

Circuit Switching

- fixed resource guarantee
- constant delay
- constant capacity
- implicit addressing
- often implemented as periodic access to fixed size time slots

Packet Switching

- variable resource
- variable delay
- variable capacity
- explicit addressing
- variable frames.

WDM - different wavelengths of light on same fibre (ie FDM at optical frequencies)

- closer to circuits since constant delay, constant capacity.

Wave length conversion removes the constraint that an optical carrier use the same wavelength through a network. A routing algorithm need only find a path which has any free wavelengths on each link.

Here capacity doesn't solve problem of addressing ~~the~~ large number of hosts. In practice hosts want to use small amount of capacity to a large number of destinations. To be fair, it's an apples and oranges comparison