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PostScript Printer Description Files: Naming Rules (9/94)

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TOPIC -----

What is the syntax or rules, if any, for properly naming PostScript Printer Description (PPD) files so they work properly with LaserWriter driver 8.0?

DISCUSSION -----

There really is no "standard" for naming PPD files. If there are any naming conventions required for the files, those conventions will be application specific. For example, PageMaker 4.2a requires that the PPD filename end with ".PPD" and is located in a specific folder within the System Folder.

With regard to LaserWriter driver 8.0, all PPD files will work with the driver regardless of their name. Generally speaking, PPD files are named after the printer model name stored in the printer's ROMs. If the PPD files are named something different, those files will still work fine since the driver looks at the contents of the PPD file. The only possible loss of functionality in this case would be with the "Auto Setup" feature.

With "Auto Setup," LaserWriter driver 8.0 first queries the printer for its Model Name and PostScript ROM version stored in its ROMs. It then takes this information and looks for an associated PPD file with either of the following criteria:

- PPD filename matches Model Name exactly (that is, Apple LaserWriter IIf)
- PPD filename matches Model Name with version (in other words, Apple LaserWriter IIf v2010.113)

If either of the above criteria are not met, then the driver asks to manually select the PPD. Once selected, the PPD file will work fine. Again, unless the application using the PPD file has specific requirements for PPD filenames, it really is the contents of the file that's most important.

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