Tech Info Library

LaserWriters: Determining Page-Per-Minute (12/94)

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TOPIC ---
I am confused by "page-per-minute" calculations for Apple printers.
For example, the LaserWriter NTR is rated at "maximum 4 pages per minute"
according to Apple documentation. However, I can get 8 pages per minute out of
the printer, after the first page is printed.

Exactly how does Apple determine page per minute calculations, and how does that
compare to other printer manufacturers?

DISCUSSION --

The "page-per-minute" specification in all of Apple's printers reflects the
maximum number of pages per minute that the print engine is capable of
outputting. The key factor is the speed that the print engine can output pages.
This defines the theoretical pages per minute if the I/O board can process the
pages as fast as the engine can output them.

We would be very surprised if you are able to get 8 pages-per-minute from a
Personal LaserWriter NTR. We printed all blank pages (to take out the variable
of rasterizing the page) and verified that the printer could only print
approximately 4 pages in one minute, or roughly one page for every 15 seconds.

The same page-per-minute specification denoting print engine speed is used
industry-wide.

Support Information Services

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