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Question 3

In the implementation of Question 3, in order to find the proper minimum printer number, the printer number started from one and increased until the printers were able to sustain the given average time condition. This may be acceptable for small inputs, but when it comes to handle large print requests by checking the proper printer number one by one, the process turns out to be not much efficient. In a very large library with many potential printers (N), instead of increasing the printer number until $K \leq N$, a special search algorithm may turn out to be much efficient. As in parallel to the binary search algorithm, after finding the average time result with one printer, the middle value in the range of N can be computed, given that N value is known, and afterwards the algorithm may move on checking the middle value in a recursive fashion instead of iteratively checking one by one. This will result in a decrease in the search time from O(n) to O(logn) and therefore decrease the total time in search part to find the optimum number of printers remarkably. But at this point it has to be mentioned that if the N value is unknown, which is most likely the case, the algorithm cannot do binary search between 1 and N, but it can check the printer number by using the powers of two (as 1,2,4,8,16,32,64,128...). If two consecutive printer numbers produce a situation where the upper range gives an acceptable average time and lower range does not, than the binary search algorithm can be applied in this range. For example if printer number 128 gives an acceptable average time (less than average time) value and 64 gives a greater average time than desired, algorithm will apply binary search between 64, 128. This will also contribute to a decrease from O(n) search time to O(logn) and together with simulator's time, the total time to find optimum printer number will be lower.