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Windows 3.x: Accessing Apple LaserWriters (4/96)

Revised: 4/22/96
Security: Everyone

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Article Created: 1 September 1993
Article Reviewed/Updated: 22 April 1996

TOPIC -----

How do I access Apple LaserWriters from a PC running Windows 3.x?

DISCUSSION -----

Windows ships with a basic PostScript driver upon which sit individual vendors' Windows Printer Description (WPD) files to support custom features of specific printers. Users wishing to access Apple printers via Windows should acquire the latest driver from Microsoft.

The WPD for the LaserWriter IINTX will support basic printing services for the IINT, IINTX, IIIf, and IIg. There are problems with the NTR, but it may work in some situations. There's no support under the IINTX WPD for custom features on the IIIf and IIg, like FinePrint and PhotoGrade. The LaserWriter IINTX WPD is available from Microsoft through a variety of sources, including their CompuServe forum.

Beginning with the LaserWriter Pro and Select series, Apple offers more support for Windows users. Unlike LaserWriters in the II series, the Pro and Select ship with a floppy disk specifically for Windows 3.x users. It contains new WPD files for the Pro and Select series, and a crude LaserWriter Utility which will allow power users to gain control of custom features such as FinePrint, PhotoGrade, 600dpi, and so on.

All of this comes with a strict caveat from Apple: do not use non-standard or non-commercial Windows applications when using Apple LaserWriters.

Article Change History:
22 Apr 1996 - Removed incorrect information.
09 Mar 1994 - Verified information

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Tech Info Library Article Number:13178