Macintosh: Remote Power Up (12/93)

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TOPIC -----

I want to remotely power up and remotely reset a Macintosh computer? Are there Apple or third party solutions available?

DISCUSSION -----

Depending on the Macintosh model you have, there are different software and hardware solutions available. Many Desktop (examples: Macintosh IIcx, IIci) and PowerBook models are capable of being remotely powered up or restarted.

Below are a few examples of some solutions.

- Farallon Timbuktu/Remote Pack includes a cable and software that allows a Macintosh to be started remotely. For further details, contact the vendor, Farallon. To obtain contact information, use "Farallon" as a search string.

- PowerKey is a hardware and software solution for compact and modular desktop Macintoshes. For further details, contact the vendor, Sophisticated Circuits. To obtain contact information, use "Sophisticated Circuits" as a search string.

- If a Macintosh is powered on and is connected to an AppleTalk network, you can use third party network management software to restart Macintoshes over the network. GraceLAN Update Manager by TechWorks and Status*Mac by ON Technology are two examples. Use the vendor as a search string for contact information for these companies.

- For PowerBook computers, you can use the Auto Wake Up feature in the PowerBook control panel to set a time for your PowerBook to automatically "wake up."

Macintosh II, IIx computers: Special Information

The information below describes how to modify the Macintosh II and IIx models, which don't have the auto power capability. One of the scenarios suggested is how the PowerKey product works.

If you want to modify the Macintosh, consider the following. The way to power

up the Macintosh II without pressing a button requires a modified power supply or a completely different one. There is circuitry in the Macintosh II power supply that senses a level transition from the logic board, initiated by pressing either the button on the back of the machine or the reset key on the ADB keyboard. If this transition does not occur, the power-up sequence does not start. If a steady voltage is applied to the Power Fail signal line into the power supply, the sequence will not start. The power supply must see the transition to begin the power-up cycle. A modified power supply that powers up with a voltage applied steadily, instead of level-shifted, would work in this case.

To replace the switch on the back with a power-sensing switch, you must ensure the proper connections are made, because the switch is a double-pole, double-throw switch. Also, the new switch needs to perform the same function as the existing mechanical one. That is, it must switch ground into the shutdown circuit to shut off the system. Likewise, to turn the system on, it must switch power in. This is not to say it cannot be done. Just make sure the functions of the power-sensing switch are the same as the current mechanical one.

Another possibility may be to create a circuit that plugs into the ADB port and generates pulses of a sufficient amplitude (between 3.0 and 6.8VDC) and duration (>1.5 seconds) on the proper pins (2 and 4) to operate the Power Fail circuit in the present power supply long enough to bring it up. Perhaps a remote ADB switch would work, too. It would need to momentarily connect pins 2 and 4 on the ADB port.

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