

Alert on LAN 2

Information Brief

Worth remembering

Alert on LAN™ 2 extends the system administrator's capabilities to take corrective action on alert-generation technology introduced with Alert on LAN. Alert on LAN 2 is incorporated into the network-interface devices of select IBM products.

- Alert on LAN helps you keep your finger on the pulse of all the PCs in your organization, even when they are powered off. Unplugging a supported PC from the network or its power source or opening its chassis¹ generates an immediate warning and can trigger an array of customizable responses.
- Alert on LAN allows you to respond faster to problems by notifying you of system operating errors and hazardous environmental conditions such as high temperature or low voltage, even when the system is unattended².
- Alert on LAN 2 adds the capabilities for the administrator to take action to correct a failing condition on an IBM PC, or IntelliStation workstation.
- IBM's Universal Manageability (UM) Services enable you to easily integrate Alert on LAN into your existing network environment. A client system running UM Services™ extends the functionality of many leading network environments, including Tivoli® system management software, Microsoft® SMS® and Intel® LANDesk®, allowing features like Alert on LAN to be controlled remotely via new menus and icons within these applications.
- Alert on LAN and Alert on LAN 2 are standards-based solutions developed by the IBM/Intel Advanced Manageability Alliance to help you manage and protect your networked computers.

Overview

No one likes to acknowledge the rising costs of computer theft in today's business environment. It's bad enough to have to replace a machine—the real cost is often counted in lost data and productivity. Until now there has been no simple way to protect computers that are broken into or stolen after they have been powered off.

A PC equipped with Alert on LAN acts as its own security guard. When someone unplugs the system from its power supply or network, an alert is instantly generated and sent to a network administrator, to building security, or to whomever you designate. When paired with Intel's LANDesk system management applications, Alert on LAN can even send a message to your pager. An early warning is your best chance to catch an offender red-handed.

Of course, not all thieves are out to steal an entire system. Some simply want to "swap" or "borrow" a component to bolster the performance of their home system. They switch their computer off and surreptitiously remove its cover—again, Alert on LAN is on guard, and swiftly

notifies the appropriate person. Alert on LAN is the first technology able to transmit an alert from a DMI-compliant manageability chip even when the system is powered off³.

Even if theft is not your biggest problem, Alert on LAN helps you be proactive in responding to other serious PC difficulties. It can notify you—in almost any manner you choose—when a system detects a configuration change or error during its Power-On Self Test (POST). It can also notify you instantly when a DMI-compliant manageability chip detects an unacceptable measurement of system temperature, voltage or fan speed. You can organize a prompt response without waiting for a complaint and thus help users maintain their productivity.

Notification of alerts is important, but the capability to act on the information is more valuable. For example, if a machine at a remote location is malfunctioning, the system administrator using Alert on LAN 2 can simply reset or reboot the machine.

Alert on LAN is just one of the latest innovations to come from the combined brain power of the IBM/Intel Advanced Manageability Alliance. Both IBM and Intel are working to make PCs easier to manage and protect by driving new industry standards that respond to your real business needs.

What is Alert on LAN?

Alert on LAN is a hardware and software technology developed by IBM and Intel that was made available in both companies' offerings, including systems and system boards.

Alert on LAN sends either status or alert packets to your management server. Even after the system is powered off, Alert on LAN-enabled PCs draw a trickle charge that allows generation and transmission of packets via the 10/100 Ethernet controller.

Alert on LAN sets a new standard for universal systems management and asset protection. It leverages existing industry-standard technologies, such as the Desktop Management Interface (DMI) and Wake on LAN[®] to provide a new level of protection for your client PCs, even when they are powered off. With the backing of both Intel and IBM, Alert on LAN ensures flexibility and choice into the future.

Protect your assets

Alert on LAN is uniquely suited to protecting your computer assets at the time they are most vulnerable: after they have been powered off. An Alert on LAN-enabled PC is always on guard.

Alert on LAN sends a status packet at regular intervals (like a heartbeat) regardless of the power state of the client system. If the system is disconnected from its power source or network, the management server will detect the loss of packets (heartbeat) and trigger a warning alert.



Alert on LAN also monitors the chassis intrusion feature of DMI-compliant management chips. Again, even if the PC has been powered off, Alert on LAN will issue an alert notification whenever a system chassis is opened¹.

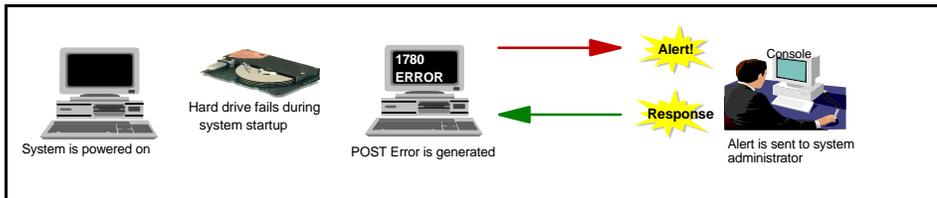


Each of these alerts is made possible using industry-standard technology in new and unique ways. IBM and Intel have been perfecting these technologies so you can enjoy the highest levels of asset protection available.

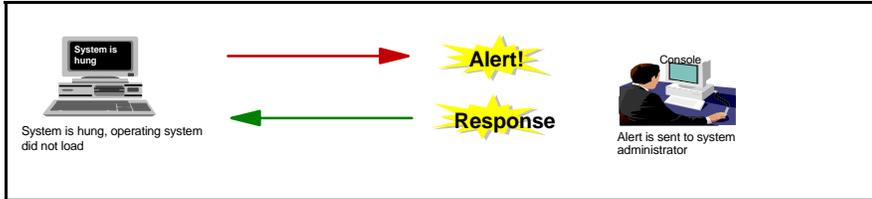
Most of the time system disconnections and chassis openings¹ are part of your scheduled maintenance routines. In those cases, you can simply ignore or disable the Alert on LAN notifications. However, Alert on LAN provides you with a new, more powerful way to detect unauthorized intrusions and system disconnections.

Reduce response times

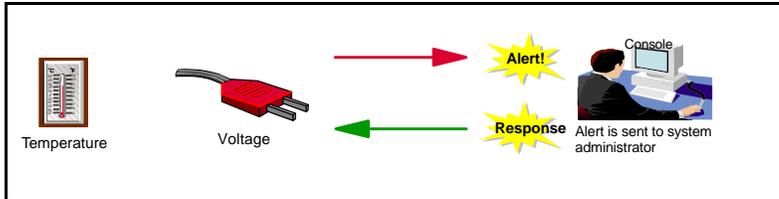
Beyond warning of potential theft, Alert on LAN offers a new level of serviceability that can help you improve the productivity and success of your business. Alert on LAN can monitor each system in your network as it powers up, and notify you of configuration changes, hard disk drive failures or other POST errors.



Alert on LAN can also notify you when a client operating system fails to load or crashes during routine operations. You can respond without waiting for the user to file a complaint, helping to ensure that their productivity is maintained.



Finally, Alert on LAN monitors the system variables measured by a DMI-compliant manageability chip—temperature, voltage and chassis intrusion^{1,2}. Whenever any of these variables falls outside of the recommended parameters, Alert on LAN can generate an alert.



Customized responses

It's up to you to determine how Alert on LAN reacts to particular scenarios. When you know that systems are being serviced or retired, for example, you can remotely disable the client system from the management server so no alerts are generated when it is unplugged, disconnected from the network or its chassis is opened¹.

At other times, you can program Alert on LAN to notify network administrators or building security that a system is being tampered with or removed. You can even have your management server dial a pager and deliver a numeric or alphanumeric message that can enable you to respond to a problem when you are in a different location³.

You can also determine how sensitive Alert on LAN is to day-to-day problems. In larger networks, it may not make sense for you to know every time a user experiences an operating system problem. But it's up to you—Alert on LAN can be customized to help you do the best job possible within your resources.

Alert on LAN 2 provides the capability for the network administrator to send a corrective action to the client system. This ability to send the corrective action from a remote location may remove the need for a service call. The system administrator has the flexibility to choose from various forms of corrective action that will integrate into IBM's UM Services architecture.

Universal Manageability today... and tomorrow

Alert on LAN is part of IBM's Universal Manageability (UM) strategy, which delivers innovative applications of standards-based technologies to simplify network management.

When used in combination with IBM's UM Services, Alert on LAN can be easily integrated into the most popular network environments, including Tivoli system management software, Microsoft SMS and Intel LANDesk. UM Services allow you to access the functionality of Alert on LAN through the menus and screens you are already familiar with, and translates Alert on LAN notifications into signals that your network software can understand.

Alert on LAN and UM Services are backed by the IBM/Intel Advanced Manageability Alliance, which is also responsible for promoting Wake on LAN as the industry standard for remote wake up. The Advanced Manageability Alliance has developed a proven track record of innovative systems management solutions, so you can be sure that Alert on LAN-enabled systems will help meet your security needs today and tomorrow.

Alert on LAN system hardware is included in select IBM NetVista™ and PC 300® personal computers and IntelliStation workstations. To download Alert on LAN software at no additional charge (Internet access fees may apply):

ibm.com/pc/ww/software/sysmgmt/products/ums/index.html

Other vendors may offer Alert on LAN by purchasing supported system boards from Intel. With the backing of these two industry giants, Alert on LAN is expected to quickly become an industry standard.

For more information

For information via the World Wide Web

ibm.com/pc/ww/software/sysmgmt/products/ums/index.html

For dealer information

1 800 426-7255, ext. 4750

For product information sent directly to your fax machine

1 800 IBM-3395

(1 800 426-3395)

¹ Alert on LAN chassis intrusion alerting function is not supported on machine type 6565 while system is powered off. This function is supported while machine is powered on and running UM Services. UM Services is available for download at no additional charge (Internet fees may apply) at ibm.com/pc/ww/software/sysmgmt/products/ums/index.html.

² Alert on LAN environmental monitoring and alerting functions are not supported on machine type 6565 while system is powered off. This function is supported while machine is powered on and running UM Services.

³ A networked modem is required for notification via pager.

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