



Tech Info Library

Printer Description Files: Where to Get Them (8/94)

Article Created: 28 January 1993

Article Reviewed/Updated: 31 August 1994

TOPIC -----

When Apple introduces new printers, will Apple provide application-specific printer description files for third-party software packages such as Quark XPress, Aldus PageMaker, and so on?

DISCUSSION -----

All PPD's are included with the LaserWriter 8.x driver software as well as being available separately. LaserWriter 8.x, is of course the first PostScript Level 2 driver available for all our PostScript Level 2 printers, specifically the LaserWriter IIIf, IIg, the LaserWriter Pro 600/630, and most Apple LaserWriter printers released after these.

Adobe Systems Inc. and Apple's Developer Technical Support group have the PPD (PostScript Printer Description) files for all of Apple's printers. These printer description files are available to third-party developers, and it is up to the developers to ask either Apple or Adobe for these PPDs. Once acquired, developers can create their own application-specific PPD files to distribute with their applications.

Some applications don't require specially modified PPD files, and can use the files as is (check with the specific application developer).

Example: Using PPD files with PageMaker 4.2

PageMaker 4.2 can use PPD files directly. The files must have a ".PPD" extension at the end of its file name (that is, LWPRO630.PPD), and the file must reside in:

System Folder
 Aldus
 PPDs

The PPD files for all of Apple's LaserWriter printers are posted on AppleLink and other online services.

These articles can help you locate the software update mentioned here:

- "Where To Find Apple Software Updates"
Lists online services for free Apple software updates.
- "Obtaining Apple Product Support in the USA"
Lists 800 numbers and online services for software updates, Apple support information, and a subset of the Apple Tech. Info. Library.

Article Change History:

- 31 Aug 1994 - Review for accuracy.
- 26 May 1994 - Changed LaserWriter 8.0 to 8.x and removed specific locations on AppleLink.
- 21 May 1993 - Revised to add information on LaserWriter 8.0
- 11 Mar 1993 - Revised to add an example and the AppleLink path.

Support Information Services

Copyright 1993-94, Apple Computer, Inc.

Keywords: supt

=====

This information is from the Apple Technical Information Library.

19960215 11:05:19.00

Tech Info Library Article Number: 11295