



NEC SuperScript PowerRIP 2000 User's Guide

Professional Proofing software for NEC SuperScript printers

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Introduction

**NEC SuperScript
PowerRIP
2000**

Chapter 1

NEC SuperScript PowerRIP 2000 turns your NEC® SuperScript® printer into a PostScript® Level 3 compatible printer. PowerRIP 2000, a software raster image processor (RIP), reads and interprets PostScript Level 3 and allows your NEC SuperScript printer to print raster images. PostScript is the standard for high quality graphic output. All elements of a document, including text, graphics, and images are described by the PostScript code. When you print from an application, such as PageMaker®, PowerRIP processes the PostScript code and sends the processed image to the printer.

Features

NEC SuperScript PowerRIP 2000 includes the following features:

- PostScript Level 3 compatible—the professional world printing standard
- Network ready, Server/Client and cross-platform configurable
- Support for all NEC media types
- Support for all NEC printer resolutions

Where to Get Help

For helpful hints and troubleshooting guidelines, see Chapter 6. If you need further assistance, technical support is available from NEC Technical Support and from iProof Systems. When calling for technical assistance, be ready to identify your system and its configuration, the Product Code of PowerRIP 2000, and a description of the problems you are encountering. It is highly recommended that you enable the Log Messages option when creating a PowerRIP printer. The entries in the log will help the support staff identify PostScript error messages.

NEC Technical Support and Product Support

If you encounter printing problems related specifically to PowerRIP 2000, the NEC Technical Support Staff is available to assist you with the setup and operation of your printer and your PowerRIP 2000 software. If you encounter problems related specifically to the operation of your printer using the standard Windows drivers, please read the following information, or refer to the Service and Support information in your NEC User's Guide or manual.

For information or assistance with the setup, operation, repair, or troubleshooting of your NEC printer you can contact NEC.

Contact NEC Technical Support by Telephone

In North America the NEC toll-free number for printer technical support is **1-800-632-4650**.

Contacting NEC Customer Service by Telephone

In North America, call **1-800-632-4650** to speak to a representative about extended warranties, repairs, or customer service. For product sales and information call **1-800-632-4636**.

Sending Internet Electronic Mail

You can e-mail your questions to NEC. NEC will respond within three business days. Send e-mail messages to:

tech-support@necotech.com

Sending a Facsimile Transmission

You can fax questions or comments to NEC at:

1-978-742-7049

Be sure to indicate the number where NEC can telephone or fax a response.

Using FastFacts - NEC's Information Retrieval System

NEC's technical support staff has created technical notes and tips for using NEC products. You can order these documents by touchtone menu and have these automatically sent to your fax machine.

**To use NEC FastFacts in the US, call
1-800-366-0476**

**To use NEC FastFacts in Canada, call
630-775-7999**

Follow instructions for ordering documents and include your return fax number.

Reaching the NEC Bulletin Board System

You can use the NEC Bulletin Board System (BBS) to send messages and transfer files. The BBS number is

1-978-742-8706

Reaching NEC on the World Wide Web

NEC's web site provides up-to-date product information and includes links to NEC's FTP site and e-mail address. Using your Web browser, open the URL:

<http://www.nec.com>

For customer service and technical support use:

<http://www.nec.com/nectechsupport>

Use the above URL for solutions to your issues 24 hours a day

- Search the Knowledge Base for compatibility charts, specifications, white papers, technical drawings, and various other helpful documents.
- Explore the FAQ pages for common problems and solutions.
- Visit the Message Board to post your technical questions or to search a vast library of precious technical support solutions.
- Browse Service Programs to learn about ways to extend or enhance your existing warranty.
- Use the Dealer Locator to find a NEC Technologies' sales or service center near you.

Writing NEC

You can mail your questions and comments to NEC Technical Support at the following address:

Printer Technical Support, Dept #3390
NEC Technologies, Inc.
350 Foster Street
Littleton, MA 01460-2004

Finding Supplies, Printer Options, and Spare Parts

To order printing supplies such as Toner modules, or printer options available for your printer, contact your SuperScript 870 dealer or call **1-800-632-2326** to locate the NEC supplies dealer nearest you.

Contact NEC at www.nec.com/nectechsupport for a list of dealers in your area.

NEC Service Contracts

Your SuperScript 870 has a two-year limited warranty. After the initial warranty period, fee-based technical support and service is available. NEC Customer Engineering and its dealers offer a complete range of services ranging from onsite repairs and maintenance to installation site planning. Several maintenance agreement programs are available to meet your needs and budget, including:

- On site agreements on a yearly or multi-year basis which ensure priority response from NEC Customer Service and Support
- Volume onsite agreements that provide complete maintenance agreement management services for organizations with large numbers of NEC printers.
- Per-incident repair services that include onsite service, mail-in service, or carry-in service to a local service dealer.

To discuss an extended warranty or a service contract, or incidental repair, contact NEC Customer Service at **1-800-632-4650**.

iProof Systems Technical Support

iProof Systems Technical Support is available through phone, fax, mail, e-mail and the Internet. Hours of operation are 7:00 am to 7:00 pm EST (Monday through Friday). Your free phone support is limited to 30 days from your first support call. After the 30 days have expired a service charge of \$2.50 (U.S. Dollars) per minute will be applied (billed to your credit card). Visa, MasterCard, and American Express are accepted. We suggest using iProof's free e-mail support to get a prompt answer to any questions you may have.

iProof Systems
2401 West Eau Gallie Blvd, Suite 4
Melbourne, FL 32935 USA
Tel:(321) 751-2445 or 2446
Fax:(321) 751-2449

Electronic Support Services

• World Wide Web

iProof Systems' World Wide Web site is <http://www.iproofsystems.com>. iProof Systems' home page includes FAQs (Frequently Asked Questions), new product announcements, Error Messages, Read Me files, and other helpful information.

• iProof Systems FTPSite

If you have access to the Internet and can use FTP, use your web browser (or other software capable of downloading from an FTP) to log onto [ftp.iproofsystems.com](ftp://ftp.iproofsystems.com) with the user name anonymous.

• iProof Systems E-Mail Support

You can also send e-mail to iProof Systems at Support@iProofSystems.com. Please include your name, PowerRIP 2000 serial number, platform, and printer model so that iProof Systems technical support representatives can e-mail a response to your question.

Before You Begin

Before installing PowerRIP 2000:

1. Make sure your system meets the following requirements:
 - Intel 486DX, Pentium, Pentium II or Pentium III processor (single or multi-processor)
 - Windows 95/98/NT/2000
 - 48 MB RAM (64 MB recommended)
 - VGA or SVGA color monitor
 - Mouse
 - CD-ROM drive
 - Internet access or fax for validation
 - Your startup drive should have a minimum of 200 MB of free space for letter size pages, 280 MB free for legal size. Complex documents and large images may require significantly more.
2. Set up your printer as shown in the NEC printer documentation that came with your printer. It is a good idea to make sure the printer works properly with the NEC printer driver before continuing.
3. Read the remainder of this User's Guide. The information contained within will help you install and test PowerRIP 2000 smoothly. Installation and basic printing instructions are included for Windows. Also included are instructions for printing from and Apple Macintoshes to an NEC SuperScript PowerRIP 2000 NT server.

Installation of the PowerRIP 2000 software package consists of two steps:

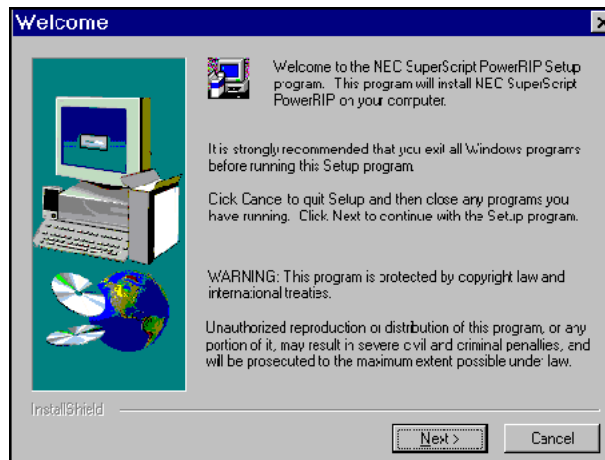
1. Installation of the PowerRIP 2000 software.
2. Validate PowerRIP 2000.

PowerRIP 2000 Installation

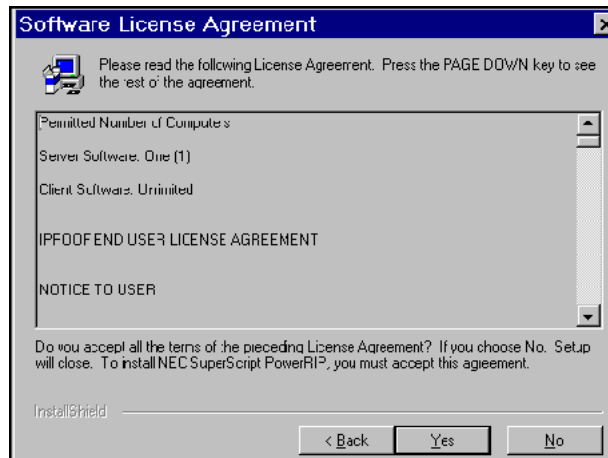
NEC SuperScript
PowerRIP
2000
Chapter 2

Installing the PowerRIP 2000 software

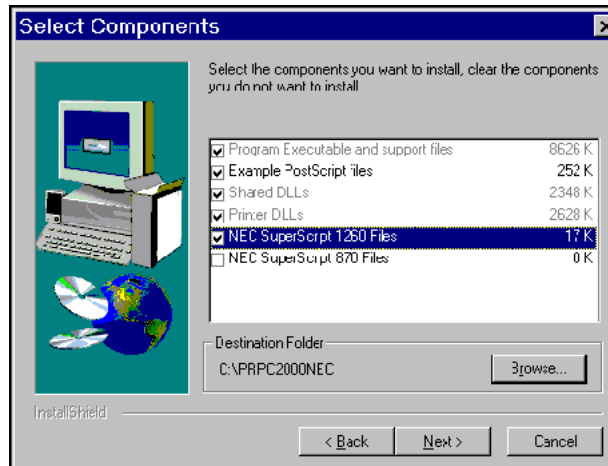
1. Turn on your computer. If it is already on, check the TaskBar to make sure that you have no applications running. If you do, exit them.
2. Insert the PowerRIP 2000 CD-ROM into your CD-ROM drive. If *auto-play* is enabled, the PowerRIP 2000 Install splash screen will appear. If the splash screen does not appear, open My Computer on your Windows Desktop, then open the CD-ROM. Double-click on the file named "Setup.exe."
3. Click on **Install PowerRIP2000**. A Setup dialog will display for a moment while setup occurs.
The **Welcome** dialog will display.
Click **Next**.



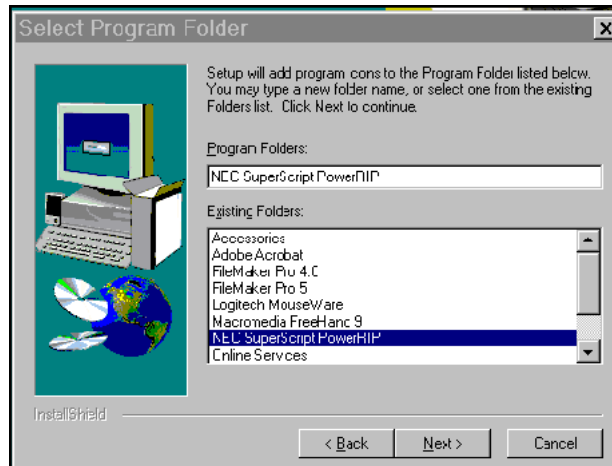
4. The **Software License Agreement** dialog will display.
If you agree click **Yes**.



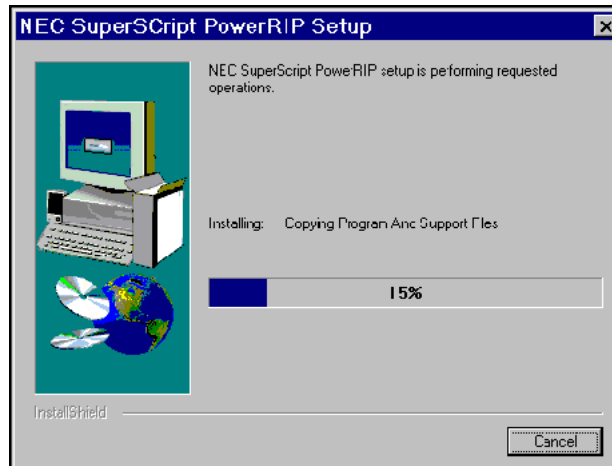
5. The **Select Components** dialog will display.
Select your printer.
Click **Next**.



6. The **Select Program Folder** dialog will display.
Click **Next**.



7. The NEC SuperScript **PowerRIP 2000 Setup** dialog will display.
The PowerRIP 2000 application will start to install. When 100% is defined as copied a slight pause will occur while copying finishes.



8. The **PowerRIP 2000 Print Manager Setup** dialog will display.
The printer you selected in the Select Component dialog should be highlighted.
Click **Continue**.



9. The **Setup Complete** dialog will display.
Click **Finish**.
Your computer will restart.



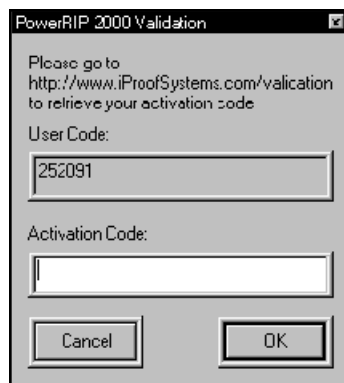
You must validate PowerRIP 2000. Please see page 13, Validating PowerRIP2000.
Without validation the word PowerRIP will print across the page.

Validating PowerRIP 2000

Before using PowerRIP 2000 you must validate your software. If you do not validate the word “PowerRIP” will print across the page. When you validate your PowerRIP 2000 on the internet, you create a bank account of 5 validations. The first time you validate you will use 1 or your 5 validations. You will then have 4 validations left in your back account. When you use one of your validations the number of validations left in your back account will display on the screen.

To Install Validation follow the steps below:

1. Click the **Start** button on the taskbar. Select **Programs>NEC SuperScript PowerRIP >NEC SuperScript PowerRIP** to launch PowerRIP 2000.
2. Click PowerRIP 2000 on the taskbar to maximize the PowerRIP 2000 Control Panel.
3. Pull down the **File** menu and select **Install Validation**.
4. The PowerRIP Validation dialog will display.



5. Write down your unique User Code.
6. You will also need your Product Code which can be found on the CD envelope and the QuickStart Guide.
7. To obtain your “Activation Code,” launch your web browser and enter:
<http://www.iProofSystems.com/validation>
8. Follow the instructions on the iProof website to obtain your Activation Code. Enter that number on the Activation Code window. Click OK. PowerRIP 2000 is now Validated. If you pull down the PowerRIP 2000 File menu you will note that Install Validation is now grayed out and Remove Validation is active.

Remove Validation

You should Remove Validation before reformatting your hard drive, upgrading your operating system, or upgrading to a newer computer. When you Remove Validation and put it back into your bank account on the internet, the counter is reset back to five.

To Remove Validation follow the steps below:

1. Launch PowerRIP 2000.
2. Pull down the **File** menu and select **Remove Validation**.
3. You will get a warning that removing validation will result in PowerRIP being printed on all further output. Click **OK**.
4. You will get a message which will include your invalidation (Remove) Code. Write down your Invalidation code.
5. Launch your web browser and enter:

<http://www.iProofSystems.com/validation>

Click **Remove a Validation**. Enter your Product Code and your Invalidation (Remove) Code. Click **Submit**. A dialog will display that confirms that you have reset your counter back to 5. It should be noted that the counter will be incremented by 1. Thus if you had used 1 validation it will be incremented to 5. If you have used 3 validations it would be incremented to 4 and so on.

Printing to PowerRIP 2000– The Basics

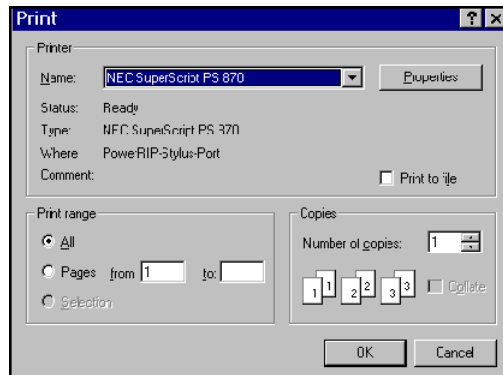
Printing to PowerRIP 2000 from most Windows applications is simple. Select the PowerRIP 2000 printer in the print dialog of your applications, select settings for resolution, paper type, etc., and click **Print**. The application builds the PostScript file in the directory that the PowerRIP 2000 printer specifies. PowerRIP 2000 processes that file and then sends the raster image data to the queue printer “BGXXx”, which in turn sends it through the corresponding LPT, network or similar port.

This section will show you the *basics* of printing to PowerRIP 2000, using screen shots from an application that is generally found on Windows – WordPad. For more high-powered applications, such as Quark XPress, PageMaker, etc., please refer to the Application Read Me files that are on the iProof Systems WEB site and/or on your PowerRIP 2000 CD. These files are all in Acrobat Reader 4.0 PDF format. You must have Acrobat Reader installed on your computer to view these files.

It is *highly* recommended that you thoroughly read Chapter 5, which orients you with PowerRIP 2000’s user interface before attempting to print to PowerRIP 2000.

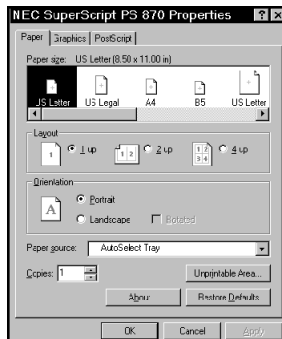
Printing from stand-alone PCs running Windows 95/98

1. It is assumed that WordPad file is on the screen and ready to be printed. Go to **File>Print..** The Print dialog will appear.
In the **Printer Name:** field select your printer.




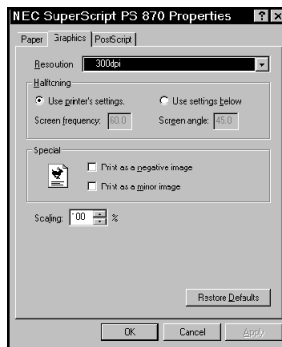
Click on the **Properties**.

2. **Paper** tab
Make sure you select the correct paper size, as well as the orientation.



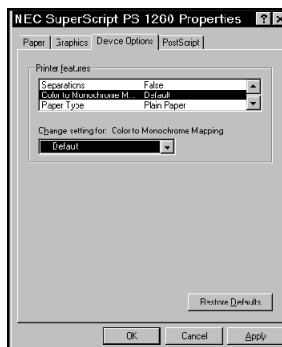
3. **Graphics** tab


Select the Resolution desired. If a resolution has this symbol  next to it, then that resolution is not available for the current features selected in Device Options. *See the next step for more information.*



4. **Device Options** tab.

The Device Options panel allows you to select a variety of options for printing. A brief description of these options can be found on the next page. To change an option, highlight it in the scroll window and select an option in the pull-down menu.



Note: Many of these Device Options interact with each others, and if you attempt to use an option that has this symbol: , a Conflict Window will appear.

Separations True or False. If True is enabled, your file, if in color, will be output as four separate printed pages. Each page will contain all of the color data necessary for color separations; Cyan, Magenta, Yellow, or Black.

Paper Type must be set to match the paper you have in the printer. The available paper types are: Plain Paper, Envelope, Transparency, and Heavy Stock. These paper type selections are applicable to the NEC 870 only.

Screening. Normal Halftone is the default. Normal Halftone screening is a fixed, clustered dot pattern used in traditional printing and duplicates output on a printing press.

Color to Monochrome Mapping: RGB to monochrome conversion. Should be used when printing different shades of color so you can match what you see on the screen to the printed output. Default utilizes the pre-programmed Color Rendering Dictionary.

All Color Darker	Lighter Greens
Darker Blues	Darker Reds
Lighter Blues	Lighter Reds
Darker Greens	All Colors Same

Click **OK** when finished to exit Properties.

5. Click **OK**.
The application will build the PostScript file and send it to PowerRIP2000. PowerRIP 2000 will automatically launch and start processing the file if PowerRIP 2000 is installed on the c:\ drive. If installed on any other drive you will have to manually launch PowerRIP 2000.

You can watch PowerRIP 2000's progress in the PowerRIP 2000 Control Window.

Cancelling a print job

Should it become necessary for you to cancel a job before it prints or after it has begun, there are two options:

- You can cancel a job in either of PowerRIP 2000's user interfaces by clicking **Cancel**, or you can cancel a job by opening the Print Manager for the **BGXXx** printer, right-clicking on the job, and selecting **Cancel Job** or **Purge Jobs**. The BGXXx printer queue can be opened by going to **Start>Settings>Printers**.

Installing the Printer Drivers on a Macintosh

Note: For the purpose of this discussion it is assumed:

1. That PowerRIP 2000 is installed on the PC (NT 4 with Services for Mac installed).
2. The PC will hence forth be considered the Server for this discussion.
3. That the Macintosh's and PC are on a network and that the Macintosh's can see the PC in the Chooser.
4. The Macintosh's will hence forth be considered the client for this discussion.

If you are going to print to a PC server from a Macintosh client you must copy the appropriate Windows PPD to the Macintosh. When PowerRIP 2000 is installed on your hard drive a folder called PPD is also installed in that folder.

To copy the Widows PPD to your Macintosh Operating System do the following:

1. Go to your **Chooser**.
2. Highlight **AppleShare**. The name of your PC server should display on the right side of the chooser dialog under **Select a file server:**
Note: If you can not see the server then you can go no further. Check your network to discover why you can not see the server. Check to make sure you have rights to access the server. If the server is an NT system make sure that Services for Mac have been installed.
3. Highlight the server name.
Click **OK**.
4. The **Connect to File Server** dialog will display.
Select **Registered User**. Type the appropriate **Name** and **Password** if applicable.
Click **Connect**.
5. A dialog will display allowing you to select the driver that the PowerRIP is installed on. Highlight the drive and click **OK**. Close the Chooser. The drive you selected will be mounted on the Macintosh desktop.

6. Open the PC hard drive mounted on your Macintosh. Navigate to the PowerRIP 2000 folder and open it. Open the PPD folder. Open the US folder. Highlight the appropriate PPD for your printer.

PPD Name	Printer
Ipnec870.ppd	NEC SuperScript 870
Ipnec126.ppd	NEC SuperScript 1260

Note: Select the PPD. Do not select the SPD.

7. Go to **Edit** and select **Copy**.
8. Go to your Macintosh **System Folder>Extensions>Printer Descriptions**. Open the Printer Descriptions folder. Do an **Edit>Paste**. The PC PPD will copy to your Printer Description folder.

You are now ready to print from the Macintosh client to the PC Server. You can use either LaserWriter or Adobe PS to Print to the server.

Printing from Workstations on a Network

NEC SuperScript
PowerRIP
2000
Chapter 3

PowerRIP 2000 can be configured to run as a print server or as standalone system. The following network configurations are supported:

- Windows NT 4.0 client to Windows NT 4.0 server
- Windows 98 client to Windows 98 server
- Macintosh client to Windows NT 4.0 server (Services for Mac must be installed on the NT 4.0 server.)

Note: It is not wise to have a screen saver on the server PC. Certain screen savers, when in the sleep mode, can affect the ability of the client PC to access the server PC.

Networking Windows 98 Client to Windows 98 Server and NT 4.0 Client to NT 4.0 Server.

1. Install PowerRIP 2000 on the Server:

Insert the PowerRIP 2000 CD into the CD drive. When the splash screen displays **Install PowerRIP 2000** on the Server using directions on pages 6 through 9 of this manual.

2. Validate PowerRIP 2000 on the Server using the directions on page 10 of this manual.

3. After installation and validation go to **Start>Settings>Printers**. Highlight the printer. Go to **File>Properties**. Go to the **Sharing** tab. Select **Shared As**.

4. Connect to Remote PowerRIP 2000 on Client:

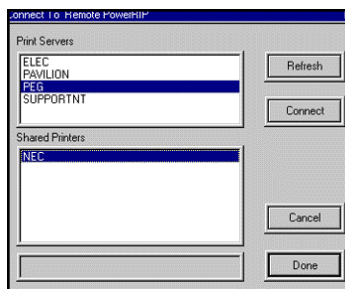
Insert the PowerRIP 2000 CD into the CD drive. When the splash screen displays **Install Remote Printer Queue** on the client.

5. The **Connect to Remote PowerRIP** dialog will display.

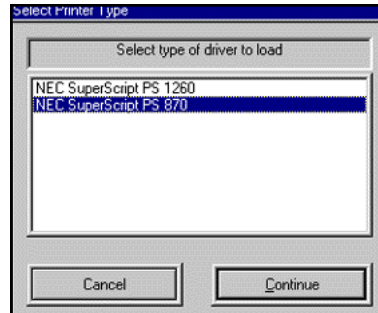
Highlight the Server in the **Print Server** portion of the dialog. Highlight the PowerRIP in the **Shared Printers** portion of the dialog.

Note: The name you choose should be the same name as the Shared Name in Step 3.

Click **Connect**.



6. Select your printer in the **Select Printer Type** dialog box.
Click **Continue**.



7. You will get the message that installation was successful.
Note: If you try to install the same driver twice on the same client machine you could get the error "Adding Printer\xxxx\PowerRIP error 1802 (xxxx - being the server name)"
Click **Done**.
Click **Exit**.
Remove the PowerRIP 2000 CD.

8. **Printing from Client to Server:**

The application you wish to print from should be launched and the file you wish to print should be on the screen of the client PC.

Note: For this demonstration the server is called Peg and the printer is the NEC SuperScript PS 870

When you go to print make sure that you select your server in the Printer Setup dialog.

Networking Macintosh computers to Windows NT Server 4.0

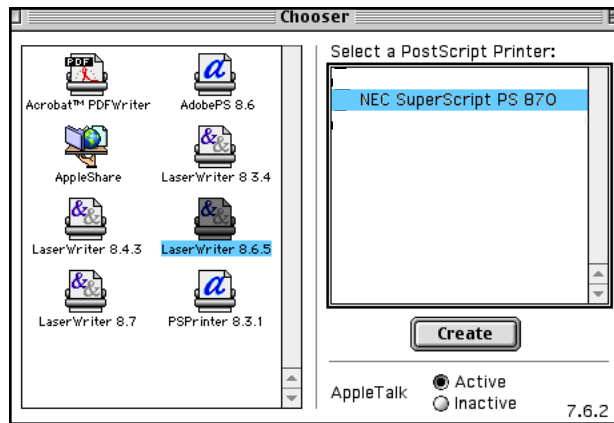
Complete directions for installing the printer driver and copying the appropriate Windows PPD to the Macintosh can be found on pages 18 through 19 of this manual.

Note: To print from a Macintosh client to a Windows PowerRIP 2000 server you must be running under Windows NT Server 4.0 with Services for Mac installed or Windows 2000 Professional.

1. Go to the **Chooser** and highlight your driver.

Note: For this discussion the LaserWriter driver will be used.

Click **Setup** or **Create**. Create will display the first time you go to the Chooser. Setup will display thereafter.



2. A LaserWriter dialog will display. Click **Select PPD**.
3. In the **Choose a File** dialog make sure that you are in the Printer Description folder. Select the PPD that you copied from the PowerRIP 2000 PC PPD folder. Click **Choose**.

Click **OK**

Close the Chooser.

You are now ready to print from your Macintosh applications.

For directions for printing from specific applications go to Start>Programs> NEC SuperScript PowerRIP>Documentation.

Remote Printer Queues

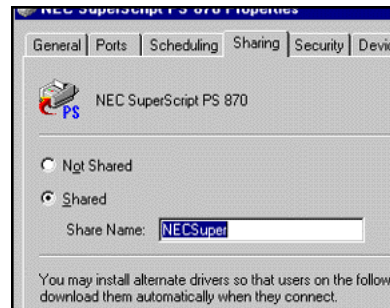
If you are on a large network you can create a Remote Printer Queue on a remote PC to expedite your work flow and for faster throughput speeds. Remote Printer Queues are also very useful if you have more than one server and one printer on a large network. You can create Remote Printer Queues on your remote PC and direct your files to a specific printer, on a specific server, on the network.

Creating a Remote Printer Queue

On the PowerRIP 2000 server you must make sure that you share the printer so that a Remote Printer Queue can be created.

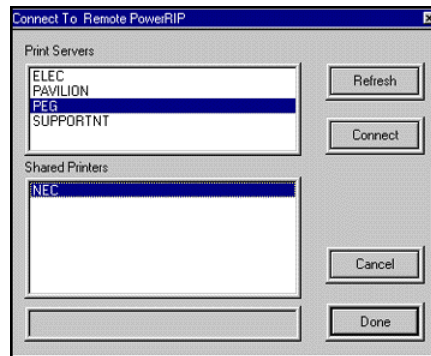
To Share the Printer on the Server:

1. Go to **Start>Settings>Printers**. Highlight your printer.
2. Go to **File>Properties**.
3. Sharing tab
Select **Shared As**.
Click **OK**.



Create Remote Queue on remote PC.

1. Insert the PowerRIP 2000 CD into the CD drive.
2. The PowerRIP 2000 splash screen will display.
3. Click on **Install Remote Printer Queue**.
4. The **Connect to Remote PowerRIP** dialog will display.
5. Highlight the name of the Server PC in the Print Server portion of the dialog.
The name of the printer should display in the Shared Printer portion of the dialog.
Click **Connect**.

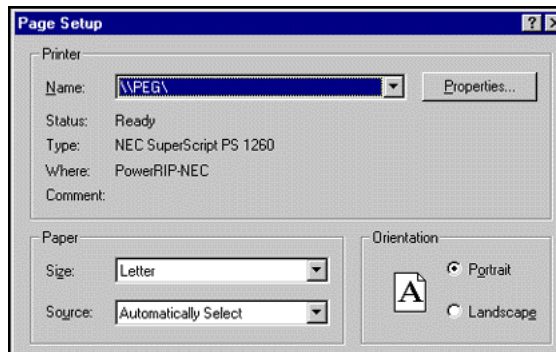


6. You will get a message that the printer connection was added.
Click **OK**.
Click **Done**.

If you go to **Start>Settings>Printers** on your remote PC you will see the Remote Printer Queue that you just created.



On the remote terminal you will create your files selecting the Remote Queue name in Page Setup. When you print the file will process, spool to the server and print. If PowerRIP 2000 is installed on the c:\ drive of the server and has not been launched, the first file sent to the server will launch PowerRIP 2000. If PowerRIP 2000 is not installed on the c:\ drive you will have to manually launch PowerRIP 2000.



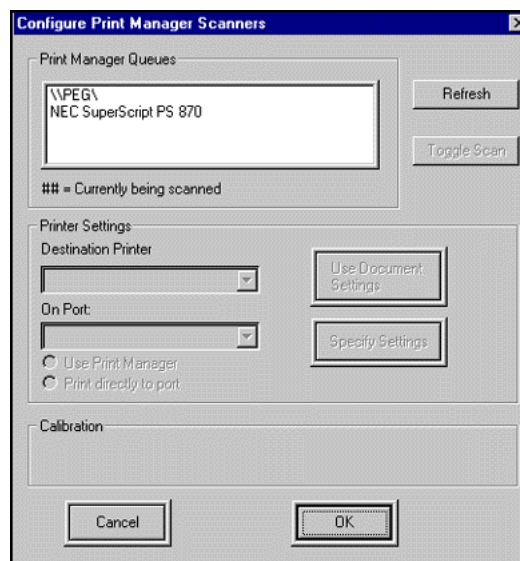
Note: If you have more than one printer on the network and want to make a Remote Queue for each printer, one printer can use PowerRIP PowerRIP port. The second printer should use LPT 1. You should select Use Print manager in the Configure Port Managers Scanners dialog. You then can scan the queues within PowerRIP 2000.

Configure Print Manager Scanners

Certain applications, such as FreeHand, send header information along with the PostScript file when the print command is executed. This creates various PostScript errors. Print to File circumvents this header information and allows you to print FreeHand files to your printer. Configure Print Manager Scanners gives you the ability to print the PostScript file. For in-depth directions for printing from FreeHand please go to Start>Programs>NEC SuperScript PowerRIP>Documentation.

To access the Configure Print Manager Scanners:

1. Launch PowerRIP 2000
2. Go to **Inputs>Print Manager Queues Scanners.**



Testing PowerRIP 2000

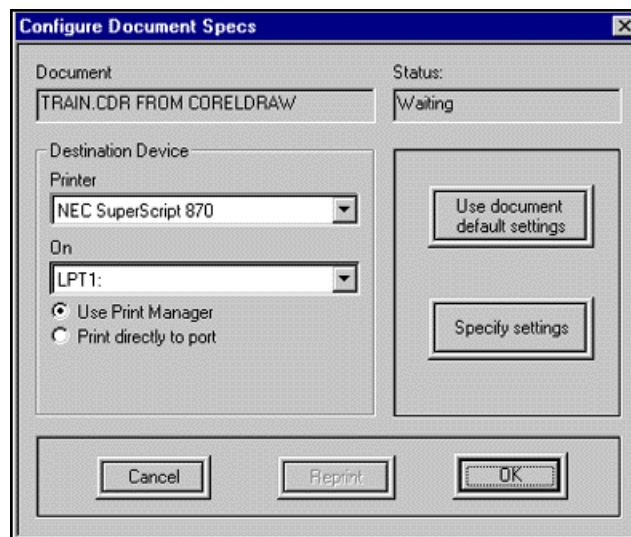
Now that PowerRIP 2000 and drivers have been installed, and validated, you can print a sample pre-made PostScript file to test the system. This test will only verify that the PowerRIP 2000 will process and send process jobs to the printer. It does not test the process of applications sending jobs to the PowerRIP 2000 queues.

Follow the steps below.

1. Launch PowerRIP 2000 and click on the TaskBar PowerRIP button to open the Main Control Window. Select **Print PostScript File...** from the **File** menu.
A dialog box opens with a selection of files and folders. Select **TRAIN.PS** and click **Open**.

Note: TRAIN.ps can be found in the PRPC2000NEC folder on your hard drive.

2. The **Configure Document Specs** dialog appears. Make sure the proper printer is selected in the pull-down menu under **Destination Device**, and the proper port is also selected. Click on the **Use Document Default Settings** button, then click **OK**. PowerRIP 2000 will start processing the job and send it to the printer queue BGXXx and then to the printer.



PowerRIP 2000

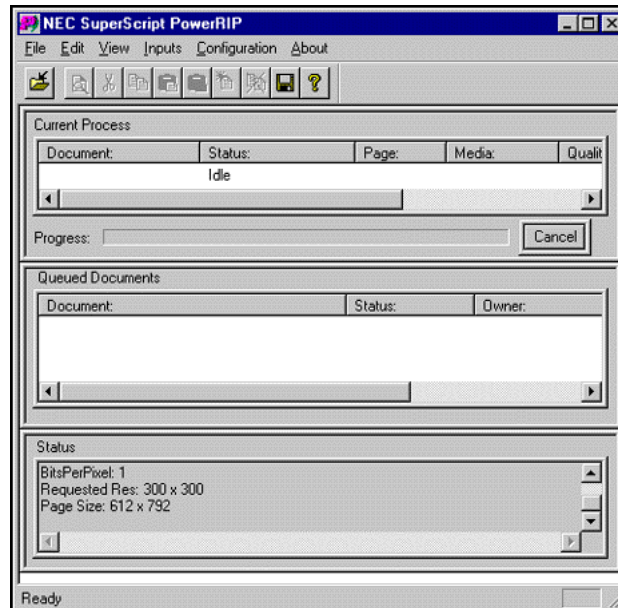
User Interface

**NEC SuperScript
PowerRIP
2000**
Chapter 5

This chapter will familiarize you with the PowerRIP 2000 interface.

PowerRIPControl Panel Dialog

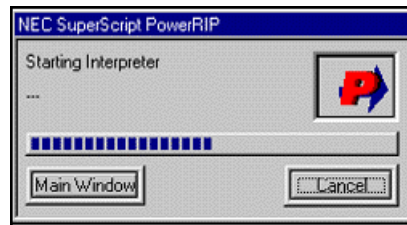
From this panel you can configure all the default settings of PowerRIP 2000. It is also used to insert files manually, pause, cancel, reprint and log activities.



PowerRIP 2000 Control Panel Dialog

This section will explore the various PowerRIP 2000 Main Control Panel dialogs and the Auxiliary Control Window.

When PowerRIP 2000 is first launched, the **Auxiliary Control** dialog is displayed on screen, for a short time, while the PostScript interpreter is initialized.



The **Auxiliary Control** dialog disappears and PowerRIP 2000 is automatically minimized to the Windows TaskBar. Clicking on **NEC SuperScript PowerRIP** TaskBar button will display the Main Control Window.

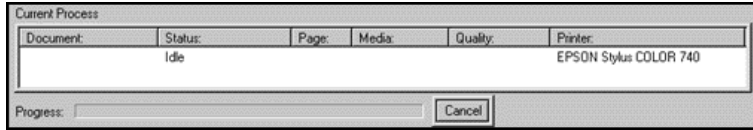


- When PowerRIP 2000 detects a PostScript file in its queue folder(s), the Auxiliary Control dialog will reappear and give you an indication of the current activity of PowerRIP 2000.
- Clicking on **Cancel** (bottom right corner of the Auxiliary Control dialog) will force PowerRIP 2000 to abort its current process and flush the PostScript file back to the queue folder.
- Clicking on the **Main Window** button (bottom left corner of the Auxiliary Control dialog) will close the Auxiliary Control dialog and open the PowerRIP Control Panel dialog.

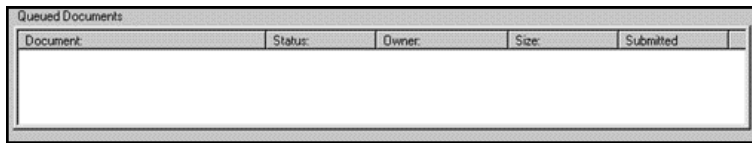
The **Toolbar** can be turned on or off in the **View** menu. Positioning the mouse pointer over a Toolbar button will offer pointer-based ToolTips on the button's function. An expanded description can be seen in the **Status Bar** at the bottom of the PowerRIP window.



The **Current Process** panel indicates the job is currently being processed. Jobs in this panel can be canceled. Once a job is shown in this panel, changing its printing attributes is not recommended.



The **Queued Documents** panel displays other PostScript files that have been sent to PowerRIP 2000. The top file is the one currently being processed. The other files may be moved in the list, can be deleted, and can have their printing attributes changed before they are processed. The options in the **Configuration** menu allow these changes to be made. Jobs in this list that have already been printed may be reprinted.



The **Status** panel displays messages from the PostScript Interpreter. Messages in this panel are diagnostic in nature, and can help tech support personnel identify and correct problems you may encounter when printing PostScript files.



The **Status Bar** displays various messages depending on what the mouse pointer is pointed at. The Status Bar can be turned off in the **View** menu.



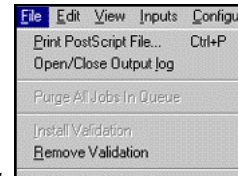
PowerRIP 2000 Menus and Control Dialogs

NEC SuperScript PowerRIP 2000 Chapter 6

This section will explore the menu choices available in PowerRIP 2000. This is ultimately the most important section of this entire manual – it is your guide to the intricate functioning of a powerful piece of software.

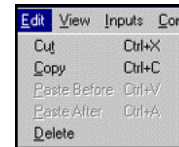
File Menu:

- **Print PostScript File** allows you to select for printing a PostScript file not sent directly to PowerRIP 2000, such as a PostScript file created in AutoCAD or FreeHand.
- **Open/Close Output Log** controls the log file of all messages PowerRIP 2000 produces and displays in the *Status Panel* of the Main Control Window. This message log can be viewed with any text editor, such as NotePad. This option should be invoked every time you use PowerRIP 2000; it will not reopen automatically.
- **Purge All Jobs In Queue** deletes all jobs sent directly to PowerRIP 2000.
- **Exit** shuts down PowerRIP.



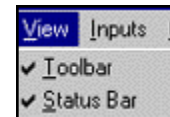
Edit Menu:

- **Cut, Copy, Paste Before, Paste After, and Delete.** All these commands are for manipulating individual files visible in the *Queued Documents* panel.



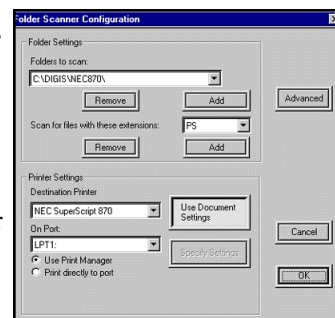
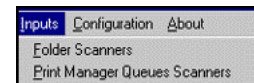
View Menu:

- **Toolbar and Status Bar.** Selecting either of these items will either hide or show the corresponding section of PowerRIP 2000's Main Control Window.



Inputs Menu:

- **Folder Scanners.** Selecting this item opens the **Folder Scanner Configuration** dialog.
- **Folder Settings:** This portion controls which queue folder PowerRIP 2000 scans for new files, and the type of files it scans for.
 - The top **Add** and **Remove** buttons can add or remove folders to the “**Folders to Scan**” pull-down menu. A folder for the PowerRIP 2000 printer you selected when installing PowerRIP 2000 is automatically created. If you add another NEC SuperScript PowerRIP printer to your system, you will need to add the directory that is created for it to this menu.



- The lower **Add** and **Remove** buttons can add or remove file types to the “**Scan for files with these extensions**” pull-down menu.
- Clicking the **Advanced** button displays the **Advanced Settings** dialog
- **Printer Settings**: This section allows you to select printers for PowerRIP2000 to print to, select the port, and choose to print with or without Print Manager.
- The **Use Document Settings** button, when depressed, tells PowerRIP 2000 to use all the printing options that were selected in the application(s) from which the PostScript files were printed.
- The **Specify Settings** button displays the **NEC Options** dialog

*Note: Most Windows applications allow you to select a printer and a PPD, and thus all the options included. Use the **Use Document Settings** option when printing from these applications. Some applications do **not** allow the selection of a PPD, and thus all the options are not available. **Specify Settings** will allow you to set the options as desired.*

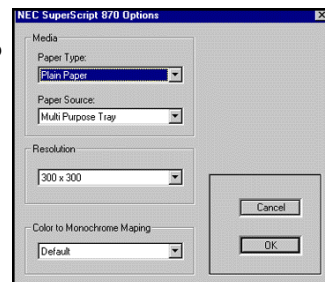
- **Advanced Settings Dialog**: This dialog allows you to change how often PowerRIP 2000 scans the selected queue folder, and how many times PowerRIP 2000 will scan a new PostScript file before beginning to process it.

Note: This last feature can come in very handy when printing over a slow or busy network. If a PostScript file is incomplete when PowerRIP 2000 starts to process it, it could result in various problems. Increasing the value for this feature can prevent problems from occurring.



- **Specify Settings**: This dialog allows you to change settings for your PostScript files “on the fly.”

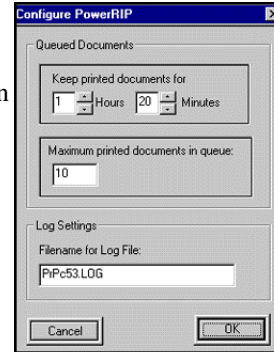
- **Print Quality tab**: This dialog allows you to define the Paper Source, Resolution, and Color to Monochrome Mapping. Please see page 17 of this manual for a description of these options.





Configuration Menu:



- **Configure PowerRIP 2000:** Selecting this command opens the **Configure PowerRIP** dialog, which allows you to control how long printed PostScript files remain available for reprinting, and how many files are retained. It also allows you to name your log file (*you can use any name you wish, but if you add the standard .txt extension to the file name, the file can be opened automatically in NotePad or another text editor*).



***Note:** Many of these options affect the others, and if you attempt to use an option that has either of these symbols:  , a Conflict Window will appear, telling you exactly what the conflict is and how to resolve it. If you are printing from a Macintosh workstation, unavailable options will be “grayed out.”*

Troubleshooting

NEC SuperScript
PowerRIP
2000
Chapter 7

This chapter will explore various troubleshooting options to help you solve problems you may encounter while installing, setting up, and using PowerRIP2000—without the need to call on Technical Support. This chapter is divided into separate sections for troubleshooting PowerRIP 2000 Installation, Testing PowerRIP 2000, Printing to PowerRIP 2000, and Printing Quality.

Troubleshooting PowerRIP 2000 Installation

This section will help you troubleshoot problems installing the PowerRIP2000 software.

Problem: The PowerRIP 2000 splash screen does not appear when the CD-ROM is loaded.

Solution: *Auto-play* is not enabled. This is an option on later revisions of Windows 95 and NT 4.0. You can usually activate the splash screen by opening My Computer and double-clicking on the CD-ROM. If it still does not appear, double-click the file *Splash.exe* on the CD-ROM.

Problem: Windows reports any kind of **non-disk system error** while PowerRIP 2000 is installing (i.e., a problem not related to the CD itself).

Solution: Restart the computer. When it is finished restarting, disable any anti-virus software, disk compression utilities (e.g., Stacker, DriveSpace), and Norton Utilities.

- If the error persists, write it down and refer to your Windows documentation, or visit the Microsoft website's Support page. There is a search function that allows you to enter keywords from the error message and receive a list of possible matches and solutions.

Problem: Windows reports a **disk error** while PowerRIP 2000 is installing.

Solution: Your CD may be damaged or dirty. Remove the CD and inspect the underside of the CD for dust or scratches. If necessary, clean the CD with a specially-designed cleaning cloth (available at most computer and music stores). Your computer's hard disk may also be corrupted.

Troubleshooting Testing and Printing to PowerRIP

Important: It is highly recommended that you invoke the Message Logging option available in PowerRIP 2000 (select **Open/Close Log** in the **File** menu). This log will help Technical Support personnel identify any PostScript-related problems you may encounter.

Problem: PowerRIP prints on all pages.

Solution: PowerRIP 2000 was not validated. See page 13 of this manual.

Problem: When *testing* PowerRIP, it processes the pre-made PostScript files, but the printer only prints strange characters.

Solution: This problem usually occurs only in Windows 95/98, when the **BGXXx** queue printer cannot be created.

Problem: Windows displays a message that the printer is unavailable or not responding, or the device is not ready.

Solution: This usually indicates a problem with the physical connection between the computer and the printer.

- Check all cables for damage, and make sure the connections are tight.
- If you are using a manual switchbox, make sure the switch is set to the port the NEC printer is on, or the port your computer is on.
- If you are using an automatic switchbox, see if there is a manual override to lock in a specific port. If there is, lock in the port to which your computer is connected.
- If you are using an Ethernet-to-parallel “bridge,” see if you can lock in a specific port, or connect the printer directly to the computer on which PowerRIP 2000 is installed.

Problem: PowerRIP 2000 cancels jobs without user interaction or visible alerts.

Solution: You are probably encountering a PostScript error. Check the **Status Panel** of PowerRIP 2000’s Main Control Window for error messages, or view the log file in a text editor (the log file is located in the **PRPC2000Epson** directory on the hard drive).

- You will probably need to call upon Tech Support to identify the error and the cause. Technical Support has a comprehensive understanding of the PostScript language and the possible errors you can receive.

- Note that many PostScript errors are caused by EPS (Encapsulated PostScript) files that are corrupt or incomplete.

- Problem:** When printing from my application(s), the printer starts almost immediately, but it only prints strange characters.
- Solution:** PowerRIP 2000 is not processing the file. Make sure that you selected the **PowerRIP 2000 Printer** in the application(s), and the correct PPD is selected if applicable.
- Problem:** When printing from a Macintosh or a Windows workstation to a Windows NT 4.0 PowerRIP 2000 Server, a message alert appears saying that a file could not be opened for processing or could not be deleted.
- Solution:** This is either a Sharing problem or a *Timeout* error. There are several options you can adjust on both the server and the workstations:
- On the PowerRIP 2000 Server:
 - Increase the PostScript Timeout values in the **PowerRIP 2000 Printer Properties** dialog, accessed through the Printers Control Panel.
 - Change the PostScript Output Format to “optimize for portability” in the **Document Properties** dialog, accessed as above.
 - Increase the Timing values in the **Advanced Folder Scanner Settings** dialog in PowerRIP.
 - Make sure that the **Permissions** settings for Sharing the directory and the PowerRIP2000 Printer are set to **Full Access** for everyone.
 - On the Windows 95 workstation, change Data Format in **Advanced PostScript Options** dialog to “Pure Binary.”
 - On the Macintosh workstation, check the compatibility of your version of LaserWriter for Windows NT 4.0.
- Problem:** An on screen message about insufficient memory appears.
- Solution:** Your computer is running out of RAM, or disk cache memory resources (i.e., virtual memory). Review the System Requirements in Chapter 1.
- Problem:** A message about insufficient memory is printed in place of or after a job.
- Solution:** You are running out of free disk space on the boot drive (usually C:\). Free up memory by deleting unused files and applications, and defragmenting your hard drive(s). This message sometimes occurs when printing from FreeHand. Convert any Spot colors to Process.
- Problem:** Jobs stop printing after a certain time and eject the paper before printing is complete.
- Solution:** This is usually an indication of a lack of free disk space on the boot drive, or a data transmission error. If you have enough disk space, check to ensure that another background program (anti-virus software, disk utility) was not running.

Problem: Prints are clipped close to the edges of the paper.

Solution: Know what the *unprintable area* of your NEC Printer is and adjust your documents' margins accordingly. You can check the unprintable area values in the **PowerRIP2000 Printer Properties** dialog.

Problem: Fonts appear fine on screen, but are substituted with another font.

Solutions: This usually indicates a missing or damaged PostScript printer font, or a damaged TrueType font.

- Check the font downloading options in your application.
- Make sure that ATM can see the PostScript font in question.
- If using QuarkXPress 4.1 turn off ATM, restart your computer, turn on ATM, and then launch QuarkXPress. This needs only be done once to update the .INI files for QuarkXPress.

Problem: PowerRIP 2000 processes files slowly or printing takes a long time.

Solution: PostScript interpretation is a processor- and disk-intensive operation. If your computer has a slow processor, not enough RAM, or is running out of free disk space, processing times may be longer than what you are used to printing directly to the printer. Also, large or complex documents with many images and other graphics will require more of these resources.

Glossary

Several terms having special meaning within the context of this manual are listed below.

- application** Applications are the programs that run on a computer. Some common desktop publishing and graphics applications are PageMaker and Photoshop.
- bitmap** Bitmaps are images preprocessed at a fixed resolution for a certain monitor or printer.
- CMYK** Acronym for Cyan, Magenta, Yellow, and Black (K), the four standard process colors for printing.
- CPU** Central Processing Unit. The processor inside the computer. A Pentium is faster than a 486.
- dialog** A graphic user interface that cannot be resized or minimized or maximized, but can be moved.
- EPS** Encapsulated PostScript. This is a file type that may contain complex graphics. It is designed as a universal format to include complex graphics in other applications.
- imaging device** A device capable of printing an image on a physical medium, for example, a printer, imagesetter, or ink jet printer.
- interpreter** A set of software functions to convert PostScript language operators and operands into a raster image.
- network** Cabling, cards, and required software to link computers to each other. Ethernet is the most common.
- PostScript** An interpretive programming language, developed by Adobe, used to describe the text, graphics, and image content of a document.

raster image	A sequential bitmap composing an image. For each image pixel, there is a corresponding device pixel.
render	The process by which PostScript language operators and operands are interpreted and a raster image is produced.
RAM	Random Access Memory. Almost all PCs come with 32 MB as a minimum. You can add more RAM to most computers. See your computer dealer for more information.
RIP	Raster Image Processor. An application or device that renders images in raster format for an imaging device.
SWOP	Specifications for Web Offset Printing. All offset press service bureaus use SWOP to match colors. PowerRIP 2000 can adjust colors to simulate SWOP output.
TIFF	Tagged Image File Format. This is a standard image file format consisting of labeled fields.
window	A graphic user interface that can be resized, minimized, maximized, and moved. It usually incorporates scroll bars.

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