HOT-PLUGGABLE VOLTAGE REGULATOR MODULE

ABSTRACT

A power subsystem for a computer system allows a voltage regulator module (30) (VRM) to be removably connected to a system board (32), while limiting disturbances on the voltage rails of the system board (32). The electrical disturbances are prevented by charging voltage outputs of the DC/DC circuit of the VRM (30) prior to directly connecting the voltage outputs to the voltage rails. A VRM connector (36) may be used in which the voltage output pins are shorter than charge pins. In this manner, as the connector (36) is mated with a corresponding connector (38) on the system board (32), the capacitors are first charged via resistive paths connected to the voltage rails, prior to directly connecting the voltage outputs to the voltage rails. The VRMs are thus "hot-pluggable ", enabling a user to upgrade or service the system with no interruption.

FIG 2

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