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LaserWriter IINT or IINTX: Description of Serial Communications

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The LaserWriter IINT or LaserWriter IINTX has two serial channels, RS-422 and RS-232C. Either channel can be used for asynchronous serial communication. The RS-422 can also be used for synchronous communication for AppleTalk but NEVER for both serial and AppleTalk simultaneously.

Each channel sends and receives serial data encoded in ASCII. Both serial ports are enabled; they can be configured with independent data transmission rates and parity. The first channel to receive a character will execute the print job; if characters are also received on the alternate channel they are buffered, and on completion of the initial job will be executed.

CAUTION: Do NOT hook up AppleTalk and the RS-232C interface at the same time on the LaserWriter. If you use the RS-232C port, and leave AppleTalk connected on the LaserWriter IINT or LaserWriter IINTX, you must set the baud rate parameter for the RS-422 port to 0 (zero).

Changing Communication Parameters:

Many of the communication parameters can be changed by setting the hardware switches on the LaserWriter. Parameters controlled by these switches can also be changed by sending a PostScript program to the printer.

The hardware-controlled parameters and those that can not be configured by the hardware switches are stored in non-volatile memory (EEROM or ZPRAM) as system parameters, and are accessed through the special dictionary, "statusdict". To change the parameters, you must exit the normal server mode, and a password is required. Send the following program to LaserWriter:

```
serverdict begin password exitserver
statusdict begin channel baud options setsccbatch
```

Where channel designates which serial port is to be configured, baud sets the baud rate, and options encodes the settings for parity, flow control, number of data bits, and number of stop bits.

NOTE: When using the Diablo emulation mode, replace setsccbatch with setsccinteractive.

Article Change History

15 September 1993 - Changed the LaserWriter model designator to upper case.

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