GNS3 and Packet Tracer Installation Notes and FAQ

Where can I download the software?
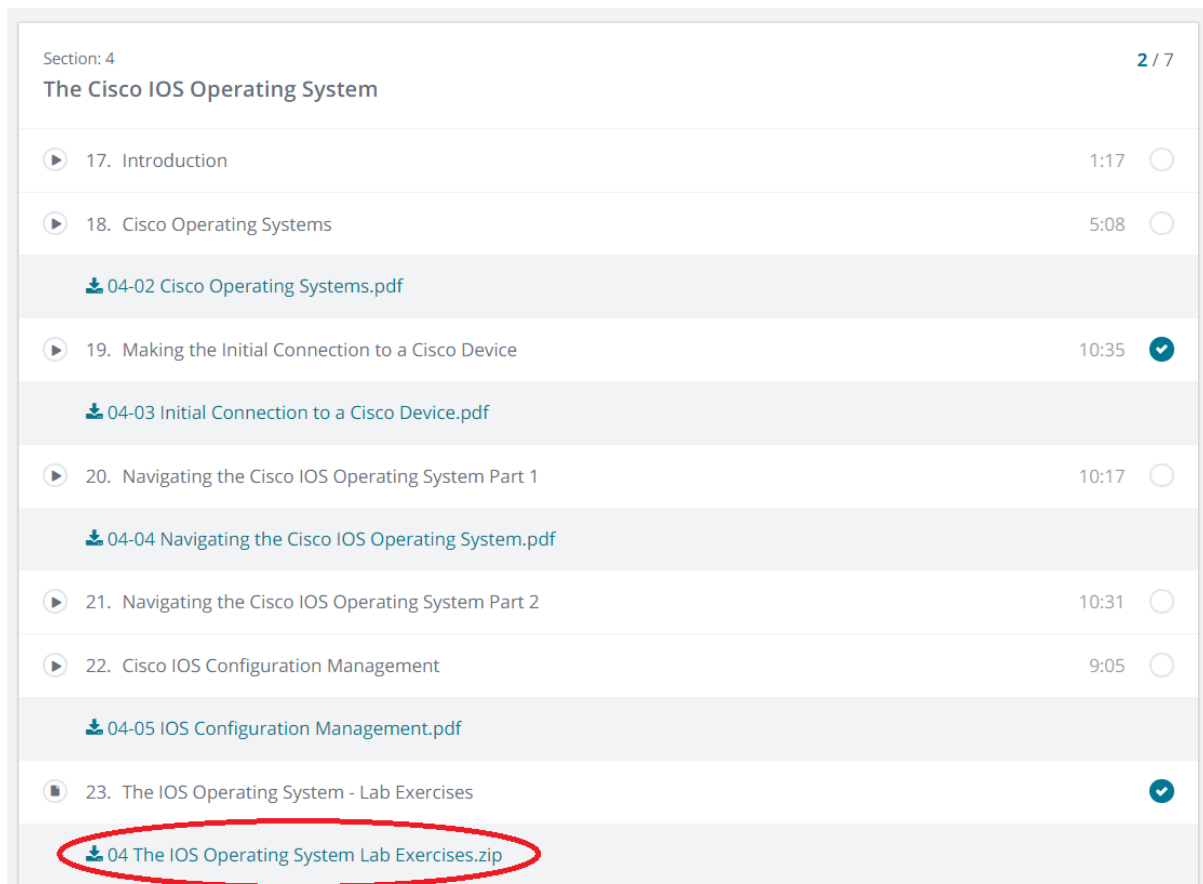
GNS3: https://www.gns3.com/software

Packet Tracer: Enroll in the 'Introduction to Packet Tracer' course at https://www.netacad.com/campaign/ptdt-4

Then go to https://www.netacad.com, click on 'Resources' near the top-right corner then 'Download Packet Tracer'

Where can I find the course lab files?

The lab projects can be found as a zip file in the last lecture in the technology sections. Note that many of the early sections cover foundational theory without a hands-on component and do not need a lab exercise.

What software version should I use?

Projects created in older versions of GNS3 or Packet Tracer are supported in newer versions of the software, but not the other way around.

The downloadable projects were created in GNS3 version 2.0.3 and Packet Tracer version 7.1.0.0222. Please ensure you are not using older versions of the software.

What operating system should I use?

The latest versions of GNS3 and Packet Tracer are officially supported on 64-bit Windows. This is what I use for the labs.

Can I use another operating system?

Other students have reported that you may also be able to get the software to run on other operating systems but this is not officially supported. Unfortunately I don't have a non-Windows or legacy 32-bit PC to verify, but you should be able to use Google to find more info and instructions.

Mac

GNS3 has a Mac version on the download page.

You can install the 32 bit version of Packet Tracer 7.1 using either Wineskin or Crossover. (Wineskin is not supported on all versions of the Mac OS.)

Linux

GNS3 has a Linux version on the download page.

Packet Tracer has a version for Ubuntu 14.04 64-bit on the download page.

32-bit Windows

The latest version of GNS3 supported on 32-bit Windows is 1.3.x. The course projects are not supported on this because it is an old version. You can recreate the projects in GNS3 v1.3.x yourself using the supplied network topology diagrams and startup configurations.

Packet Tracer has a version for 32-bit Windows on the download page.

What if I have an issue during installation and configuration?

If you have installation and setup issues which are specific to you and not affecting other students, please Google for your error message first, you'll usually find the answer there. (Try rebooting and disabling Windows firewall and your antivirus software first, those are the most common causes of problems.)

If Google doesn't have the solution then GNS3 and Cisco have their own dedicated support teams which can provide the best help.

For GNS3: https://www.gns3.com/community/support?

For Packet Tracer: https://learningnetwork.cisco.com/community/networking_academy

For any issues with my lab scenarios, such as if you're confused about a question or solution, please ask in the Q&A section in the course.

HTH,

Neil