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LaserWriter IINT and IINTX: How Its 2MB RAM Is Allocated

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TOPIC -----

How is the RAM allocated on the LaserWriter II series of printers?

DISCUSSION -----

The 2MB of installed RAM is allocated approximately like this:

- 1MB is reserved for the frame buffer. This is where the page is assembled from the PostScript descriptions sent by the computer.
- 200K is reserved for font caching, display list, and the AppleTalk communications buffer. This is where font bitmaps are stored to speed the font access when used again. It is also where the display list is generated by the downloaded PostScript before it is sent to the frame buffer for actual page description.
- 300K is reserved for the PostScript interpreter as well as the server and user dictionaries.
- This leaves about 500K of virtual memory (VM) for fonts, prep files, and program memory. Tech Comm checked the VM with the "vmstatus" operator within PostScript and found that 511,316 bytes were available on a freshly-reset LaserWriter IINT with 2MB of memory. Of that amount, 81,850 bytes were used (possibly for the PostScript interpreter), which leaves about 429K.

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