

Comments on Supermac's SuperLaserSpool 1.01 df

I'd like to add my 2 cents worth to the thread on LaserWriter spoolers. I've been using the most recent version of Supermac's (actually, Dantz Software's) SuperLaserSpool (SLS 1.01 df). From my experience, it works unbelievably well. I'm using it under rather special conditions—on a Mirror MagNet 20X which has had the first few blocks rewritten with the DataFrame SCSI driver (from Initializer 2.5). {and System 4.1/Finder 5.5, LaserPrep 4.0, LaserWriter 4.0.} (I've only used it with the LW.) The drive itself performs slightly faster and "smoother" with the DF SCSI driver than with the Mirror native software (v2.0). DiskTimer II results: 97;98;38 — this Mirror has a 3.5" LaPine drive in it. I say this not to endorse the DF driver (or demean Mirror's) but to define my conditions for reporting on SuperLaserSpool (SLS). SLS comes with a DA, "LaserQueue," (LQ) which is exactly that. LQ allows changing the order, deleting, or previewing items in the queue. It also allows deinstalling/reinstalling SLS - very important, as I'll explain in a moment. The DA performs as expected and appears to be well-behaved. SLS also allows auto-installation on start-up and provides for chaining to a second non-Finder application. This is a very sensible design decision. SLS is not strictly compatible with some other auto start-up applications, i. e., TurboCharger 2.0 revD (or other terminate and stay resident software, I'll bet; there appears to be a memory management conflict). If Turbo is active when an attempt to install SLS is made, the BOMB! If Turbo is installed after SLS, all is OK. Thus, the design utility of "Set Chain" in SLS. Turbo can be auto-installed after SLS on start-up. This works perfectly well as far as I can tell

Other misfeatures: SLS doesn't properly intercept print orders from MiniWriter 1.33=the BOMB! Invoke the FKEY "LaserKey"=the BOMB! Does work with the Apple-supplied FKEY 4 in the new system 4.1, which does work with LaserWriter. SLS almost always has problems with Glue in Switcher 5.1 ; Glue & SLS work fine outside Switcher. In all these cases, the work-around is to deinstall SLS with the LQ DA.

That's it. It works with everything else that I've tried. Works with the LaserEnvelope DA. Works with RSG! 3 and PostScript writers. Works with MacDraw just fine. MORE V1.1, Word 3.0, Excel and Viewer also. And it is undeniably fast, since it writes only QuickDraw code to file. Incidentally, this means files can be spooled (i. e., or LW printing) onto a floppy at home, and then taken to work (or the copy shop) and printed without application overhead at a later time. The files so created are typically small. In most cases, the functionality of the Mac is returned to the keyboard within 30 sec. However, so long as concurrent printing is going on, performance is degraded. In most cases the degradation is not enough to keep you from working on mundane housekeeping chores but would make you think twice about any CPU-intensive or disk-intensive activity for the duration. (I don't know how this would apply to a network environment.) All-in-all, I was remarkably well pleased with the performance of SLS. I could even say it has changed my life; that is to say, it has certainly reduced the time available for coffee breaks. My hat is off to Dantz Software and Supermac. BTW their DiskFit backup utility is quite sensible, too!

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