LaserWriter Plus: Understanding How Font Downloading Is Handled

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Users who have created a bitmapped font (with Fontographer) and installed it in their system, then designed a spline (printer) font and written it in PostScript have asked:

What can be done so the Macintosh application will automatically download the font to LaserWriter Plus when using the screen font.

When both the bitmapped (screen) font and the spline (printer) font have been designed in Fontographer, there are two methods of downloading available:

1. Many Macintosh applications will automatically download fonts to the printer as they are needed. Whenever such a program needs a font that is not already in the printer, it searches the Macintosh disk drives for a file containing that font and downloads it. The font files must be in the current folder, the root directory, or the system folder of the startup disk. They may also be on an on-line server, if one is available. When automatically downloaded, a font is deleted at the finish of the document for which it was chosen (or, for PageMaker, at the finish of the text block.)

2. You can also download fonts to the printer manually, using the font downloading program supplied with Fontographer. When manually downloaded, a font remains in the printer, ready to be used, until you turn the printer off.

    CAUTION: For most applications, four to six fonts can be downloaded to the printer before it runs out of memory. The actual number depends on the particular printer, applications and fonts you are using. (The LaserWriter IINTX with expanded memory provides more than described) If the fonts sent to the printer, both manually and automatically, exceed the printer's capacity, the printer will restart itself, ejecting a startup page and erasing all the downloaded fonts.

If some method other than Fontographer is used to generate the PostScript spline (printer) font, it is likely that the screen font and the printer font will not properly bond to one another.

Fontographer provides the proper bonding that is required for screen and printer fonts. If it is possible to open the PostScript printer file with Fontographer, Fontographer should then be able to generate the properly bonded screen and printer font files.
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