SMART SWITCH

ABSTRACT

The present invention provides a configurable remote controller for remotely sensing the status(es) of one or more electrically-powered target systems and for altering the status(es) of the target systems in response. In one embodiment, the remote control device is coupled to a pre-existing communication channel established between a command system and one or more target systems. A system administrator transmits control instructions via the pre-existing communication to the remote controller which receives and processes the control instructions. The remote controller senses for a change in the status of at least one of the target systems, and if the change is detected, then the remote controller alters the status in accordance with the control instructions. In one implementation, the status is the voltage level of a primary power source associated with the one target system. The change to be detected is a lowering of the voltage level normally associated with a power outage or a brownout, and the corresponding altering step includes disconnecting the one target system from the power source. The remote controller can also be reprogrammed using additional control instructions so that a different control sequence can be used.

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