People connect in groups as a way to communicate across ‘networks’. If a connection is cut; the group will no longer run smoothly; If someone of high importance is cut, the group may not work at all. A popular tool to study these connections is called a sociogram. In the sociogram provided, the four most central people are Dawn, Haley, Garret, and Frank, although they are all central for different reasons. To define a person who is central to a communication network, you have to look at how they connect to the others in the network. There are three main ways to define someone as being central: degree, betweenness, and closeness.

A person who exemplifies a great example of a degree central is Dawn. She is the one who has the most connections to the other people. She is connected to six other members of the group; which is the greatest number of connections. This is what being a degree central is all about; having the most connections.

The other two types of centrality aren’t quite as simple as a degree. For instance, a central that shows the characteristics of a betweenness tie has the ability to keep the group together. This is why Haley represents betweenness in the sociogram. She keeps the two subgroups together. If she was removed from the group, Ian and Janet would be unable to connect to the rest of the group. This proves her importance to the group’s communications.

The next type of centrality is closeness. It relates to a person’s ability to send messages across the group easily and quickly. There are actually two people who fit this description of a closeness centrality; Garret and Frank. These two are the busy bees of the group, and while they don’t have the most connections, they are still important. If Eli wanted to send a message to Ian, the quickest route for him would be to send it through Garret, Haley, and finally it would arrive to Ian. If Garret was not in this connection, this message would take much longer to arrive. The same goes for Frank. These two are essential to the network because they send messages quickly through it.

As for the actual leader of this group, it’s a hard decision to make. If it is thought of as being a matter of the most connections, Dawn would be the leader. However, this isn’t exactly the case. Being a social butterfly does not mean that you have power over those who you communicate with. Thus, this situation needs to be thought of in a business setting. For example, there are you workers, such as Barbara and Frank; but there are also the supervisors who watch over the workers, such as Haley. This proves that, of the four who are the most central in this network, Haley is the most powerful. While supervisors don’t control the business, they do have the most influence over the workers, seeing as how they are the ones who watch over them. This makes it clear that Haley has more power over the other three, since they would all classify as workers.