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NuBus '90: Macintosh Computers That Support It (6/94)

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TOPIC ---

This article describes the 1990 proposal revision to the IEEE NuBus standard
(IEEE Std. R1196-R-1990) commonly referred to as NuBus '90, what Macintosh
computers support it, and facts surrounding the use of older cards in NuBus '90
equipped systems.

DISCUSSION --

The NuBus implementation in the Quadra family and the Power Macintosh family is
based on the NuBus '90 proposal. This proposal includes the following new
signals:

• Support for block transfers at double the standard rate. The Macintosh Quadra
family of computers allow double rate block transfers between NuBus cards but do
not support double rate transfers to or from the main memory.

• A serial bus on the formerly reserved pins A2 and C2. The serial bus signals
are bused and terminated, but the main circuit board does not drive them.

• Support for a cache-coherency protocol. Pins on the NuBus connector are
assigned to those signals, but the Macintosh Quadra system doesn't support
them.

In addition, the NuBus slots in the Quadra 900/950, and Power Macintosh
computers also provide the following feature:

• Low current at +5V is available on the new STDBYPWR pin when main power is off
and the AC cord is plugged in.

The eight lines that were previously connected to the -5.2V supply have been
replaced by the above new features. Many older NuBus cards connect those lines
together, the presence of such a card in Macintosh computers implementing the
features of NuBus '90 will disable the new features. All other features of both

the old and new cards will operate normally.

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