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Performa & Power Macintosh 5400 & 6400: Slow Printing (2/97)

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TOPIC --

My Power Macintosh 5400/120 prints very slowly to a LaserWriter over LocalTalk.
When I try printing any document, it takes an extrememly long time to print. In
some cases, printing takes several hours. However, printing over Ethernet works
fine.

What could be causing this?

DISCUSSION ---

Apple Computer, Inc. has received reports of extremely slow printing over
LocalTalk from some Macintosh Performa and Power Macintosh 5400 and 6400 series
computers. Apple has isolated the cause to specific printing devices on specific
configurations noted below.

Description of Issue

The slow printing symptom appears to be caused by specific situations,
including:

• When some devices send a CTS (Clear To Send) signal too quickly in response to
the computers' RTS (Request To Send). The LaserWriter 16/600 w/1.0 IOP ROMs is
an example of this situation.

• When virtual memory is turned on. However, with virtual memory turned off, the
printer prints in an acceptable amount of time.

Affected Computers

Any 200 MHz or slower Macintosh Performa or Power Macintosh 5400 and 6400 series
computer without L2 cache installed may experience these symptoms.

Affected Printers

• Apple LaserWriter IINT
• Apple LaserWriter 16/600 PS with 1.0 ROMs
• Some GCC BLP class printers

Solutions

• Apple is currently looking into a solution to these issues. In the interim,
Apple suggests the following workarounds:

  - Add L2 cache (Apple part number: M4505LL/A)
  - Turn off virtual memory (add additional physical RAM if additional
    memory is needed)
  - Upgrade network from LocalTalk to Ethernet

• If you are printing to a LaserWriter 16/600 PS printer, verify the version of
the IOP ROM. The ROM version is written on the printer's startup page in the
small print on the left side of the page. If the IOP ROM version is 1.0, contact
an Apple-authorized service provider for information about upgrading the printer
ROM.

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28 Feb 1997 - Added third-party printers to article.

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