PostScript 51.8 & Earlier: Difficulty Printing Complex Graphics

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TOPIC ---

Large print jobs in Word or Excel don't seem to print out on a LaserWriter IINT, but will print out on a LaserWriter IINTX. Normally they will print to a certain point and then get "hung" for at least a half hour, and then we get a printer time-out message.

We tried printing the same documents using different Macintosh computers, different system software, and different LaserWriter driver versions. We also tried boosting memory on applications, PrintMonitor, and so on.

We tried a NetMinder LocalTalk trace, which showed the failed print job to the LaserWriter IINT. After 9 pages, there was an increased number of packets going between the Macintosh and printer, but the job never printed.

DISCUSSION ---

The problem is due to the print job being too complicated for the amount of memory in the printers, and how the version of PostScript in these printers handles graphics.

There are two possible workarounds for the LaserWriter IINT printers:

1) In Page Setup, deselect "Graphics Smoothing?" and "Faster Bitmap Printing?". This will allow the LaserWriter IINT to print the documents that have been causing the problems.

2) Upgrade the printers with LaserWriter IIf logic boards.

Apple LaserWriter printers with PostScript versions prior to 51.8, such as the LaserWriter IINTX with revision 1 ROMs (PostScript 47) and the LaserWriter IINT (PostScript 47), experience problems when printing complex graphics. In fact, workaround option 1 doesn't work with the original LaserWriter printer.

Newer LaserWriter printers, such as the LaserWriter IINTX with revision 3 ROMs (PostScript 51.8) or the LaserWriter IIf and IIg (PostScript Level 2) are

much better at handling the complex graphics that are becoming more common.

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