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Macintosh II: Sharing Monitors & Keyboards

Article Created: 1 September 1987
Article Last Reviewed: 25 June 1992
Article Last Updated:

TOPIC ---

There is no way for several Macintosh II computers to share both a single
keyboard and a single monitor. A switch for a monitor should be
relatively easy to make, since you are only supplying the monitor with a
stream of bits. A switch for the keyboard is more difficult, because you
must deal with the Apple Desktop bus (ADB).

DISCUSSION --

The first time a keyboard is recognized, it receives an ID number from the
computer and retains this ID number. When the multiple computers started
up, one after the other, they would all get the same Keyboard ID. The
problem is that when the keyboard is subsequently addressed, it assumes it
is communicating with just one computer and forgets its ID number. So
when a second computer attempts to communicate with it, nothing happens.

Conceivably, you could implement a program that echoed all the keyboard
information out from one "master" Macintosh II, over AppleTalk, but still
you would have to rewrite quite a bit of lower level code.
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Keywords: <None>

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19960215 11:05:19.00

Tech Info Library Article Number: 2386