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LaserWriter IIg: Not Communicating with IBM (8/95)

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TOPIC -----

I replaced my LaserWriter IINT with a LaserWriter IIg. My IBM is having trouble communicating with the IIg printer. I can send 1 page of PostScript, but anything longer than that gives me an I/O error. I see the I/O error only when I use my communications program.

Do the communication parameters need to be changed? Currently I'm using the same parameters as I did for my LW IINT. How can I set options for different parameters (baud rate, parity, data bits, stop bits, flow control, protocol, mode) on the printer?

DISCUSSION -----

The printing problem is caused by different communications settings on the IBM and the IIg. The IINT manual recommends serial settings of 9600, N, 7, and 1 (page 113). The IIg manual does not recommend a specific serial setting, but does provide a table of switch configurable settings (page 101). Unfortunately, there is not a switch setting on the IIg that matches the IINT recommended setting. Fortunately, we can bridge the gap:

- 1) The easiest method is to select one of the user-definable configuration options (page 101 of the LaserWriter® IIf and IIg Owner's Guide) on the IIg that most closely resembles those desired and change the IBM PC to match. Switch position 7 would only require changes to the baud rate and data bits and the following PostScript code could then be used to change those settings:

```
(%Serial_NV2%)  
<< /Baud 9600  
    /DataBits 7
```

NOTE:

All options available for manipulation are:

```
/Baud 300, 600,1200, 1800, 2400, 3600, 4800, 7200, 9600, 19200,
```

or 57600
/DataBits 7 or 8
/Enabled /true or false
/FlowControl /XonXoff, Dtr, or EtxAck
/Interpreter /PostScript or LaserJetIIP
/On /true or false
/Parity /Odd, Even, or None
/Protocol /Normal, Raw, or Binary
/StopBits 1 or 2

- 2) Unfortunately, the IIg does not possess a switch to place the printer in Interactive PostScript mode like the IINT. However, the IIg can be placed in Interactive PostScript mode by opening a terminal session between the IBM PC and the IIg, and then invoking the executive PostScript language procedure. (That is, type 'executive' followed by return or line-feed. NOTE: Since the server is still in batch mode, the characters you type are not echoed back to you. Once this is done, a PostScript herald and prompt should appear.) The user can return to batch mode by invoking the quit operator or entering a Control-D.

Article Change History

23 Aug 1995 - Made minor corrections.

07 Dec 1993 - Revised and corrected the PostScript code.

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