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Print Servers Provide Multiple Users, Not Necessarily Speed

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The main reason for using the AppleShare Print Server is to allow many users
to print documents at the same time. A print server reduces the waiting time
by allowing several users to send documents to be printed simultaneously.
When used with a LaserWriter, Postscript code is sent to the print server
and then to the printer. The printer than processes this Postscript code
to produce bit-map graphics at 300 dpi.

When printing to an AppleTalk ImageWriter, the computer creates and sends
the bit-map image to the printer. Creating this bit map takes processing
time from the computer. Because the computer must spend time creating the
bit map, you will not see a major difference in the amount of time it takes
to send the data to the printer or the spooler. When printing directly to a
printer, the print driver runs at an even speed with the printer, due to data
transmission speeds.

When connected over AppleTalk, the network runs faster than 19,000 or 9600
baud, but the driver has not been optimized for speed. It keeps up with the
speed of the printer. Some times, the computer is waiting for the printer to
finish printing a line; other times, the printer is waiting for the computer
to send and process the line. This is why the 32K option card is not
recommended for Macintosh users.

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