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Apple II: Turn Off Line Feed When Using 3rd Party Printers

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Third party dot matrix impact printers need to receive a Carriage Return within a control code in order to set print densities to certain values.

Unfortunately, when a CR is sent from an Apple IIc or a Super Serial Card, the interface automatically sends a Line Feed as well. Temporarily turning off the interface's automatic LF can be done with a Control-I K. To turn automatic LF back on, use Control-I L.

The problem is, these characters may be ignored by the interface and sent to the printer instead.

There are other ways of getting back to default conditions on a printer, such as sending a 'RESET' code, or turning off/turning on the printer. The problem with this is that some printers take a long time resetting. This can be noisy and sometimes very time consuming, especially if done often.

Here is why this happens (and a solution):

The Super Serial Card (and its Apple IIc serial port equivalent) will forward control characters if preceded by a Control-I. While it's true that Control-I is the command to send to set up specific functions, in order to send the command to the card without it forwarding said command to the printer, you must send the command preceded by TWO Control-I's.

- The first Control-I alerts the card that a command it needs to operate on is forthcoming.
- The second Control-I is used by the card, along with its attendant characters, as the command string, to change interface functions.

If what follows the first Control-I is not a control character, the card (firmware) forwards the next characters to the printer.

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