

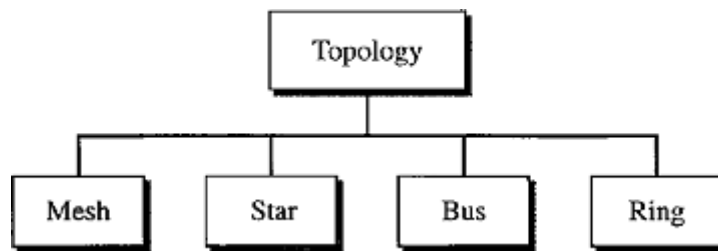
NETWORK TOPOLOGIES

The term physical topology refers to the way in which a network is connected physically.

Two or more devices connect to a link. Two or more links form a topology.

There are four basic topologies present:

1. Bus
2. Ring
3. Star
4. Mesh

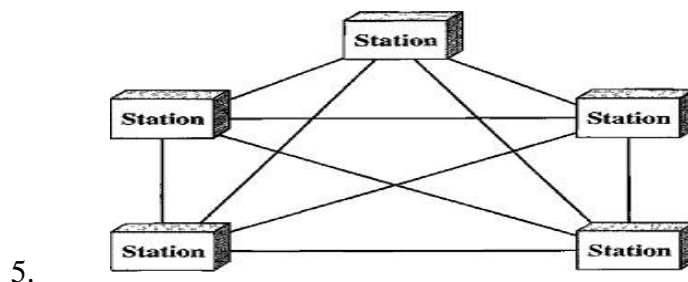


Mesh Topology

- In a mesh topology, every device has a **Dedicated Point-to-Point** link to every other device. (i.e.) for each node there is a link to all other nodes.
- The term **Dedicated** means that the link carries traffic only between the two devices it connects.

Advantages:

1. A mesh topology is robust. If one link becomes unusable, it does not affect the entire system.
2. The use of dedicated links guarantees that each connection can carry its own data load, thus eliminating the traffic problems that can occur when links must be shared by multiple devices.
3. **Privacy or Security.** When every message travels along a dedicated line, only the intended recipient sees it. Physical boundaries prevent other users from gaining access to messages.
4. Point-to-Point links make **Fault Identification** and **Fault Isolation** easy.



Disadvantages:

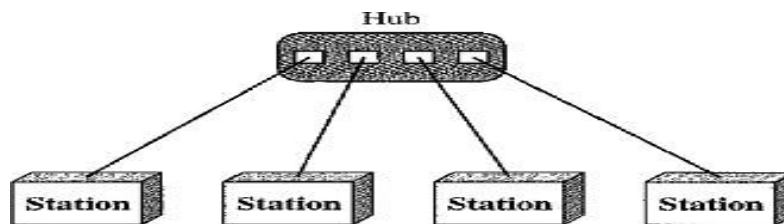
1. **High Cost:** Every device must be connected to every other device then there is a high amount of cabling and huge number of I/O ports required, this will make installation and reconnection are difficult.
2. The hardware required to connect each link (I/O ports and cable) can be prohibitively expensive.
3. More hardware (i.e. cables) and space is required

Example: Telephone offices and Police stations.

Connection of telephone regional offices in which each regional office needs to be connected to every other regional office.

Star Topology

- In a star topology, each device has a dedicated point-to-point link only to a central controller called a Hub or Switch. The devices are not directly linked to one another.
- A star topology does not allow direct traffic between devices. The controller acts as an exchange: If one device wants to send data to another, it sends the data to the controller, and the controller transfers the data to the other connected device.



Advantages:

1. A star topology is less expensive than a mesh topology. In a star, each device needs only one link and one I/O port to connect it to any number of others. This factor also makes it easy to install and reconfigure
2. Less cabling is required than mesh topology.
3. Star topology is robust, If one link fails, only that link is affected. All other links remain active.

Disadvantages:

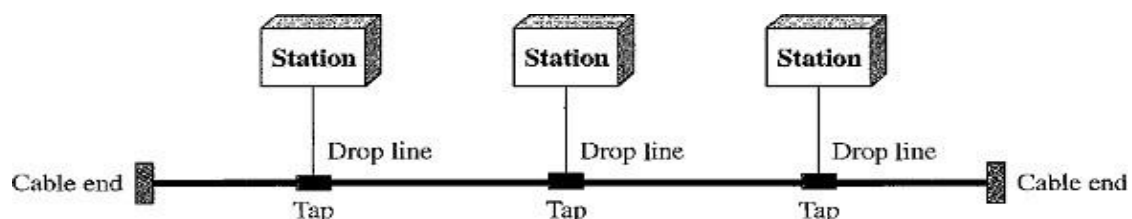
1. If hub fails entire processing will be stopped working.

Uses:

2. It is used in High-speed LAN's often use a star topology with a central hub.

Bus Topology

- A **bus topology** is multipoint connection, one long cable acts as a **backbone** to link all the devices in a network. Here the cable is called the bus.
- Bus topology was the one of the first topologies used in the design of early local area networks.
- Nodes are connected to the bus cable by drop lines and taps.
- A drop line is a connection running between the device and the main cable.
- A tap is a connector that splices into (attached to) the main cable.



Advantages:

1. Installation is easy. Bus Backbone cable can be laid along the most efficient path and then connected to the nodes by drop lines of various lengths.
2. A bus uses less cabling than mesh or star topologies.

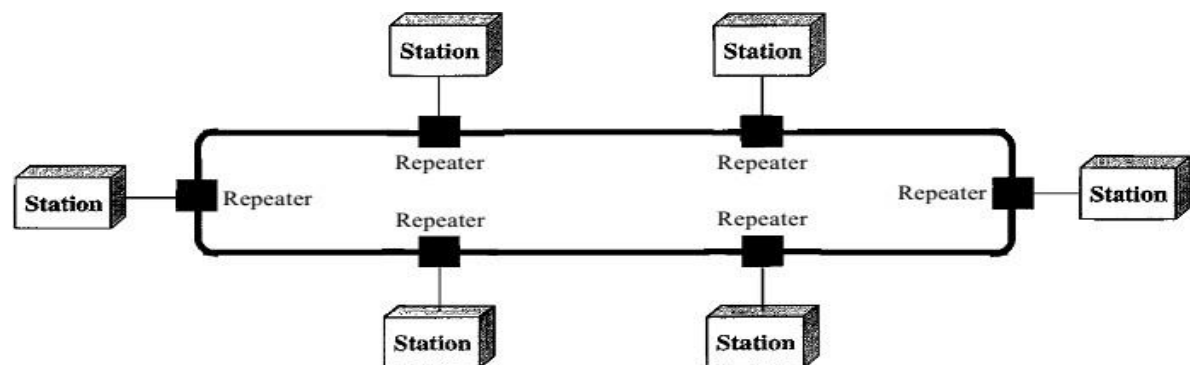
Disadvantages:

1. All the devices are connected to bus backbone cable, so that if the backbone cable fails the entire system fails.

2. Difficult Reconnection and Fault Isolation. It is difficult to add new devices.
3. There is a limit on the number of taps a bus can support and on the distance between those taps.
4. More heat is generated if the number of taps is more. Heat degrades the quality of signal.

Ring Topology

- In a ring topology, each device has a dedicated point-to-point connection with only the two devices on either side of it.
- A signal is passed along the ring in one direction from device to device, until it reaches its destination.
- Each device in the ring incorporates a repeater. When a device receives a signal intended for another device, its repeater regenerates the bits and passes them along.



Advantages:

1. A ring is relatively easy to install and reconfigure. Each device is linked to only its immediate neighbors (either physically or logically).
2. To add or delete a device requires changing only two connections.
3. The only constraints are media and traffic considerations (maximum ring length and number of devices).

Disadvantage:

1. Unidirectional traffic can be a disadvantage.
2. In a simple ring, a break in the ring (such as a disabled station) can disable the entire network.

Hybrid Topology

It is a combination of two or more topologies for example star topology with each branch connecting several stations in a bus topology

