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Personal LaserWriter NT: setprintername Character Restrictions

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Personal LaserWriter NT: "setprintername" Character Restrictions

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TOPIC -----

Using a Personal LaserWriter NT, I am trying to change the network name and type of the printer. To do this, I'm using the PostScript code:

```
-----
%!
serverdict begin 0 exitserver
statusdict begin
(Print Station:CuccaPS) setprintername
end
-----
```

This code works fine for the LaserWriter Plus and LaserWriter IINT, but not the Personal LaserWriter NT. Can the Personal LaserWriter NT change its network type?

DISCUSSION -----

The PostScript setprintername operator was not designed for changing the LaserWriter's type. The operator should not allow any of these characters as valid string components:

: @ * =

While these characters may not always cause errors on older LaserWriters, they do cause unusual behavior with the Personal LaserWriter NT. They are invalid characters because they are field separators and wildcards, as defined by the AppleTalk Name Binding Protocol (NBP).

The format of an NBP entity name (such as a LaserWriter's Printer Access

Protocol server) is:

object:type@zone or Etch A Sketch:LaserWriter@Bandley3

If the ":" character were part of a LaserWriter's name, software attempting to address the LaserWriter would become confused and not know where the object's name leaves off or the type begins.

With the Personal LaserWriter NT, the setprintername operator is only able to change the object name. This forces the entire string into the object entry. Because the ":" character is invalid, the product operator must be used to obtain a valid AppleTalk name.

The LaserWriter Namer utility (shipped with each LaserWriter) prevents users from defining names with invalid characters. But not all PostScript interpreters enforce this restriction properly.

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