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Laser Printers: Non-Apple Models and Driver Problems

Revised: 8/21/91
Security: Everyone

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Article Created: 26 March 1991
Article Last Reviewed:
Article Last Updated:

TOPIC -----

I have a question about PostScript LaserWriter clones, in particular the ones by GCC, QMS, and Hewlett-Packard. All of these promise AppleTalk ports and true PostScript. The QMS printer even comes with Apple's LaserWriter drivers. What are the possible disadvantages to these non-Apple printers?

DISCUSSION -----

Most of the problems originate with the software drivers, because the hardware is sitting off by itself with only the LocalTalk connection as a compatibility factor. Because LocalTalk is well documented, you won't find too many problems there.

The drivers are the biggest concern, because developers write their applications assuming that a printer driver will adhere to a certain set of protocols. In addition, the driver needs to interact with the system software. That implies yet another set of standard protocols.

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Tech Info Library Article Number:7643