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PowerBook: How the Serial Port Arbitrator Works

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TOPIC -----------------------------------------------------------

What is the Serial Port Arbitrator, and how does it work?  Can I take it out?

DISCUSSION ------------------------------------------------------

The serial port requires exclusive access.  Through the use of arbitration,
multiple applications can use the serial port.  Consider the situation where
Remote Access is waiting for a call and you want to use AppleLink. When Remote
Access is waiting for a call, it has "passive claim" on the serial port which is
relinquished when AppleLink needs the port.  When AppleLink relinquishes its
"active claim" to the serial port, Remote Access then reestablishes its "passive
claim".

Therefore, if you remove the arbitrator AND have Remote Access set to answer
calls, Remote Access will have sole claim on the port and not allow any other
programs to use it.  This is the only situation where you will encounter a
problem.

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