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Omnis 5.0: Solution for AppleTalk Printer Timeout Problem

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TOPIC -----

I have problems printing long reports (20+ pages) from Omnis 5.0 to an ImageWriter II with AppleTalk Option Card. The print job halts randomly with this error message "Connection with printer has been lost."

DISCUSSION -----

As of April, 1990, Omnis could not able to produce output quickly enough while generating a report to keep the printer from timing out. (This happens with both the AppleTalk ImageWriter and the LaserWriter.) This is similar to what we've seen with 4th Dimension.

The workaround is to have Omnis generate a page of output and then send the entire page to the printer. To do this, either put the report output into a list or spool it to disk. With a LaserWriter, you have an additional option of using background printing under MultiFinder. The page-at-a-time approach is what we've used with our 4th Dimension database.

Although we did not get into specifics, the Omnis people did not tie this problem to a problem with the AppleTalk ImageWriter driver. Instead, it seems to be a reality of printing reports that take a lot of processing when printing to any network-based printer.

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