Tech Info Library

Newton Print Pack: User Guide And Troubleshooting (4/97)

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Revised:        4/21/97
Security:       Everyone


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Article Created: 6 January 1994
Article Reviewed/Updated: 21 April 1997


TOPIC -------------------------------------------------------------


This article describes how to use the Newton Print Pack and troubleshoot common
problems.


DISCUSSION --------------------------------------------------------


Description
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The Newton Print Pack is a cable containing a serial to parallel data converter
and ROM-based printer drivers.  These printer drivers are downloaded to the
Newton MessagePad by powering on the MessagePad after the Print Pack is
connected between the printer and MessagePad.


Using the Print Pack
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1) Power off both the MessagePad and the printer.

2) Connect the Print Pack between the MessagePad and the printer.

3) Power on the MessagePad and wait ten (10) seconds.  During this time, the LED
on the Print Pack should flash twice; the first flash is short and the second
flash is longer.  At the end of this period, the printer drivers should be
downloaded to the MessagePad.

4) Power on the printer and print the desired item(s).

5) In the printing slip, "choose other printer" will display the following new
choices:

epson lx, epson fx, hp deskjet, hp laserjet, canon bubblejet.

The Tech Info Library articles titled, "Newton Print Pack: Compatible Printers
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(A-L)" and "Newton Print Pack: Compatible Printers (M-Z)" list the compatible
printers and the driver you should select.

Problem: the drivers did not appear

Verify that the red light on the parallel plug turns on as you power on your
Newton.

If you continue to have printing problems, reset the Newton and try these steps
again.

If your MessagePad unexpectedly powers off while printing or immediately after
it is powered on, be sure to install fresh batteries or connect your MessagePad
to AC power. The Print Pack draws a large amount of power while printing or at
start up (when your MessagePad is downloading the printer drivers), and this may
discharge the MessagePad's batteries.

Problem: the drivers disappear after a while

Newton OS 1.x systems will unload the drivers when the MessagePad goes to sleep
or loses power. You will need to reconnect the cable and cycle power before
being able to print.

Newton OS 2.x systems store the drivers as normal packages.

Article Change History:
21 Apr 1997 - Revised article for technical accuracy.

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Tech Info Library Article Number:14400