

Don was the President of the Business Apple Group which was the predecessor group of ATUNC. He is very well versed in the use of both Discourse and Catalyst so bring your questions.

Discourse is a software spooler designed for use with an Apple /// and a hard disk or external floppy drive.

What does Discourse do ?

With Discourse you don't have to wait for your document to finish printing before you can go on to other tasks. Discourse "spools" your documents to a hard disk or external floppy disk leaving your computer free for use.

You can have as many as 14 documents queued for printout and still have complete use of your computer. The special spooler status option allows you to view and edit the contents of the spooler queue. Documents in the queue can be deleted, restarted or when used with Catalyst even re-arranged.

How does it work ?

Once a document has been written to disk, a very fast operation, Discourse routes it directly from disk to the printer without interrupting you.

What added features does Discourse have when used with Catalyst ?

When used in conjunction with Catalyst you can even switch programs while printout is in process. for example, you can use Discourse to spool a length report written with Word Juggler, then use Catalyst to switch to VisiCalc to work on your departmental budget.

Also, when use with Catalyst, Discourse indicates from which program each document originated, and even lets you rearrange them in the spooler queue. In the event of a power failure, Discourse will recoer unprinted documents and requeue them for printing.

What are the requirements ?

Discourse works with any printer connected to the serial port or Apple's Universal Parallel card. Discourse must be used with an Apple /// and a hard disk or external floppy drive. 256K required. Discourse requires no special hardware; the entire program is contained on on floppy disk. It use 5K of your computer's memory. 9K with spooler status option.

Don also says you can drive 2 printers at once with Discourse and an Apple ///.