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LaserWriter: Printing long documents from an IBM PC

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Security: Everyone

LaserWriter: Printing long documents from an IBM PC

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As part of the revision that toook place in PostScript that is in the 2.0 ROMs, DTR handshaking was implemented. Any LaserWriter that shows 2.0 on the test page supports hardware handshaking on either DB connector. Realize that this is only available in Interactive or Diablo mode.

Characters are sometimes missing from long documents printed by a LaserWriter with the older ROMs when the LaserWriter is in in Diablo 630 Emulation mode and connected to an IBM PC. The characters are missing because the two devices support different protocols. The IBM PC only supports hardware handshaking; the Laserwriter with ROM's before 2.0, XOn/XOff handshaking.

If you do not want to upgrade the LaserWriter ROMs, there are two workarounds: an intermediary device and a spooling program.

1. Intermediary device

Use a Quadram Buffer Box as an intermediary device between the IBM PC AT and the LaserWriter. The Quadram will do the necessary protocol conversion.

2. Spooling program

Use a spooling program to command the IBM PC to redirect the output for the LaserWriter to a communications port and set the handshaking to XOn/XOff. One such program, Superspool, comes with AST multi-function boards.

The Superspool command

```
superspl lpt1:=com1:/rate=9600,n,8,1/on=xon/off=dcd,cts,dsr/m=4
```

redirects printer output to communications port 1, sets the communications port for 9600 baud, no parity, 8 data bits, 1 stop bit, turns on XON/XOFF handshaking, turns off all hardware handshaking, and sets asid 4K bytes of memory for a print buffer.

This command should be used instead of MODE commands which redirect the printer output and set the communications parameters.

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