

Auto Laser

Software by Secure Design

About AutoLaser

AutoLaser is an extension for Macintosh Computers. The extension will search the local network for LaserWriters, and select one at random. The user will be notified as to which printer they will be using.

- Use AutoLaser in a large computer lab environment to distribute the printer load on the network printers. If you shut a printer off, it will not be selected on start-up when a computer is rebooted.
- Use with laptops. A local printer will always be selected on start-up, no matter where you plug your laptop in.
- Notify the user which printer that they will be using.

AutoLaser was written for LaserWriter style printers, however it will work with any print driver that stores the network address of the printer in the PAPA resource -8192. Other printers include: HP Color InkJet and ImageWriters.

Installing AutoLaser

To install AutoLaser, simply copy the AutoLaser extension into your Extensions folder (System 7) or your SystemFolder (System 6)

How does it work

On start-up, AutoLaser will display an icon as shown to the right. If you hold down the mouse button, AutoLaser will abort at this point.

If AutoLaser has a problem, it will abort and show the X icon to the right. After start-up is complete, a message about the problem will be shown.

AutoLaser will do an NBP lookup for all printers of the selected type. The icon to the right will spin while AutoLaser waits for each printer to respond.

When a printer has been found and selected,

utoLaser will save the new printer address to the printer file. The printer name and address are saved.

After start-up is complete, a notification of any action taken will be displayed to the user. This is usually a message saying "You will be using printer X_LaserWriter"

Extra Features

AutoLaser has a few minor options that can be configured with ResEdit. To configure these settings, open the AutoLaser INIT with ResEdit, and select the ALpf resource number 128. The following dialog should be shown.

how Printer selection: This causes AutoLaser to display a dialog on start-up that tells the user which printer they will be using. Set this to False to suppress the dialog.

Random Select printer: This causes AutoLaser to pick a printer from all available network printers. Set this to False to prevent AutoLaser from changing your printer on start-up.

If you set Random Select printer to False, but leave Show Printer selection set to True, AutoLaser will only show the user which printer the machine is already set to use. It will not select a new printer.

- DO NOT change any other settings in this dialog box.

Notes about Novell Netware®

Novell Netware will publish LaserWriter (and other) print queues on the network so users may print to a queue rather than to the printer directly. Netware will still publish the print queue even if the queue is disabled, and users with insufficient network privileges will also see the print queues in the chooser.

When AutoLaser selects a printer, it finds all printers on the network (including Netware Print Queues) and selects one at random. Auto Laser does not check to see if a Netware queue is active first. Users may be set to use the queue even though it has been disabled.

Evaluation Period

AutoLaser may be used for 20 days to evaluate the software. After 20 days, you must purchase the software or stop using it. You may not use AutoLaser for more than 20 days without purchasing the software.

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