Apple IIGS Super Control Panel: Refresh rate

From the Control Panel on the Apple IIGS, one can set many of the system configuration settings stored in the battery RAM. These include such settings as screen color, microprocessor speed, slot assignment, and others. However, one of the configurable settings that is not included as an option in the Control Panel is the screen refresh rate.

Because the Apple IIGS is an international machine, it must be able to conform to European standards. In Europe, the screen refresh rate is 50 Hz, rather than 60 Hz as defined by the U.S. standard.

In order to change the screen refresh rate, one must enter the "Super" Control Panel. This control panel is kept separate from the regular Control Panel for safety reasons. No harm will come to the Apple IIGS or the monitor if the refresh rate is incorrectly set. However, the screen display may become unreadable as long as the incorrect mode is set. The Super Control panel was made less accessible so that it would be more difficult to accidentally change the setting.

Entering the Super Control Panel is done by re-booting the computer in a special way. Rather than pressing Open-Apple/CTRL/Reset, the normal key sequence for rebooting, simultaneously press OPTION, CTRL, and Reset. The computer will cold start and then display the Super Control Panel screen. From there one can change the screen refresh rate, enter the regular Control Panel, or continue with the boot process.
Apple Technical Communications

Keywords: <None>

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This information is from the Apple Technical Information Library.

19960215 11:05:19.00

Tech Info Library Article Number: 2040