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LaserWriter: Connecting to a Macintosh via Serial Cable (2/97)

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Security: Everyone

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TOPIC -----

If a user has a single Macintosh and a LaserWriter, is it necessary to connect the two using LocalTalk connectors, or would a serial connection like the Peripheral 8 cable work? Would there be any drawbacks to this?

DISCUSSION -----

It is possible to connect a Macintosh to a LaserWriter and print using a serial cable, though there are drawbacks and only a few LaserWriters are officially supported serially. The serial port on LaserWriters manufactured after the original LaserWriter is normally used for LocalTalk and can be identified by its mini-circular 8 port.

Here is a partial list of LaserWriter printers Apple fully supports using a Peripheral 8 serial cable.

LaserWriter Pro 600
LaserWriter Pro 630
LaserWriter Pro 810
LaserWriter Select 300
LaserWriter Select 310 (This print only supports a Macintosh serial cable)
LaserWriter Select 360
Personal LaserWriter LS
Personal LaserWriter 300
LaserWriter 4/600 PS
LaserWriter 16/600 PS
LaserWriter 12/640 PS*
Color LaserWriter 12/600 PS
Color LaserWriter 12/660 PS

* - To change the printer name or toggle the startup page, you cannot use a serial cable. Instead a Ethernet or LocalTalk connection is needed.

Almost every Apple PostScript LaserWriter printer manufactured after 1995 can use a serial cable. Consult your LaserWriter User's Guide, it contains connection instructions. If your LaserWriter printer supports serial printing, instructions are provided.

The one drawback to a serial connection on LaserWriter printers designed for LocalTalk is that you lose access to other network services since the LocalTalk port is being used by the serial cable.

NOTE:

Reference the User's Guide for correct printer port settings. You may have to change the pushwheel number or the dip switches.

The finished goods part number for the Peripheral 8 serial cable is M0197, the service part number is 590-0522.

Article Change History:

27 Feb 1997 - Added note about 12/640.

02 Dec 1996 - Updated to include additional printers.

25 Jul 1994 - Clarified what printers are supported.

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