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LaserWriter IIf and IIg: Serial Configuration

Revised: 6/8/92
Security: Everyone

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Article Created: 2 June 1992
Article Last Reviewed:
Article Last Updated:

TOPIC -----

I have a SPARCstation connected to a LaserWriter IINT via serial cable at 38.4 Kbaud. I use the PostScript program shown on page 120 of the LaserWriter IINT/NTX Owner's Guide. I just recently upgraded the printer to a LaserWriter IIf, and haven't successfully downloaded the same PostScript file.

Here are my questions:

- 1) Can the LaserWriter IIf communicate at 38.4 Kbaud?
- 2) Is the PostScript command to download changes different?

DISCUSSION -----

In answer to your questions:

- 1) The LaserWriter IIf and IIg can't communicate at 38.4Kbaud. The available rates are 300, 600, 1200, 1800, 2400, 3600, 4800, 7200, 9600, 19.2, and 57.6.
- 2) While PostScript Level 2 does these things a bit differently than previous implementations, a compatibility operator does exist for setsccbatch. This allows old programs to work as before, assuming they use the proper arguments. An advantage of the new methods would be more detailed control over the parameters for each push-wheel position. For instance, the below code sets position 9 to 9600 baud with 8 data bits, 1 stop bit, no parity, DTR flow control, and PostScript Binary mode to allow software-controlled emulation switching:

..TIL10305-LaserWriter_Ilf_and_Ilg-Serial_Configuration.pdf

```
(%Serial_NV4)                                %We're going to modify the 4th changeable pos.
<< /Baud 9600                                %Mark a dictionary on the stack with key/value
/DataBits 8                                   %pairs for the various settings.
/StopBits 1
/Parity /None
/FlowControl /Dtr
/Protocol /Binary
/Interpreter /PostScript
/On true
/Enabled true
>> setdevparams                               %Create the dictionary and execute
setdevparams.                                %(which uses it to modify the parameter set.)
```

A large number of combinations are available, just as when using the `setscbatch` operator. The difference is that this is a little more flexible, a little easier to read, but is also device specific (at least currently) to the LaserWriter II_f and II_q.

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Tech Info Library Article Number:10305