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LaserWriter IINTX: System Printer with VAX Host

Revised: 6/19/91
Security: Everyone

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Article Created: March 11, 1991
Article Reviewed Only:
Article Last Updated:

TOPIC -----

How do I use a LaserWriter IINTX printer as system printer for a VAX host?

I'm looking for general pointers, including PATHWORKS, and some comparison shopping tips, such as equipment, labor and training requirements to install and support this kind of printer.

DISCUSSION -----

PATHWORKS for Macintosh has a VAXshare Print service that does what you want.

VAXshare print servers work very much like AppleShare print servers. When you send a document to a VAXshare print server, VAXshare receives the file's contents. The server then prints instructions from your Macintosh application and saves a print file on the disk. VAXshare returns the printer codes to your application to signal that printing is done.

VAXshare print servers access both Apple and Digital PostScript network printers. Since the LaserWriter IINTX has to be on a LocalTalk network, you'll need a router between EtherTalk and LocalTalk. Examples of routers include the Apple Internet Router, Shiva FastPath, Farallon Liaison, Cayman GatorBox, or devices that connect the LaserWriter II printer to Ethernet, such as EtherPrint.

After installing PATHWORKS on a VAX, the system manager goes into the MSA\$MANAGER program, adds a printer queue, and starts it. These printer queues are standard VMS queues, so they work the same way as other existing VMS queues (using SET QUEUES, START, and STOP QUEUES commands). VMS users also can print to these queues with the PRINT/QUEUE= command.

On the Macintosh side, selecting a VAXshare print spooler is similar to selecting an AppleShare Print Spooler. From the Chooser, select the zone (if necessary) then select the LaserWriter icon from the group of icons on the left side of the Chooser window.

There shouldn't be much training needed for doing this. On the VAX side, VMS System Managers are familiar with VMS queues, and installation on the VAX is done with standard VMSINSTAL. Macintosh users need only choose the standard printer/spooler name.

The only issue is the amount of printing you'll be doing. If there will be much printing that doesn't require laser quality, then a standard line printer might be all you need.

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Tech Info Library Article Number:7199