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PowerBook and External Hard Drive: SCSI Termination Problem

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TOPIC -----

When I use my third-party external hard drive with my desktop Macintosh, I can trash the hard drive and then power it off without a problem. But when I do the same thing on my Powerbook 170, as soon as I power down the hard drive, the PowerBook hangs.

DISCUSSION -----

The problem is the lack of SCSI termination power. The Macintosh Plus, Macintosh Portable, and Macintosh Powerbooks do not provide SCSI termination power. In the scenario you describe, it is the external hard drive providing the appropriate termination, since all Apple hard drives (and some third-party hard drives) provide termination power. Much like signal termination on a network, once it is removed (as when you power down the HD) the SCSI bus loses its integrity and the PowerBook crashes.

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