



Tech Info Library

PowerBook: Control Strip Software (11/95)

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TOPIC -----

This article describes the PowerBook Control Strip software.

For information on the Control Strip software on Power Macintosh 7500 and 8500 computers see the TIL article "System 7.5.2: Control Strip Software".

DISCUSSION -----

The Control Strip was first included with System 7.1.1, and runs on all PowerBook models running System 7.1.1 or later. If the particular model does not support a component, then it just won't appear in the Control Strip. The System 7.5.1 Easy Install also places the Control Strip software on all PowerBooks. System 7.5.2, used only on the PowerBook 5300 and 190 series computers, also installs the Control Strip software.

Many customers have asked for a simple way to monitor power management features of PowerBook computers. With the PowerBook Control Strip, Apple has provided not only status but control on these features in a single strip with convenient click and select controls.

The Control Strip normally appears at the lower left portion of the PowerBook screen, but can be moved easily to fit your needs. To do this, hold down the option key while dragging the sizing tab.

The Control Strip appears in the bottom corner of a PowerBook screen, and in the bottom corner of a larger external monitor that is set to be the startup monitor. If the Control Strip is moved from the bottom of the PowerBook screen, it will not appear in the bottom corner of a larger external monitor connected as the startup monitor. Depending on monitor size, the Control Strip's position may appear from the middle to lower quarter of the screen.

This also occurs when a PowerBook 200 Series computer is inserted into a Duo

Dock with a larger monitor. Also when a PowerBook 200 Series computer is using a Duo Dock's hard drive as the startup disk, the Control Strip retains the position set for the Duo Dock's hard drive, so it may appear different when the computer is removed from the Duo Dock.

The location of each function (known as "modules") can be changed within the strip by option-click dragging the module you wish to move to a different position. The strip can be easily re-sized by dragging the sizing tab on the end of the strip.

Modules that appear within the Control Strip are stored in the Control Strip Modules folder of the System Folder. These modules cannot be modified but many developers have written modules that can be added to the Control Strip by placing the module in the Control Strip Module folder. It is important to note that all modules in this folder may not appear in the Control Strip depending on the features of the PowerBook you are using.

The following modules are included in the PowerBook Control Strip:

- AppleTalk Switch

Allows user to switch AppleTalk on or off without going to the Chooser and without restarting.

- Battery Monitor

Provides a visual indication (from right to left) of present battery charge levels, rate of battery consumption, and battery time remaining. It also displays whether one or two batteries are being used and includes icons which let the user know if the batteries are charged (power plug icon), charging (lightning bolt icon), or draining (battery icon).

NOTE: The values of these battery monitors will fluctuate depending on whether the battery has a full charge, if the unit is connected to the power adaptor, and the types of activities being performed.

- File Sharing

Allows user to switch file sharing on or off and change the sharing setup. A red "X" through the File Sharing folder icon usually means AppleTalk was not loaded during startup. To start AppleTalk, select "AppleTalk: Active on restart?" in the Chooser and restart the computer.

NOTE: Changing file sharing settings on the Control Strip will only create a temporary change and therefore will return to its original setting once the PowerBook has been restarted. To make the setting permanent, it is necessary to make changes using the Sharing Setup control panel.

- Hard Disk (HD) Spin Down

Allows user to manually spin down the hard disk drive.

- PCMCIA Quick Eject

Included only on PowerBook 500 Series computers to allow easy ejection of PCMCIA cards.

- Power Settings

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Users can set their PowerBook system to better conservation, better performance, or open the PowerBook control panel.

- Sleep Now

Allows user to put the PowerBook in sleep mode with a single click and select action.

- Sound Volume

Allows user to adjust the volume setting of the PowerBook.

- Video Mirroring

Allows user to switch the video mirroring feature on or off.

NOTE: This module only appears when the PowerBook is attached to an external display.

It is also possible to get a description of each module in the Control Strip through Balloon Help. To do this, pull down the Help Menu, choose Show Balloons, and point to the modules one at a time.

For more information on the PowerBook Control Strip, please refer to the "Getting Started" guide supplied with your Macintosh PowerBook computer.

Article Change History:

09 Nov 1995 - Added information about System 7.5.2.

03 Oct 1994 - Added information about moving the Control Strip and File Sharing.

Support Information Services

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