



Tech Info Library

Data General: Terminal Line Dropped for Macintosh

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Security: Everyone

Data General: Terminal Line Dropped for Macintosh

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TOPIC -----

I have a Macintosh IIci with a 40MB internal CMS drive with 4MB RAM. It replaces a Data General terminal. It's connected to our terminal line (DB-25 male) using a female-to-female gender changer and an Apple IIe/ImageWriter II cable (third-party) connected through the modem port.

Thus, I use my Macintosh part-time to communicate with a Data General (Versaterm does the DG emulation). Communication works flawlessly, and everything else is fine until I shut down the Macintosh at the end of the day. When I turn on the Macintosh in the morning, the DG has disconnected the line. I have to contact our systems people and have the line reconnected. Apparently the DG is polling the lines at night and something is timing out and disconnecting them.

I disconnected the cable from the back of the Macintosh at night, and everything works fine when I reconnect it in the morning. Note: People can shut off their terminals at night without the line being disconnected. However, I don't want to unplug the cable from the Macintosh every night.

Is the Macintosh doing something out of the ordinary with the serial ports when the machine is off?

DISCUSSION -----

We suspect the cable may have a pin jumpered in it that may be causing this problem when the mainframe polls the Macintosh in the evening. The possibility is that pins 6 and 8 (jumpered), which should go to 20 on the DG, may be pulled down signal-wise and responding as if the connection is gone. This closes the line for security at the mainframe.

When the cable is disconnected from the Macintosh, those signals are cancelled, because there is not a continuous loop inside the serial port and the mainframe can tell that. When the cable is connected, it goes through the serial port and incorrect cabling may respond as if the connection has dropped.

We suggest you verify that the cable you are using is the correct configuration and not having any extra pins jumpered inside. When the Macintosh is off, nothing happens with the serial port (no power, no activity).

We cannot tell you if there is a way to have the mainframe discontinue the polling overnight. That may be one workaround besides verification of the cable.

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