**Setting up and using Cisco Packet Tracer**

**Step 1: Download and Install Cisco Packet TracerA screenshot of a computer

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1. **Go to the Cisco Packet Tracer download page**:
   * Visit Cisco’s official website and sign up for a free Cisco NetAcad account if you don’t have one.
2. **Download Packet Tracer**:
   * Once signed in, download the appropriate version for your operating system [Resource Hub: Get Packet Tracer, Virtual Machines, and More](https://www.netacad.com/resources/lab-downloads?courseLang=en-US) (Windows, macOS, or Linux).
3. **Install Packet Tracer**:
   * Run the installer file and follow the prompts to complete the installation.

**Step 2: Launch Cisco Packet Tracer**

**A screenshot of a computer

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1. **Open Cisco Packet Tracer**:
   * Once installed, locate the application on your computer and open it.
2. **Log in or use as a guest**:
   * You will be prompted to log in using your Cisco Networking Academy credentials. You will need to create a Cisco Networking Academy account [here.](https://www.cisco.com/c/m/en_sg/partners/cisco-networking-academy/index.html)

**Step 3: Set Up a Basic Network**

1. **Drag and drop devices**:
   * In the workspace, drag routers, switches, and PCs from the device selection menu at the bottom right of the page.
2. **Connect the devices**:
   * Use the connection tool (represented by a cable icon) to connect the devices together with appropriate cables (e.g., copper straight-through for PC to switch) and connecting a switch and two PCs together.

**Step 4: Configure Device IPs**

1. **Access device settings**:
   * Click on each PC or router to access the settings.
2. **Assign IP addresses**:
   * For PCs, navigate to the "Desktop" tab and click "IP Configuration" to assign an IP address and subnet mask.
   * Ensure all devices are on the same network by configuring IPs within the same subnet (e.g., 192.168.1.2 for PC1, 192.168.1.3 for PC2, etc.).

**Step 5: Test the NetworkA computer screen shot of a computer screen

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1. **Use the ping tool**:
   * Right click on a PC and click on the "Command Prompt" on any PC and use the ping command to test connectivity (e.g., ping 192.168.1.3 to ping another PC).
   * If the ping is successful, the network is configured correctly.

**Step 6: Save Your Network**

1. **Save your project**:
   * Click on the "File" menu and select "Save As" to save your network configuration. This ensures you can reload the network setup later for further testing.