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LaserWriter IIntx: Speed Up Printing with Font Caching

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PostScript printer fonts -- outline fonts -- are defined as mathematical constructs that form the outline of the character. Each font (for example: Helvetica 12 bold, Times 18) must be converted into bitmaps before it can be printed on the LaserWriter. The bitmapped characters are stored (cached) in RAM; they will remain in RAM until the memory space is required by other bitmapped fonts, or by other system tasks. Each time a font that is no longer in the memory is required for a document, it must be reconstructed.

You can decrease the need to rebuild font bitmaps on a LaserWriter IIntx by adding RAM and/or attaching SCSI hard disks. When additional fonts must be downloaded and cached, RAM is checked first for available caching space. If no RAM is available, and the existing cached fonts are not needed by the current job, they will be replaced. If all RAM-cached fonts are used in the present print job, the new font will be cached in the space on the hard disk allocated for font-caching. This eliminates the need to reconstruct the bitmaps of those fonts which would have been removed if no hard disk space were available, and if RAM caching had exceeded its limits.

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