Topic: Behavior of Unused Video Outputs on Multi-Video Expander (MVX)
Component(s) Affected: All Revisions of MVX
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OVERVIEW / ENVIRONMENT

This bulletin describes the behavior of unused video outputs on the MVX. More information is available under Defect #1108.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

The MVX can expand video out to as many as four monitors, either in analog (VGA connectors) or digital (DVI connectors) formats. The user can configure the video driver to provide video output on one, two, three, or four monitors, with several spanning modes. In doing so, the user may configure the video driver such that one or more of the monitor outputs is unused, although a monitor may still be connected.

In the case of analog video outputs, video signaling (including sync information) is disabled for approximately one-half second after the video driver stops transmitting video frames for a given channel. This results in the monitor losing sync. Upon losing sync, most monitors display a brief message (e.g., "Invalid Sync" or "Out of Range"), and then enter a low-power state.

In the case of digital video outputs, the video signaling continues, but the digital data becomes all zero approximately one-half second after the video driver stops transmitting video frames for a given channel. Thus, a pure black video image is displayed on the monitor. A connected digital monitor will not display any additional messages, nor will it enter any kind of low-power state, as it is still receiving a digital signal of all zeros.

RESOLUTION

When using digital video outputs, turn off monitors on channels that will not be used for extended periods of time.

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