Password based circuit breaker

Abstract

A circuit breaker is an automatically operated electrical switch designed to protect an electrical circuit from damage caused by overload or short circuit. Its basic function is to detect a fault condition and interrupt current flow. Unlike a fuse, which operates once and then must be replaced, a circuit breaker can be reset (either manually or automatically) to resume normal operation. When operated manually we see fatal electrical accidents to the line man are increasing during the electric line repair due to the lack of communication and coordination between the maintenance staff and the electric substation staff.

In order to avoid such accidents, the breaker can be so designed such that only authorized person can operate it with a password. Here, there is also a provision of changing the password. The system is fully controlled by the 8 bit microcontroller of 8051 family. The password is stored in an EEPROM, interfaced to the microcontroller and the password can be changed any time unlike a fixed one burnt permanently on to the microcontroller. A keypad is used to enter the password and a relay to open or close circuit breaker, which is indicated by a lamp.

Any wrong attempt to open the breaker (by entering the wrong password) an alert will be actuated, indicated by another lamp.

Index terms: Resistors, Capacitors, Diodes, Transistors, Voltage regulator, Rectifier, Microcontroller, EPROM, Relay, Relay Driver