when printing.

The only exception to this is if the Macintosh file was saved as a FULL PostScript format (perhaps from an application like Adobe Illustrator.) In this case, because there are no abbreviations, there is no need to download a dictionary of definitions.

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