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StyleWriter: Doesn't Support Custom Page Size

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TOPIC -----

We get an error when printing with the new version of the StyleWriter driver. We're trying to print on a piece of paper that is 8.5 inches wide and 5.5 inches high. In the page setup dialog we have the orientation set to landscape. We have our margins at 1 inch top and bottom, .5 inch left and 9.5 inches right. When we print from Microsoft Word 5.0, we get an error message that says "The paper is shorter than the size selected in Page Setup. Please add the correct paper, click OK to reprint the page and continue the print job, or Cancel to terminate printing."

With version 1.1 of the StyleWriter driver, we didn't get this message. When we upgraded the driver to 7.2, we started getting this message. Tech Support couldn't reproduce the problem and suggested trying version 7.2.2 of the driver. We get the same results with version 7.2.2. We tried three different StyleWriters on both a Macintosh SE with system 6.0.7 and on a Macintosh Quadra 900 with system 7.0.1.

The Finder has the same problem, but we can't set margins in the Finder. We have the same problem using Excel 3.0, Word 5.0 and 4.0, Freehand 3.1, and PageMaker 4.2 using the Apple driver. We didn't try the Aldus driver because we didn't have a StyleWriter PPD. We get the same results printing in the background and printing straight.

DISCUSSION -----

Appendix B of the StyleWriter Owner's Manual states that the StyleWriter only supports US Letter, US Legal, A4, and #10 envelopes. It doesn't support custom paper sizes.

We contacted the engineer who wrote the StyleWriter Driver. The code has always been in place to watch for the end of the page, and return an error if end-of-paper occurs before the printer expects it. You were lucky to get functionality using half-size paper.

The obvious workaround is to print twice to a standard-size paper and then cut it in half. Other options would be developing the documents in an

application such as PageMaker (or equivalent) that allows you to rotate text objects 180 degrees, printing entirely in one pass of the paper. You would still have to cut the page in half.
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