Tech Info Library

LaserWriter and VAX: How To Fix An EEROM Problem (3/94)

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TOPIC ---

Some users, especially those with networks, have experienced peculiar situations
wherein a LaserWriter (connected via AppleTalk to a Macintosh) works, while
another LaserWriter (connected on a serial line to a VAX that spools its print
jobs) won't. Quite often, an EEROM problem is involved. (The EEROM is where
persistent parameters are stored.)

DISCUSSION --

When a failure to print across the serial line occurs, the problem can be that
the EEROM was left in a state that the VAX is unable to deal with. This can
happen if the LaserWriter was serially connected to a non-Macintosh machine
before being connected to the VAX. For example, there are a number of MS-DOS
programs that leave a LaserWriter EEROM in a non-standard state.

Two common problem areas are improper setting of the "setdefaulttimeouts"
persistent parameter in EEROM and the corruption of the EESCRATCH section of the
EEROM. The EESCRATCH is the area of EEROM used to extend PostScript. It is also
the area most likely to have been set up in a non-standard way.

Initializing (by running a print job) over AppleTalk is a good, simple way to
correct the problem. When the LaserWriter is initialized over AppleTalk, the
EEROM is set in a state that the VAX can work with. Thereafter, the VAX should
be able to print the file.

The AppleTalk LaserWriter drivers can deal with this situation, because they
communicate with the LaserWriter as it is printing. When the LaserWriter has an
EEROM problem, the driver can set the EEROM up properly. Because the VAX is
spooling the document, it cannot maintain this type of back and forth dialog
with the LaserWriter.

Article Change History:

18 Mar 1994 - Corrected title which contained errant characters.

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