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Networks With Mac 512Ks Shouldn't Use LaserWriter 5.0 or 5.1

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TOPIC -----

This article describes issues with networking Macintosh 512K machines to a LaserWriter in which newer Macintoshes are also networked.

DISCUSSION -----

If you have a multi-Macintosh network, you may have compatibility problems between the new versions of the LaserWriter print drivers and older versions of system software. These are the new print drivers:

- Version 5.0 LaserWriter printer driver, currently being shipped with Macintosh system software
- Version 5.1, which is being shipped with the new LaserWriter II printers, and includes some problem fixes.

Unfortunately, the revision of the LaserWriter drivers for the new printers has resulted in a NEW problem, which affects their compatibility with Macintosh 512K system software.

When the new LaserWriter drivers are running on the LAST supported system software for the Macintosh 512K (System 3.2 and 3.3 with Finder 5.3 and 5.4 respectively), problems are created on networks that are running with both Macintosh 512K systems and 1MB Macintosh systems (such as Macintosh Plus, SE, or II).

If users of the Macintosh Plus, SE, or II install either of the new drivers named above on their systems, this will create a conflict with Macintosh 512K users who use an older version of the LaserWriter Prep file.

In other words, if you have a network that includes both Macintosh 512K and other Macintosh systems, NO user on that network should upgrade to version 5.0 or 5.1 drivers. Otherwise, if some users upgrade you will have to re-initialize the LaserWriter every time use of the printer passes from Macintosh 512K users -- who are using pre-5.1 prep file and driver -- to users of the Macintosh Plus (or newer) who have upgraded to print drivers 5.0 or 5.1 on a hard disk.

The new LaserWriter II family of printers are compatible with previous versions of the printer drivers. However, network users should continue using the same versions of print resources they have been using until the compatibility problems have been solved.

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