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LaserWriter: Problem Printing Linked Files as PostScript

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TOPIC -----

I want to create PostScript files from linked documents in Word 5.0 and FrameMaker. I've used Command-K when printing to create the PostScript files, and they were numbered 0 through 9.

Now, if I select PostScript File in the Print dialog, it saves the first linked document as a PostScript file, then sends the rest of the linked documents directly to the printer. The documents are linked by page number in Word, and are part of a "book file" in FrameMaker. I called Microsoft and Frame, and they say the Apple driver must be at fault. I tried using the LaserWriter 5.2 driver and that worked, but the printing device can't print PostScript files created with that driver.

What's happening here?

DISCUSSION -----

This is a known problem with the LaserWriter driver and is discussed in Macintosh Technical Note #312. Here is an excerpt from the technical note:

Like many Printing Manager calls, PrJobMerge is implemented by the currently chosen printer driver. This makes sense after consideration -- since the printer driver may store job-specific information anywhere in the print record, only the printer driver can correctly merge this into a destination print record.

The LaserWriter driver's implementation of PrJobMerge has a few bugs in versions 7.0 and 7.1.

Fun Thing #1

Historically, PrJobMerge hasn't worked correctly in the LaserWriter driver. The driver does not correctly merge all job-related data (like the number of copies requested) into the destination print record, so printing multiple copies of multiple documents from the Finder isn't really possible with the LaserWriter driver.

The only possible workaround is to present a different job dialog for each document to be printed, but this isn't recommended -- especially since the job dialog doesn't tell you which document you're about to print.

Fun Thing #2

As if this wasn't enough excitement for one driver, in versions 7.0 and 7.1 of the LaserWriter driver PrJobMerge actually manages to destroy all the job-specific information in the source print record after it doesn't copy it into the destination print record.

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