

Reset desk accessory for the LaserWriter

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When the LaserWriter is first used the printer driver downloads the Laser Prep file to the LaserWriter where it resides in memory. The problem is that the various versions of LaserWriter printer drivers and Laser Prep files are incompatible. The version used by the first user in the AppleTalk network determines the version that is installed on the LaserWriter, users with other versions will receive error messages when they attempt to print.

The only way around this is to have only a single driver version installed on the network. The drawback with is that some programs do not like the new drivers and will only work with the old version. Having multiple versions on the network means user conflicts will occur.

The only way to clear an installed Laser Prep file from the memory of the LaserWriter is to reset the LaserWriter. Currently the only way to do this is to turn the LaserWriter off and back on again. This puts more wear and tear on the LaserWriter electronics and is the reason the LaserWriter Reset desk accessory was written.

The LaserWriter Reset desk accessory will issue a software command to the LaserWriter to re-initialize itself. At first I was hoping that this would avoid the lengthy self check that it does on start-up but I was to be disappointed. It still takes about two minutes for a self check to be performed and a test page is printed. At this point the LaserWriter is ready to be used with any version of the LaserWriter drivers.

This is the initial version of what I hope will turn out to be a desk accessory which will allow the user total control over the LaserWriter. As I learn more about the LaserWriter and the Mac new features will be implemented. This desk accessory functions on a Mac Plus hooked up to a LaserWriter Plus.

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