

Limit Inrush Current and Manage Device Power-On Dependencies on GU2 Switched rPDUs



A Vertiv Application Brief



Overview

- This application note provides supplementary information about outlet power-on sequencing with GU2 rPDUs.
- The power-on sequencing function can be used to define the order for powering outlets after an rPDU has been shut off or has unexpectedly lost power.
- The power on sequence action is enabled by factory default. It can be reconfigured or disabled by logging into the rPDU through a web browser.

Note: The status of each outlet is indicated by LED as follows:

Green = On

Red = Off

Amber = Fault

The power-on sequencing function is often used in one or both of the following situations:

1. Limiting power-on inrush current

Inrush current might become a problem when multiple devices are powered on at the same time. In such applications, sequencing can be used to power on devices in a user-defined order. This limits inrush current by staggering the time at which outlets switch on, eliminating nuisance overcurrent protection device trips.

2. Managing device power-on dependencies

Some configurations require that equipment be powered on in a specific order. For example, a storage array may need to be powered-on before a server to ensure that the storage array is available when the server starts. In this example, power-on sequencing may be used to ensure that critical system dependent devices are on-line and stable prior to powering up latent independent devices.

The Geist GU2 rPDUs allow users to define independent outlet power output actions to establish power-on delays and control power-on sequencing.

Rack PDU Power-On Actions

The Geist GU2 rPDUs allow users to define independent outlet power output actions to establish power-on delays and control power-on sequencing

On: The outlet is switched on after rPDU power-on.

Off: The outlet remains off after rPDU power-on.

Last: The outlet assumes the prior state. Outlets that were off before the rPDU was turned off (or lost power) will stay off after power is restored, and the outlets that were on before the rPDU was turned off (or lost power) are turned back on in the sequence defined by the Power-On Delay settings.

The factory default setting is “Last” for all outlets and assumes the prior state was “On.”

Note: GU2 rPDUs employ bi-stable outlet relays which magnetically latch in the selected state and, therefore, do not require constant power to remain latched, (increasing rPDU efficiency and reducing energy costs). GU2 outlet relays include smart functionality which ensures that the relays open upon rPDU switch off (or rPDU power loss), allowing for the user selected outlet sequencing to execute upon rPDU power resumption.

Outlet Power-On Delay Settings

Power-On Delay

Power-on delay settings can be specified per outlet and define the time to wait after the rPDU is energized. The outlet power-on delay is defined in seconds and can have values in the range of 0 to 600 seconds. The delay value can be specified in quarter second increments (e.g., 0.25, 0.50, 0.75, 1.00) to allow fine control of outlet power-on sequencing.

The factory default power-on delay settings are shown below and result in the outlets sequencing on from the lowest to the highest numbered outlet, with an interval of 0.25 seconds. So for a six outlet rPDU the factory outlet power-on default sequence would be:

Outlet 1: 0.25 seconds

Outlet 2: 0.50 seconds

Outlet 3: 0.75 seconds

Outlet 4: 1.00 seconds

Outlet 5: 1.25 seconds

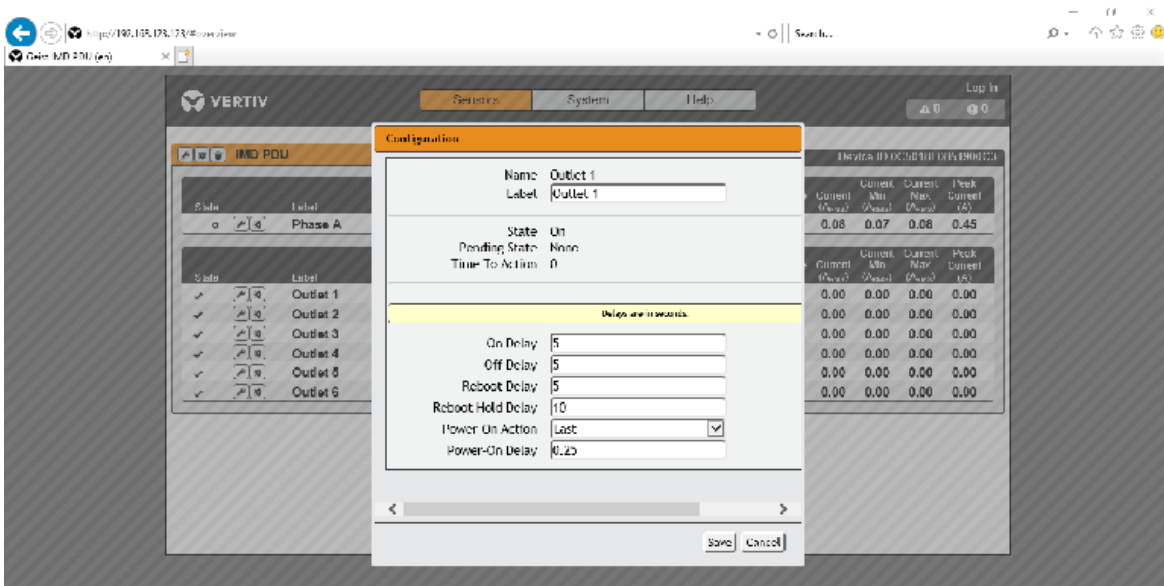
Outlet 6: 1.50 seconds

All outlets specified with a power-on delay of zero seconds will be sequentially activated from lowest to highest number, with a delay of less than 0.10 seconds between outlets, as soon as power is applied to the rPDU.

Configuring rPDU Power-On Sequencing

To configure power-on sequencing, use a web browser to navigate to the rPDU IP address and log in to the rPDU as an administrator. See the GU2 User Manual for step-by-step details. Navigate to the Sensors>Overview page where the power-on action and power-on delay settings may be displayed by selecting the spanner symbol (wrench symbol) adjacent to the outlet being configured.

To change settings, enter new values for power-on action (Power-On Action) and power-on delay time in seconds (On Delay), and click Save before navigating away from the page. Repeat as needed for other outlets.



Power-On Sequencing Example

Consider an equipment rack loaded with three servers and three storage arrays. The servers are located towards the top of the rack with the storage arrays located towards the bottom of the rack. For proper operation, the storage arrays must be powered on at least 10 seconds prior to the servers. And to limit inrush current issues, both the servers and storage arrays must be powered on one at a time. Finally, equipment power cord length are limiting connectivity to a subset of the available rPDU outlets, thus the servers are connected to rPDU outlets 1, 2 and 3, while the storage arrays are connected to rPDU outlets 4, 5 and 6.

To meet these requirements the rPDU could be configured as defined below:

Outlet 1	Power-On Action: On	Power-On Delay: 10.75 seconds
Outlet 2	Power-On Action: On	Power-On Delay: 11.00 seconds
Outlet 3	Power-On Action: On	Power-On Delay: 11.25 seconds
Outlet 4	Power-On Action: On	Power-On Delay: 0.25 seconds
Outlet 5	Power-On Action: On	Power-On Delay: 0.50 seconds
Outlet 6	Power-On Action: On	Power-On Delay: 0.75 seconds

Note:

- If outlet power state is also managed manually, the power-on action should be set to Last. This ensures that at rPDU power-on, the state of any outlets previously set to off, is preserved.
- The same configuration would typically be required for a second rPDU when the rack uses dual redundant (A and B) rPDUs

Power-On Outlet Sequencing Example

