

Video – Introduction to Packet Tracer

Hello everyone! We'd like to introduce you to an exciting and easy to use network simulation tool, Cisco Packet Tracer. This simulation tool provides amazing features allowing you to build networks from scratch, open sample files from prebuilt networks, test new and existing network designs and even examine how data flows through your network.

Now you can build networks that include servers, firewalls, routers and switches, and even wireless connections. But with Cisco Packet Tracer, it doesn't end there. Packet Tracer provides support for the Internet of Things, and the IoT, known as Internet of Things, devices and sensors that have never been connected before are now being connected.

Look at the example I prepared here. This beautiful house has multiple devices connected to the network. I was just playing around with Cisco Packet Tracer and I was able to add in smart launch sprinklers, smart ceiling fans, smart door sensor, a smart thermostat, even a water level monitor in a garage door. And guess what? They're all interconnected. We can even set up a wireless router and network switches and laptops, firewalls and computers. We even bring in new devices, such as smart home gateways.

With Cisco Packet Tracer, though, we could either start from here. A blank screen and build it from scratch or we can open up pre-built sample labs. These are pre-built labs with pre-built networks. In order to do it, we would just go to file. Followed by open samples. Inside of here, we'll see a list of many folders. And in these folders, we have lots of pre-built networks to practice and play. For example, I can go to the server directory, and inside of here, there's even more folders full of Packet Tracers. I'll open up the FTP folder. And I'll open up the Packet Tracer file that is pre-built and made for us. When this loads, we can have basic instruction set of how to interact with this lab and be able to move files between a router, switch and FTP server. The network is pre-built and you get instructions on how to do it.

Now Packet Tracer is not a replacement for real physical equipment, but it is an excellent tool that allows you to build and model your own configurations. It also supports a lot of the technology required to practice for your Cisco Certification exam. And good news, Cisco Packet Tracer is free of charge. This tool is available for both Linux and Windows Operating Systems. It's even available for mobile devices like smartphones and tablets. There's so many areas to explore in Cisco Packet Tracer. The best thing you can do right now is download and install the latest version and just start playing. The opportunities to learn technologies and build your skills are endless. So let's get started today in Cisco Packet Tracer