Video – Getting Started with Packet Tracer

Hello everyone. This is our Cisco Packet Tracer getting started walkthrough video. In this video, we're going to go through a couple different menus within Packet Tracer, including toolbars and building your first network. So let's get started.

Bottom left corner of Packet Tracer, we have different categories that exist. We have network devices and when you click on network devices, below you'll have different subcategories. We have routers and switches. We have hubs, wireless devices, security devices and even WAN emulation for wide area networks. Now we have a different main category though where we can go from network devices and change to end devices. When you click on end devices, we're going to see a lot of different subcategories. Within them we're going to have the end devices with machines. We're going to have home, which includes IOT internet of things devices. We'll also have smart city which is more on that city wide style devices. We'll have industrial for industrial equipment and we even have a subcategory for power grid. This is awesome. All these being different types of devices we can interconnect within Cisco Packet Tracer. Besides network devices and end devices, we can even go further and we can click on components. Inside of components, we'll have a subcategory of boards. We'll have a category for actuators and even sensors. All these individual items which can be included to make an internet of things packet tracer. Going further, we can go ahead click on connections. The connections category is where we're going to find a lot of cool ways you can interconnect your devices. Even more than the connections menu, we can go ahead and we can click on miscellaneous. In miscellaneous, we'll find some prebuilt network devices and end devices that have items installed on them. Lastly, we have another main category and that's going to be multiuser. And multiuser gives you the ability to interconnect multiple Packet Tracers on a real live network to build larger Packet Tracer topologies. It is cool.

Outside of the menu in the bottom left corner, we're going to go to the top left, we'll find a toolbar. With this toolbar what we're going to be able to do is use a select button to select devices including drag and drop or point and click. We'll have a magnifying glass that we can use to inspect devices. Inspect allows us to see basic information regarding a device that we can click on with the magnifying glass. If we come to the point where we feel we want to get rid of and delete a device, which we'll do later on, we can use the delete button. Besides those, we can always resize and resize allows us to resize little graphics. We'll take a look at putting a graphic in in just a little bit. We can document our topology by using a place note. I can click on the notepad icon and place a note anywhere in my topology and say that it's a connection for a specific PC or maybe it has an I.P. address or just the device name. Beside using the note icon, we're also able to draw lines. We can draw shapes. As well as we can even do freeform. There's many options here to help us organize our networks. This comes in handy when you have a lot of devices deployed and you want to categorize them or make it easy to read the topology. Outside of those items, we have the ability to send network data utilizing what is called PDUs. We'll use these in upcoming videos.

So what we want to do next is we want to actually get some equipment inside of our network topology. So I'm going to click here on the top right corner which is my select button and then I'm going to go ahead and get myself a wireless router. The wireless router will be under the main network device category, followed by wireless. Inside of wireless, I'll see a couple of devices here. Now I'm going to choose the home router. I'll click on the home router, click on my topology and now I have the home router in my logical workspace. Now we need some devices that will connect to the home router. So I'm going to go ahead and click on my end device main category. And I'm going to grab a laptop. When I click on the laptop, I will then click on my logical workspace and now I have purchased a laptop. I would also like to make this a little more equivalent to normal home environment so I'm going to click on a desktop PC. And I'll put that desktop PC on my logical workspace.

Now none of these devices are automatically connecting to the wireless router. Let's bring out another device. We're going to grab a smart device, equivalent of a smartphone. I'll click on that in my end device category and I'll also click on my logical workspace. So this time we have a desktop PC, a smart phone that just connected to wireless and a laptop. Let's get the PC plugged into that wireless router. In order to do this, we're going to go ahead and click on the connections menu right here. When you click on connections, I'm going to grab the third cable. It's the copper straight through. I'll click on the copper straight through, I'll select my PC and this is going to

plug into the fast ethernet port, the network jack. When I click on the fast ethernet, I will then click on the wireless router and I have four ethernet choices to plug the network cable in. I'll just choose the first one, gigabitethernet 1. That PC is now cabled and we'll have a network connection coming online. The laptop though is commonly used as a wireless device nowadays.

So I'd like to get that laptop online using wifi just like the smartphone. To do this, I can click on the laptop and it's going to physically load up the laptop. You will see here we're on the physical tab. A picture of the laptop is shown here on the right. I can click the zoom in button, scroll down and we can see the laptop. It has a power button, as well as some ports on it. I can power off the laptop and I can take this wired network port right here and I can select it by left clicking, drag it and drop it on this list. This list is actually different network cards as well as accessories and peripherals I can install on my laptop. I want this laptop to use a wireless network card, there's a couple different ones. If I click on the first card in this list, WPC300N, you'll see a description down below of what that card is. This offers 2.4GHz wireless. I want it. So I'm going to click and drag on that card name and I'm going to release it on my slot on the side of the laptop. After I've installed that card by dragging and dropping it on the open slot, I will power on my laptop again. And now my laptop is going to boot up and connect to the wireless network.

So we've successfully build our Packet Tracer network. Now what if we didn't want one of these devices? Maybe we didn't want the smartphone. I can go to that toolbar we discussed earlier and click on the delete button, then I can delete that smartphone by clicking on it. And now it's gone. Now let's say I screwed up. What I can do is I can fix it. I'm going to bring that smartphone back into play. The top toolbar has a couple features up here. We have undo, we have redo buttons. We have copy, we have paste. These four come in handy. If I accidentally deleted that smartphone, I can undo by clicking the undo button and it brings that smartphone back. If I did successfully recycle that phone, I can always click redo and make it go away again. I get the popup. I can click yes to get rid of that phone.

Now the neat thing about Packet Tracer is that you can use the copy and paste to copy and paste individual devices as well as configurations. I can copy and entire PC and paste it, which immediately copies that PC and anything configured on it. So at this time, it's best for you to start exploring. And if you make a mistake, don't worry. You have the undo button which will bring that deleted smartphone, for example, right back to ya. So have some fun with Cisco Packet Tracer. Explore the interface and start building your own custom networks.