

Case A: Network address (all host bits = 0)

3. Try a network address

- In **IP Address**, type: *192.168.100.0*
- Leave the default **Subnet Mask** (*255.255.255.0*) as is.
- Press **Enter**.
- **Expected message:** invalid because the IP + mask combination uses the **network address** (all host bits are 0).
- Click **OK**.

Why it's invalid: With /24 (255.255.255.0), the host portion is the last octet. .0 means every host bit is 0 → network ID.

Case B: Subnet network address for /28

4. Try a /28 subnet's network ID

- In **IP Address**, type: *192.168.100.16*
- In **Subnet Mask**, type: *255.255.255.240* (that's /28)
- Press **Enter**.
- **Expected message:** invalid because this is the **network ID** of the /28 subnet (block size 16 → 16,32,48...).
- Click **OK**.

Why it's invalid: /28 leaves 4 host bits; .16 in the last octet is 00010000—the host 4 bits are all 0 → network address.

Lewis Joseph Feik

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Invalid IP address

Case C: Broadcast address (all host bits = 1) for /24

5. ***Try a /24 broadcast***

- In **IP Address**, type: *192.168.100.255*
- (Mask *255.255.255.0*)
- Press **Enter**.
- **Expected message:** *invalid because it's the broadcast address (all host bits are 1).*
- Click **OK**.

Case D: Broadcast address for /27

6. ***Try a /27 broadcast***

- In **IP Address**, type: *192.168.100.63*
- In **Subnet Mask**, type: *255.255.255.224* (that's /27)
- Press **Enter**.
- **Expected message:** *invalid because it's the broadcast address of the 192.168.100.32/27 subnet (range .32–.63).*
- Click **OK**.

Why it's invalid: /27 leaves 5 host bits; .63 is 00111111—host bits all 1 → broadcast.

(Optional) Verify with a valid host example

7. ***Enter a valid host to confirm***

- For /28 (255.255.255.240), try:
 - **IP Address:** *192.168.100.17* (valid host in .16–.31)

Lewis Joseph Feik

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Invalid IP address

- For */27* (255.255.255.224), try:
 - **IP Address:** *192.168.100.33* (valid host in *.32–.63*)
- Press **Enter**—no error should appear.

8. Close *Packet Tracer* when finished.

Quick mental shortcuts (so you can spot invalids fast)

- **Block size** = *256 – last mask octet*
 - */28* → $256 - 240 = 16$ → subnets at *.0, .16, .32, .48, ...*
 - */27* → $256 - 224 = 32$ → subnets at *.0, .32, .64, .96, ...*
- In each subnet:
 - **Network** = first address in the block
 - **Broadcast** = last address in the block
 - **Valid hosts** = everything in between