Tech Info Library

PC Compatibility Card: 80 Character Text File Printing (4/97)

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Revised:        4/3/97
Security:       Everyone
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TOPIC ---

When printing ASCII or Epson LQ-2500 print jobs from the PC environment to a
PostScript printer, the print out will be cut off halfway through the 77th
column.

DISCUSSION ---

This is a known issue with the way PC Print Spooler converts ASCII or Epson
print jobs into PostScript. Apple expects this to be resolved in the next
release of the PC Setup software.

Workarounds

• Print to a QuickDraw-based printer.

• In the DOS environment print to a file. Then open the file in a
  Windows-based word processing application like NotePad, WordPad, or Word
  and then print. Since Windows has its own PostScript driver, it will
  generate the PostScript, and PC Print Spooler will not have to modify
  this print job because it is already in PostScript. This workaround is
  fine if you can print to a file, however, some applications will not let
  you do this.

• Adjust the AUTOEXEC.BAT file by following these steps:
  Step 1
  Open the PC Setup control panel

  Step 2
  Select COM1 to be "New Text File..." and give the file a name.

  Step 3
  Add the following line to AUTOEXEC.BAT:

```
mode lpt1=com1
```

This will redirect LPT1 output to COM1. Since COM1 will be saved as a file, you will have the ASCII text file in the Macintosh environment.

Step 4
To activate the port redirection, restart the PC environment for the new AUTOEXEC.BAT to be loaded or retype the above line at the command prompt.

Step 5
From the Macintosh environment, open the text file with a text editor or word processing application. SimpleText will work, but you will need to change the font size to 10 point to get 80 columns.

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