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ISA and VESA Bus PC: Printing to LaserWriter Select (10/94)

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Revised:        10/13/94
Security:       Everyone
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Article Created: 13 October 1994

TOPIC ---

Our customer has connected a LaserWriter Select 310 to an IBM compatible PC with
ISA controller. He can print using the windows drivers no problem. As soon as
he hooks the printer up to an IBM compatible PC with VESA LOCALBUS controller,
the printer doesn't work.

The circuitry inside of the parallel port is mapped identically to any other
parallel port on any other IBM PC. The only difference is the speed of the Bus
timing. VESA is at 33MHz and ISA is at 8MHz. He can connect the printer to any
other non VESA computer and it will work.

He can connect an HP, a Brother, or any other non-Apple printer, and it will
work.

DISCUSSION ---

The following discussion assumes all troubleshooting such as clean boot, trying
to print from DOS, etc. has yielded negative results.

Printing does not interact with the expansion bus in any way. I suspect the
problem is in the type of parallel port being used. Some computers are equipped
with what is commonly referred to as a bi-directional or EPP parallel port. We
have seen problems with these type of ports due to the non-standard pinout of
these ports.

Sometimes it is possible to make the printer work by using a different cable
with these ports - not all cables have all pins connected and by disconnecting
some of the non-standard pins the printer can be made to work. This is a
somewhat hit and miss proposition, so it is usually better to get another
parallel port (since you can buy one for less than 20 dollars, it's a cost
effective solution)

Some bi-directional or EPP ports have an option to turn off that functionality.

Check the documentation to determine if that's an option.

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Tech Info Library Article Number:16507