Macintosh: Using the Serial Switch Control Panel (11/93)

Article Created: 1 November 1993

DISCUSSION ---

I'm using Serial Switch v1.1a1 on my Quadra 900. I'd like to use it with
my Quadra 840AV as well, but I get the message "Cannot be used with this
Macintosh".

DISCUSSION ---

What Serial Switch Is For

There are few situations where the Serial Switch is required. Those
programs that don't use the I/O ToolBox routines, but instead directly
address the I/O hardware (contrary to Apple's programming recommendations)
may have compatibility problems with these IOP-equipped systems.

Because there's no way to bypass the IOP that controls the SWIM and ADB,
applications that address that hardware must be modified to work on the
Macintosh IIfx, Quadra 900, or Quadra 950.

Some History

This control panel was originally called the Macintosh IIfx Serial Switch
1.0. It was revised and renamed Serial Switch, to reflect that it can
also be used with the Quadra 900 and 950. This newer version of the Serial
Switch hasn't been as widely distributed as the previous version because
most of the third-party incompatibilities have long since been corrected.
But since there are still third parties, most notably MIDI developers, who
wish to use their own serial drivers, Apple provides the switch to
developers to distribute with their applications should their applications
require it.

Which Macintosh Models Can Use It

The Serial Switch control panel is designed for systems that contain
intelligent I/O processors (IOPs). Only the Macintosh IIfx, Quadra 900,
and Quadra 950 have IOPs on the ports for the floppy disk, ADB, and serial
I/O. These ASICs feature a built-in microprocessor, DMA controller, timer,
and external Static RAM (SRAM), used to off-load floppy disk, ADB, modem,
and printer port interrupts. If you use Serial Switch on a Macintosh that
has no IOP, you will see the error message you report.

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Using Serial Switch Version 1.1
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The current version of Serial Switch is 1.1.  After launching it, you will
see "ver 1.1a1" in the top right corner of the window.


The control panel has two modes:


• Faster.  Use this mode when using the IOP.


• Compatible.  Enables developer's code to address the SCC hardware
  directly, bypassing the IOP.


After changing the mode, restart the system to have it take effect.


Where to Get It
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You can get the Serial Switch control panel from:
• The MIDI Manager Tools Disk
• The E.T.O. (Essential Tools and Objects) CD-ROM that is sent to
  developers on a subscription basis
• Apple Software Licensing
• AppleLink's Software Sampler


Remember, the Serial Switch is still sometimes referred to as the
"Macintosh IIfx Serial Switch"; however, regardless of the name, version
1.1 will work on some Quadras too.
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Keywords:  <None>


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Tech Info Library Article Number: 13825