

NETWORK TOPOLOGY AND TYPES OF NETWORK TOPOLOGIES

What is Network Topology?

Computer network topology is the way various components of a network (like nodes, links, peripherals, etc) are arranged. Network topologies define the layout, virtual shape or structure of network, not only physically but also logically. The way in which different systems and nodes are connected and communicate with each other is determined by topology of the network. **Topology can be physical or logical.** Physical Topology is the physical layout of nodes, workstations and cables in the network; while logical topology is the way information flows between different components.

In general, physical topology relates to a core network whereas logical topology relates to basic network.

Types of Physical Network Topologies

- 1) Bus Topology
- 2) Star Topology
- 3) Ring Topology
- 4) Mesh Topology
- 5) Tree Topology
- 6) Hybrid Topology

Factors to be taken into consideration while choosing a Network topology

- 1) Scale of your project (in terms of number of components to be connected).
- 2) Amount of traffic expected on the network.
- 3) Budget allotted for the network i.e. amount of money you are willing to invest.
- 4) Required response time

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