

4.3.2 Physical Network Protection Facts

To physically secure a network, some measures should be taken, including the following:

- Keep equipment containing sensitive company or client data locked in a safe.
- Label any hardware containing backups and keep them in a safe.

Additional safety measures to be taken:

Asset	Description
Data Center	<p>This is where most of the network devices and cable are stored. To keep them safe, follow these good practices:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Only allow physical access to employees who strictly need to get in the data center.▪ The server room should be one of the most secure areas in your building. Require a password for entrance (for example, an access card, voice recognition system, or pin pad).▪ Setting up surveillance in the data center is essential to ensure security.▪ Once able to get into the data center, employees should have internal access on a need to know basis.▪ Inside the data center, all servers should be secured inside cabinets.▪ Use a Faraday cage to keep sensitive network devices safe from external electrical fields.
Network Cable Locks	<p>There are different types of Ethernet cable locks, where the cable is locked into place so the Ethernet cable will not be easily disconnected. Some other products are electrical plug locks and outlet port locks. Another option is called a Protective Distribution System (PDS). This is a metal cabinet that locks away all the cables that need to be secured. These cabinets are widely used by telecommunication companies. Laptops can also be kept in PDS systems with security cable locks that can be opened by a key or code.</p>

Physical security can protect a network from misuses of equipment by untrained employees or contractors. It can also protect the network from hackers, competitors, and terrorists walking in off the street and changing equipment configurations. Physical security can also protect resources from natural disasters, such as floods, fires, storms, and earthquakes. Depending on your particular network design customer, physical security should be installed to protect core routers, demarcation points, cabling, modems, servers, hosts, backup storage, and so on. Because physical security is such an obvious requirement, it is easy to forget to plan for it, but it should never be overlooked or considered less important than other security mechanisms.

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