



# Tech Info Library

## Macintosh: SCSI Devices Should Be On at Startup (6/93)

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### TOPIC -----

I am having difficulty starting my Performa 450 when it is connected to an external Micronet 30MB SCSI hard drive that is turned off. When I connect the drive to the SCSI port and attempt to boot the computer, it will only boot if the Micronet drive is turned on first. I would like to be able to boot (from the internal hard drive) with the external drive connected but turned off. I want to do this because I will not need the drive turned on all the time and the fan is rather loud.

### DISCUSSION -----

The SCSI bus requires termination power to provide clean SCSI signals. When a SCSI device has its own termination power, the SCSI bus signals are corrupted when the device is off because this leaves the SCSI bus unterminated. A non-terminated SCSI bus can cause startup problems because of noise on the bus.

Sometimes, a SCSI device supplying its own termination power can remain off at startup because it has a relatively clean SCSI bus signal. But there is no guarantee that the bus signals will stay clean and uncorrupted, as it is improperly terminated in this situation.

SCSI devices that use termination power from the Macintosh can be off and still be properly terminated.

Since your external SCSI device only works with the power on, it is a problem with the external device. If another Macintosh starts up successfully when this external hard drive is turned off, it may be because older Macintosh computers were more tolerant regarding SCSI noise and termination issues than are newer models.

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