Tech Info Library

LaserWriter 8.1.1: Disable Font Downloading? (5/94)

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Security:       Everyone
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TOPIC ---

I run into an issue regarding LaserWriter 8.1.1: when printing a document under
LaserWriter 8.x the fonts that are used in the documents are downloaded before a
query is enacted to determine if fonts are available at the printer or in this
case a print spooler. This causes more traffic on the network than necessary,
particularly since I print millions of documents a month. I am using
LaserWriter driver 8.1.1, System 7.1, Quark XPress 3.2, printing to a COPs
spooler (DOS) running PServe 3.0.1. (Hardware basic 486). Is there a way to not
download these fonts to the spooler?

DISCUSSION ---

At the beginning of every 8.x print job, the driver first opens a query job to
obtain information about the target device, including its features, fonts, and
other characteristics. Some query examples include what Document Structure
Convention is supported, the revision level of the PostScript interpreter, if
binary transmission is supported, Font queries, and so on. Most likely this
FontQuery does takes place in your setup, and could be confirmed by a packet
trace of the print job.

A spooler receiving the query is expected to minimally return a default
response. If the spooler cannot return a font list in a format that can be used
by the printer driver, then the fonts will be downloaded with the print job.

We are not familiar with the "COPs spooler running PServer 3.0.1," but perhaps
it is falls into the same category as all Netware 3.x spoolers, which do not
return the font list to a PostScript Level II LaserWriter 8.x driver query
resulting in the fonts being downloaded. Note that Netware 3.x does support
PostScript Level 1 font queries (such as those used by the LaserWriter 7.x
driver).

Suggested Alternatives

Of course use only fonts built-in to your printer, thus eliminating fonts from having to be downloaded when processing your job.

Another solution might be to use AppleShare Print Server 4.x. However, AppleShare doesn't maintain the font list dynamically, but builds the font list at the time the printer is captured. Fonts downloaded with previous jobs will not be reflected in the font list returned to the FontQuery. Since the font list isn't maintained dynamically, perhaps you could download and store typically used fonts via the LaserWriter Utility on a hard disk connected to the printer, then capture the printer with AppleShare Print Server. Thereafter, only the exceptional fonts used in a print job will be downloaded.

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