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LaserWriter IINTX: How To Network a PS/2 and Macintosh Computers

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You can connect multiple IBM PS/2 computers, Macintosh computers, and one Apple LaserWriter IINTX, so that all the computers are connected to the LaserWriter and using it simultaneously.

DayStar Digital Solution

The best solution is to use a LocalTalk MicroChannel card. The MicroChannel systems can be networked together using a AppleTalk card for the MicroChannel bus PS/2s by DayStar Digital (the LT200MC MicroChannel LocalTalk card). The card lets MicroChannel PS/2s communicate with other AppleTalk system components, like the LaserWriter IINT/NTX. The card comes with software for PS/2s to connect to AppleTalk printers, like LaserWriters. TOPS is reported to work with the card, too. AppleShare PC is reported to be incompatible with the DayStar card. For more details, search the Tech Info Library under "Day Star".

3COM Solution

Another solution is to use the EtherLink MC PS/2 card from 3COM. This is a more complex solution, because it involves several components. This connects MicroChannel PS/2s to Ethernet. The PS/2s can print to a 3S200 server from 3COM and connect to a serially-connected LaserWriter II. The Macintoshes require an Ethernet interface card or Ethernet router to connect to the 3S200. 3COM servers do not support AppleTalk connections to LaserWriters and can only connect serially.

Kinetics Solution

If you can use a Kinetics FastPath with the EtherLink MC PS/2 product from 3COM (this depends on whether 3COM supports AFP), then the Macintoshes and the LaserWriter can be placed on LocalTalk cabling and be connected to the Ethernet PCs with the FastPath. This configuration does not need the Asynchronous LaserWriter driver for the Macintoshes.

PS/2 Notes

There are six PS/2 models 25, 30, 50, 60, 70, and 80. Each model can also be bought in a different configuration. The low-end models 25 and 30 retain a PC and/or AT bus architecture that works with the Apple LocalTalk PC card.

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