(What is packet tracer?)

Packet Tracer is a cross-platform visual simulation tool designed by Cisco Systems that allows users to create network topologies and simulate modern computer networks. The software allows users to simulate the configuration of Cisco routers and switches using a simulated command line interface. Available on PC, Mac, and Linux as a desktop application and as a mobile app on iOS and Android.

(Use cases)

Create networks and see what works best. Test updates before implementing them on actual hardware. Learning Tool for cisco networking classes.

(Drawbacks)

Packet Tracer can only simulate network devices created by Cisco Systems. Only a simulation, not real hardware. Not all functions simulated

(Alternatives)

GNS3- free, open source, used by many companies, VMware integration, can simulate network devices created by other companies

NetSim – paid, has GUI