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LaserWriter II: Printing from DecNet Terminal Server

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TOPIC -----

I'm looking for a product that will allow a DecNet Terminal Server to print to an Apple LaserWriter II.

DISCUSSION -----

If you want to print from a DEC VAX supporting PostScript or from Macintoshes on LocalTalk to a LaserWriter connected to a terminal server port, the following paragraphs may give you some ideas:

Attaching a LaserWriter to a DEC terminal server port is similar to attaching it to the serial port on the VAX. Normally, some steps have to be done by the VAX systems manager to define the terminal server port to be used by the queue manager.

On the Macintosh, you need a cable, with the appropriate pinouts, connecting the LaserWriter to the terminal server port. You have to set the LaserWriter communications settings, such as parity and baud rate, to the same settings as those on the terminal server port. Some installations get by with only 3-pin wiring: transmit, receive, and ground. However, you will lose data when the printer is turned off. You need full modem control port on the terminal server to support all XON/XOFF features.

On the DEC hosts, normally a virtual port is defined for the printer. A command is issued to map the virtual port to the physical port on the terminal server. The physical port on the terminal server should be set as: Accessing mode, Break disabled, Autobaud disabled, and Broadcast disabled. A print queue is then initialized with LATSYM as the name of the processor. PostScript software should be run on the VAX to support PostScript printer queuing. All DEC hosts on the Ethernet with the print

queue defined through the terminal server can print to this LaserWriter.

Only the LaserWriter IINTX can be connected to both the serial port and the LocalTalk port and be switchable between them via soft switches. To allow Macintoshes on LocalTalk to print to the LaserWriter on a VAX queue, you may want to look into PacerPrint from Pacer Software.

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