

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Bill,

I am pleased to see that ATUNC news progresses along nicely as a significant component of the Apple /// press. I wanted to take a minute to correct a slight mis-representation in Rod Whitten's piece on driver sizes.

The Power Print program comes with 6 user selectable drivers sized at 2,4,8,16,24 and 30K - Rod had described it as a 24K driver. Although it is important to note that the larger .PPRINTS can start the user bumping into the driver space limitations, many folks have found the 8K or smaller buffers quite useful and others simply install the larger ones as Catalyst Dynamically loadable drivers. I also note that Power Print is shipped as device .PPRINT, not .SPOOLER as Rod indicated. Although the device name can, of course, be changed, it is important to note the distinction between Power Print - which is a Printer BUFFER, and a Printer SPOOLER. A limitation of buffers such as Power Print is that they take away from system RAM. A feature is that, unlike, spoolers, they are not tied in to inherently slow disk access.

Rod indicated that he didn't find the 32K bank boundary problem noted in the previous ATUNC Newsletter. That piece appeared to be extracted from Joe Dobrowolski's A /// Int'l Newsletter where Joe excerpted it from the Power Print Manual. My own extensive research showed this to be definitely the case - SOS will not load a driver across a 32K bank boundary - it is, in any case, to be expected since Drivers running in the SOS "Interrupt Environment" cannot access the A/// extended addressing modes; thus limited to the 32K SOS code plus a max of 32K driver code plus data. The fragmentation of memory caused by this load process is why so many folks have found mysterious program bugs clear up if they re-order their driver file.

- Daryl Anderson
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