



Tech Info Library

LaserWriter Driver 8.x: Defaults to Level 1 w/Spooler (6/94)

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TOPIC -----

Is it possible to set the default for the LaserWriter 8 to Level 2 Postscript? We are printing to a variety of Apple and Non-Apple printers via a Novell spooler. Even though you can manually select the correct PPD, the info for the device cannot be updated and the driver uses Level 1 rather than Level 2 binary Postscript. This is causing a problem in increased print time and network traffic.

DISCUSSION -----

We believe the most significant reason for the print job taking so long to spool and print is due to the fonts being downloaded with every LaserWriter 8.x print job, and to a lesser extent the additional Postscript Level 1 and 2 procedures being sent to the spooler and printer, explained below.

At the beginning of each printing job, the LaserWriter 8.x driver opens a connection with the target device and sends a query job to determine among other things what language level of Postscript the device supports (Postscript Level 1 or 2), what file format to use (binary, ASCII), the fonts available on the device, etc. Netware 3.x print spoolers do not support Postscript Level 2 queries which results in all of the fonts used in the document being downloaded with every print job. Since the print server cannot return the specific Postscript version level of the printer, both the procedure set for Level 1 and 2 of Postscript, along with the Postscript code to test the language level is sent in the print job.

Netware 4.x supports Postscript Level 2 queries which results in a significant increase in print spooling performance.

To improve print times, you can do the following:

- 1) Minimize the number of fonts used in the document you spool to a Netware 3.x print server.
- 2) Use a Postscript Level 1 driver, such as the LaserWriter 7.2 driver.
- 3) Print directly to the printer.
- 4) Upgrade your print server to Netware 4.x or greater.

Support Information Services

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