

Computer Networks Lab 02

Course: Computer Networks (CL3001)

Semester: Fall 2025

Lab Prepared By: Mr. Sameer Faisal

Note:

- Maintain discipline during the lab.
 - Listen and follow the instructions as they are given.
 - Just raise hand if you have any problem.
 - Completing all tasks of each lab is compulsory.
 - Get your lab checked at the end of the session.
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Lab Objective

- Introduction to Cisco Packet Tracer & basic networking devices.

Introduction to Packet Tracer

Packet Tracer – Creating a New Topology

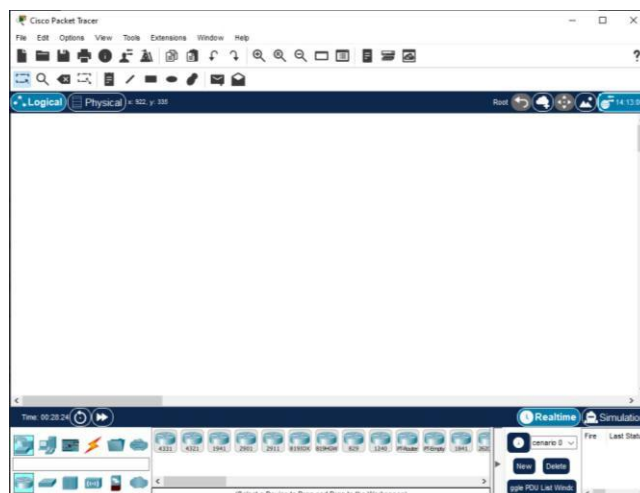
What is Packet Tracer? Packet Tracer is a protocol simulator developed by Dennis Frezzo and his team at Cisco Systems. Packet Tracer (PT) is a powerful and dynamic tool that displays the various protocols used in networking, in either Real Time or Simulation mode. This includes layer 2 protocols such as Ethernet and PPP, layer 3 protocols such as IP, ICMP, and ARP, and layer 4 protocols such as TCP and UDP. Routing protocols can also be traced.

Purpose: The purpose of this lab is to become familiar with building topologies in Packet Tracer.

Perquisite knowledge: This lab assumes some understanding of the Ethernet protocol. At this point we have not discussed other protocols, but will use Packet Tracer in later labs to discuss those as well.

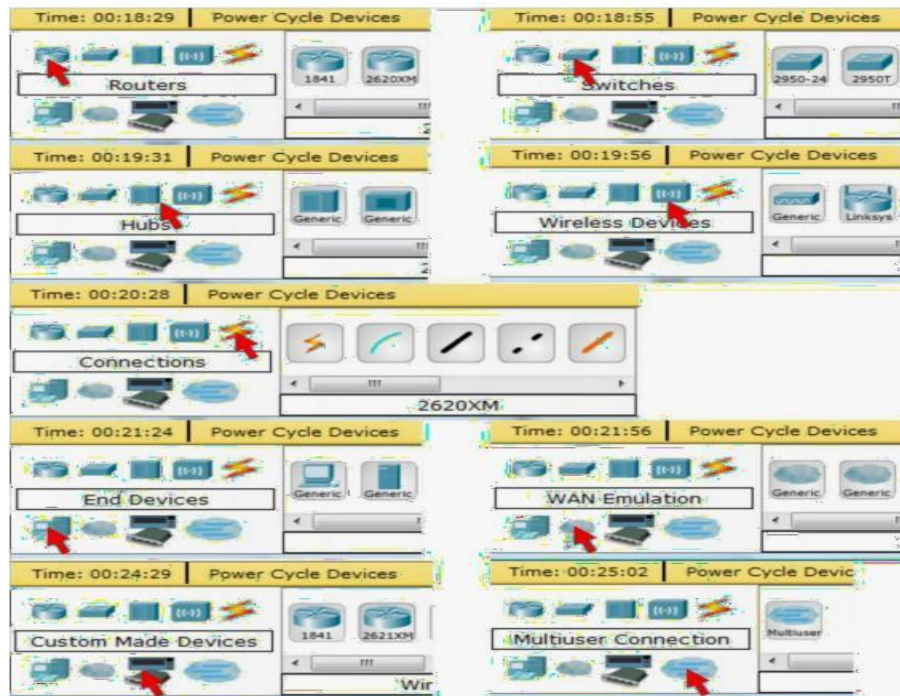
STEP – I:

Start packet tracer



STEP – II:

Choosing Devices & Connections



STEP – III:

Building the topology (adding the hosts)

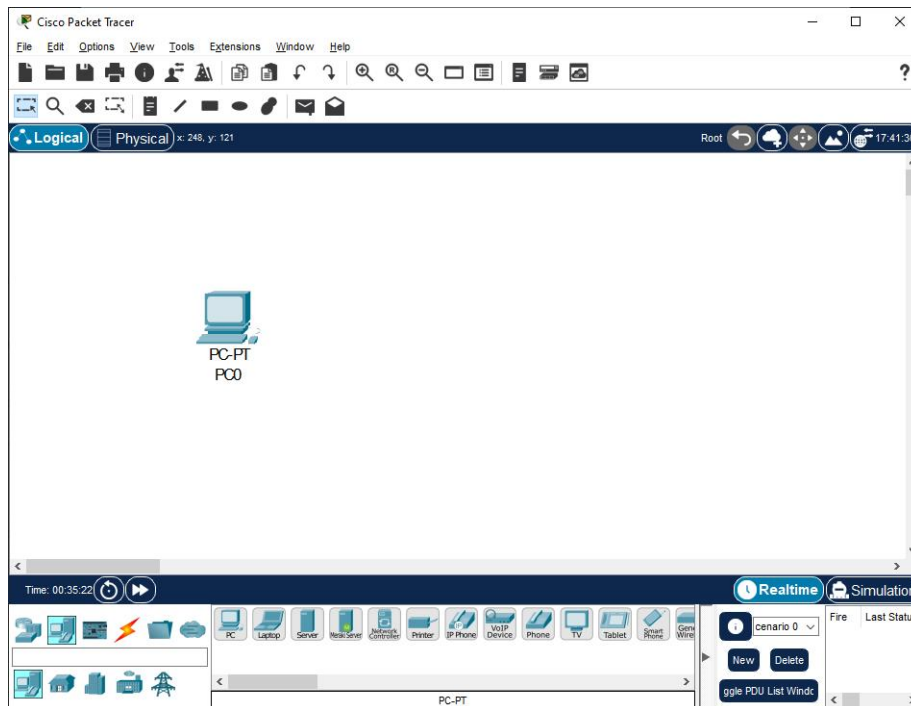
Single click on the end devices.



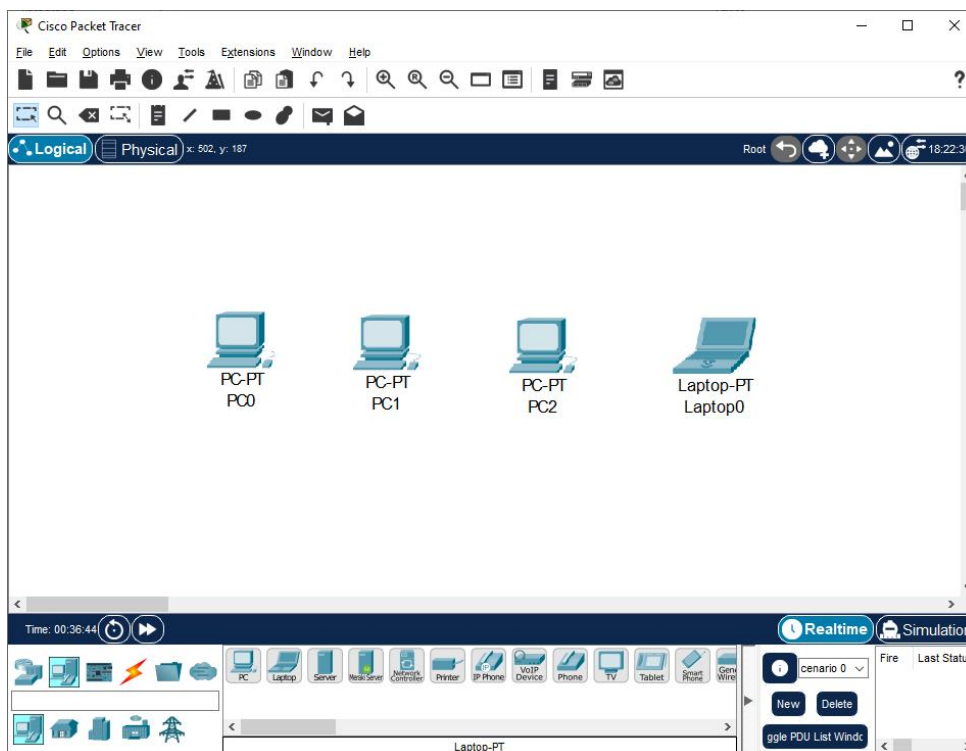
Single click on generic host or any other required end device/host machine.



Move the cursor into topology area. You will notice it turns into a '+' sign.
Single click in the topology area and your selected end device gets copied in the topology area.

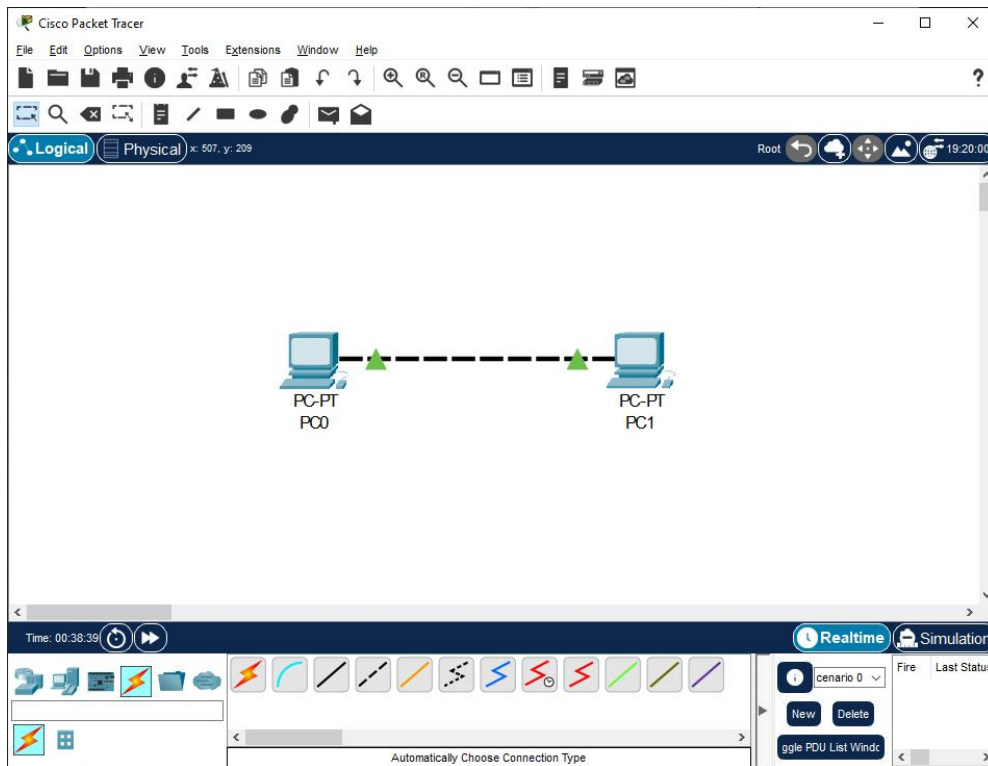


Let's add 3 more hosts now (2 PCs and 1 Laptop).



STEP – IV(a):

Building the topology (Connecting hosts to hosts).

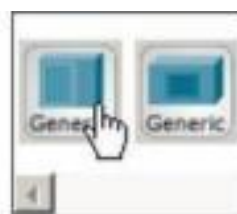
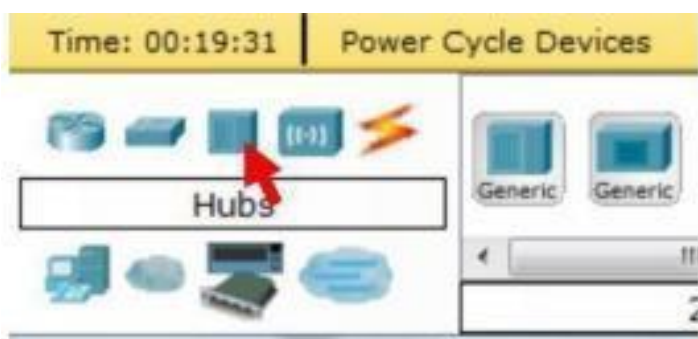


STEP – IV(b):

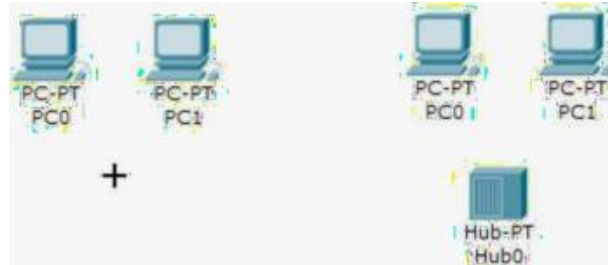
Building the topology (Connecting hosts to hubs and switches).

Adding a hub:

Select a hub, by clicking once on hubs and once on a generic hub.



Add the hub by moving the plus sign "+" below PC0 and PC1 and click once.



Connect PC0 to Hub0 by first choosing Connections.

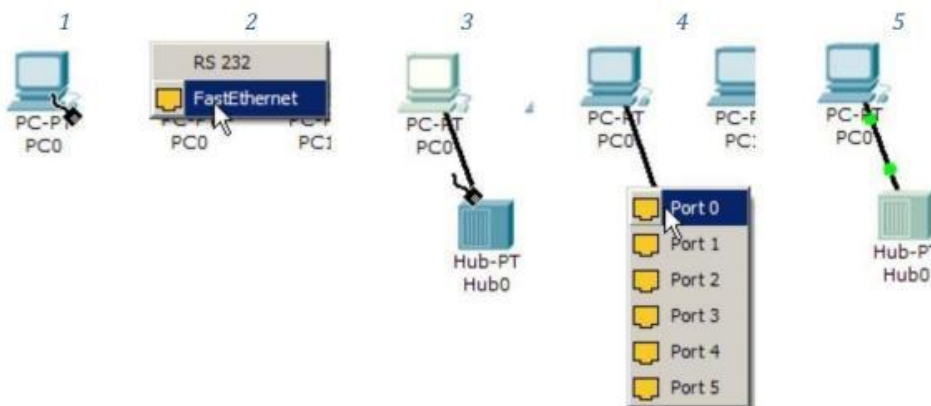


Click once on the Copper Straight-through cable.

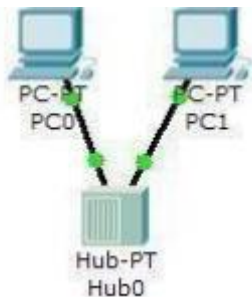


Perform the following steps to connect PC0 to Hub0:

- 1) Click once on PC0.
- 2) Choose FastEthernet.
- 3) Drag the cursor to Hub0.
- 4) Click once on Hub0 and choose Port0.
- 5) Notice the green link lights on both the PC0 Ethernet NIC and the Hub0 Port0 showing that the link is active.



Repeat the steps above for PC1 connecting it to Port 1 on Hub0. (The actual hub port you choose does not matter).



Adding a switch.

Select a switch, by clicking once on Switches and once on a 2950-24 (2960 in newer versions) switch.



Add the switch by moving the plus sign '+' below PC2 and PC3 and click once.



Connect PC2 to Switch0 by first choosing Connections.



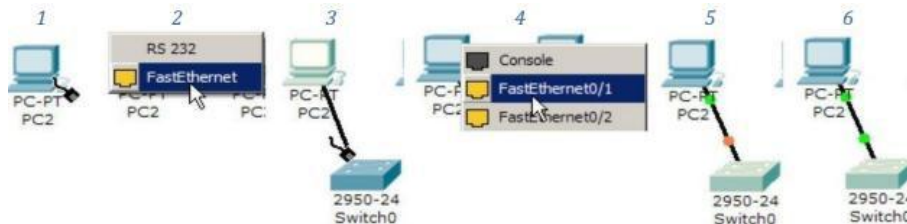
Click once on the Copper Straight-through cable.



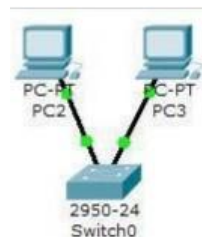
Perform the following steps to connect PC2 to Switch0:

- 1) Click once on PC2.
- 2) Choose FastEthernet.
- 3) Drag the cursor to Switch0.
- 4) Click once on Switch0 and choose FastEthernet0/1.
- 5) Notice the green link lights on PC2 Ethernet NIC and amber light Switch0 FastEthernet0/1 port. The switch port is temporarily not forwarding frames, while it goes through the stages for the Spanning Tree Protocol (STP) process.
- 6) After an about 30 seconds the amber light will change to green indicating that the port has entered the forwarding stage. Frames can now have forwarded out the switch port.

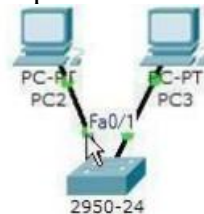
Note: Spanning Tree Protocol (STP) will be discussed later.



Repeat the steps above for PC3 connecting it to Port 3 on Switch0 on port FastEthernet0/2. (The actual switch port you choose does not matter.)



Move the cursor over the link light to view the port number. Fa means FastEthernet, 100 Mbps Ethernet.

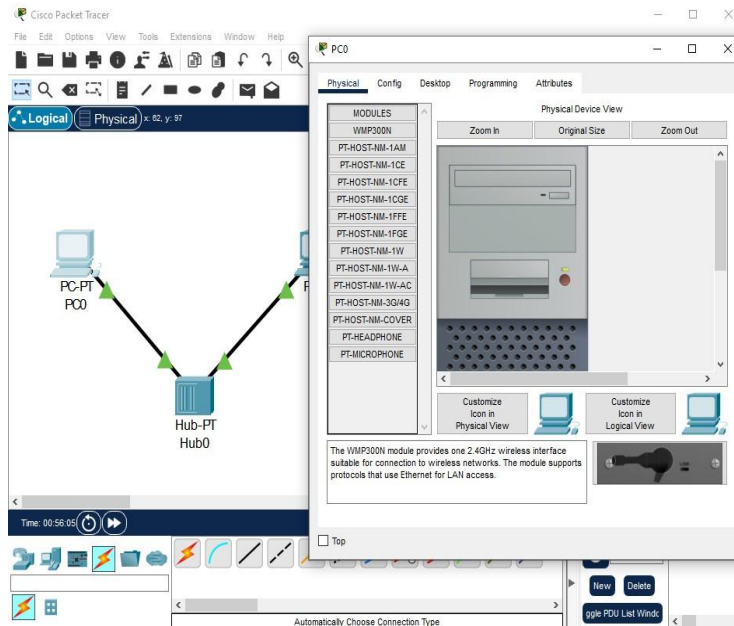


STEP – V:

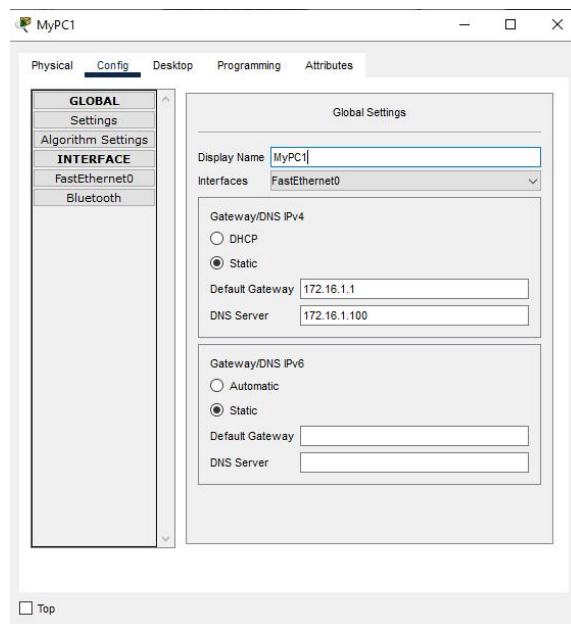
Configuring IP addresses and subnet masks on the hosts.

Before we can communicate between the hosts we need to configure IP Addresses and Subnet Mask on the devices.

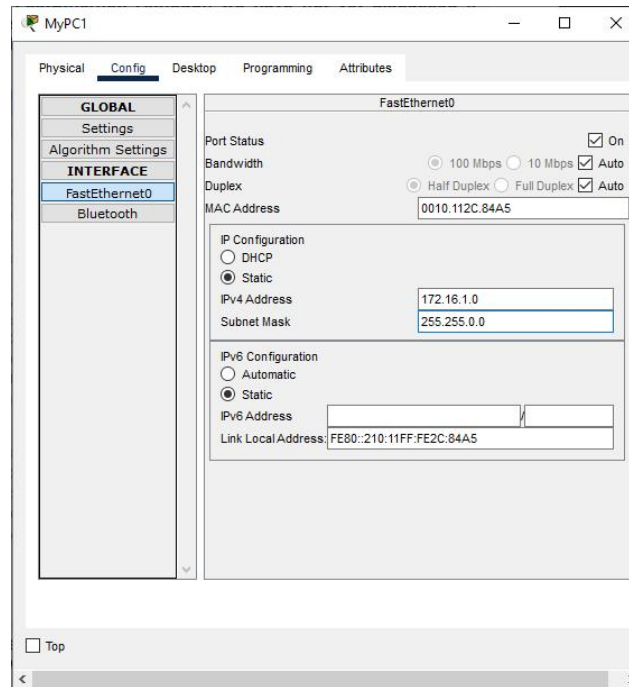
- 1) Click once on PC0.



- 2) Choose the Config tab and click on Settings. It is here that you can change the name of PC0. It is also here where you would enter a Gateway IP Address, also known as the default gateway and the DNS Server IP Address. We will discuss this later, but this would be the IP address of the local router. If you want, you can enter the Gateway IP Address 172.16.1.1 and DNS Server IP Address 172.16.1.100, although it will not be used in this lab.



- 3) Click on Interface and then FastEthernet. Although we have not yet discussed IP Addresses, add the IP Address to 172.16.1.10. Click once in the Subnet Mask field to enter the default Subnet Mask. You can leave this at 255.255.0.0. We will discuss this later.



Also, notice this is where you can change the Bandwidth (speed) and Duplex of the Ethernet NIC (Network Interface Card). The default is Auto (auto negotiation), which means the NIC will negotiate with the hub or switch. The bandwidth and/or duplex can be manually set by removing the check from the Auto box and choosing the specific option.

Bandwidth - Auto

If the host is connected to a hub or switch port which can do 100 Mbps, then the Ethernet NIC on the host will choose 100 Mbps (Fast Ethernet). Otherwise, if the hub or switch port can only do 10 Mbps, then the Ethernet NIC on the host will choose 10 Mbps (Ethernet).

Duplex - Auto

Hub: If the host is connected to a hub, then the Ethernet NIC on the host will choose Half Duplex.

Switch: If the host is connected to a switch, and the switch port is configured as Full Duplex (or Auto negotiation), then the Ethernet NIC on the host will choose Full Duplex.

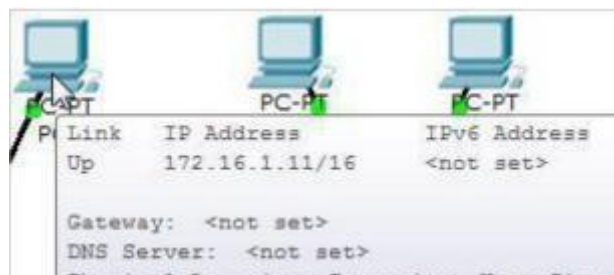
If the switch port is configured as Half Duplex, then the Ethernet NIC on the host will choose Half Duplex. (Full Duplex is a much more efficient option.)

The information is automatically saved when entered. To close this dialog box, click the "X" in the upper right.

Repeat these steps for the other hosts. Use the information below for IP Addresses and Subnet Masks.

<u>Host</u>	<u>IP Address</u>	<u>Subnet Mask</u>
PC0	172.16.1.10	255.255.0.0
PC1	172.16.1.11	255.255.0.0
PC2	172.16.1.12	255.255.0.0
PC3	172.16.1.13	255.255.0.0

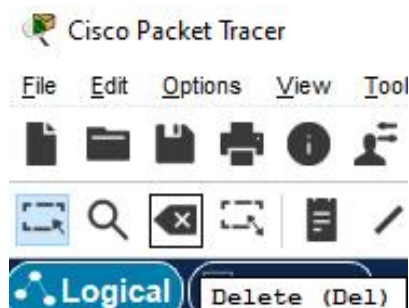
To verify the information that you entered, move the Select tool (arrow) over each host.



STEP – VI (Optional):

Deleting a device or link.

To delete a device or link, choose the Delete tool and click on the item you wish to delete.

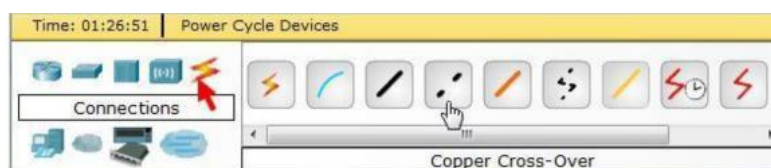


STEP – VII:

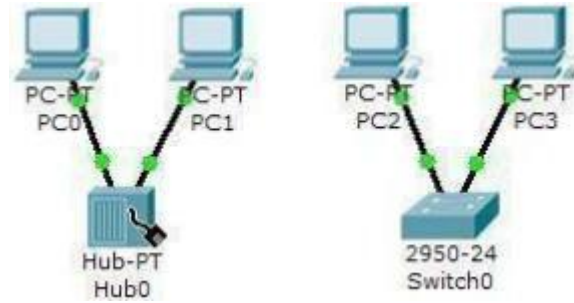
Connecting Hub0 to Switch0.

To connect like-devices, like a Hub and a Switch, we will use a Cross-over cable.

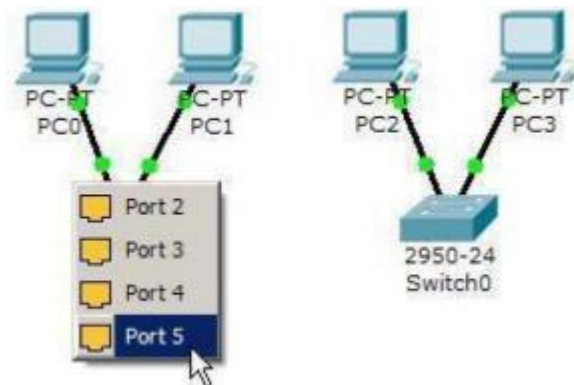
Click once the Crossover Cable from the Connections options.



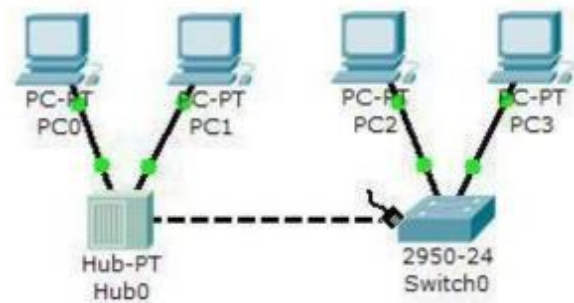
Move the Connections cursor over Hub0 and click once.



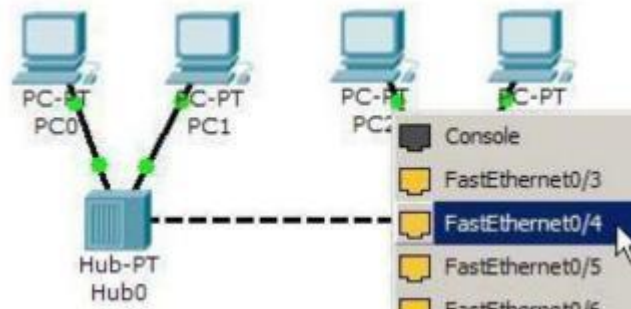
Select Port 5 (actual port does not matter).



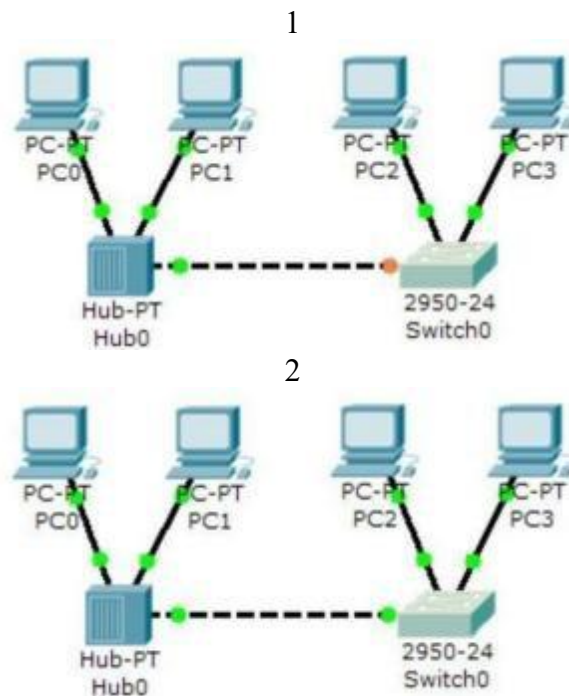
Move the Connections cursor to Switch0.



Click once on Switch0 and choose FastEthernet0/4 (actual port does not matter).



The link light for switch port FastEthernet0/4 will begin as amber and eventually changes to green as the Spanning Tree Protocol transitions the port to forwarding.



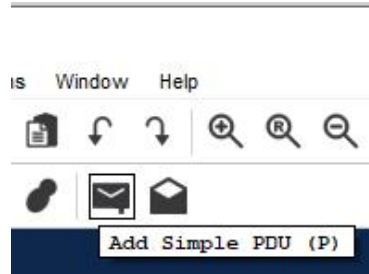
STEP – VIII:

Verifying connectivity in 'Realtime' mode.

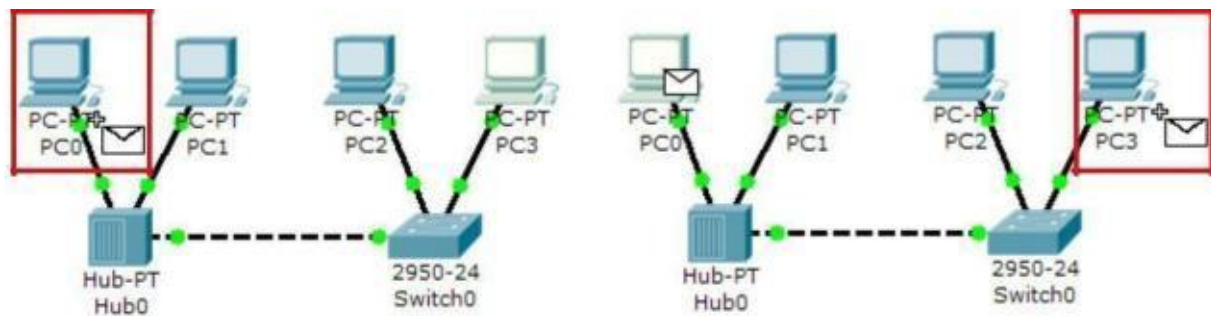
Be sure you are in Realtime mode.



Select the Add Simple PDU tool used to ping devices.



Click once on PC0, then once on PC3.



The PDU Last Status should show as Successful.

A screenshot of the 'Realtime' PDU List window. It shows a table with columns: Fire, Last Status, Source, Destination, and Type. The first row shows a successful ping from PC0 to PC3 using ICMP.

Fire	Last Status	Source	Destination	Type
	Successful	PC0	PC3	ICMP

STEP – IX:

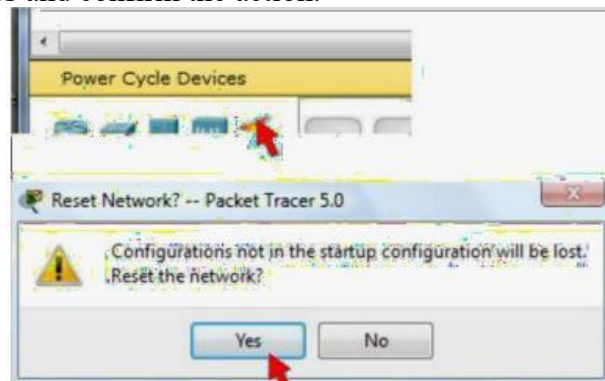
Resetting the network.

At this point we will want to reset the network, whenever you want to reset the network and begin the simulation again, perform the following tasks:

1) Click Delete in the PDU area.

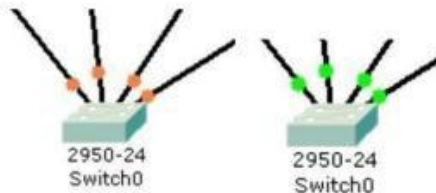


2) Now, Power Cycle Devices and confirm the action.



3) Waiting for Spanning Tree Protocol(STP).

Note: Because Packet Tracer also simulates the Spanning Tree Protocol, at times the switch may show amber lights on its interfaces. You will need to wait for the lights to turn green on the switches before they will forward any Ethernet frames.



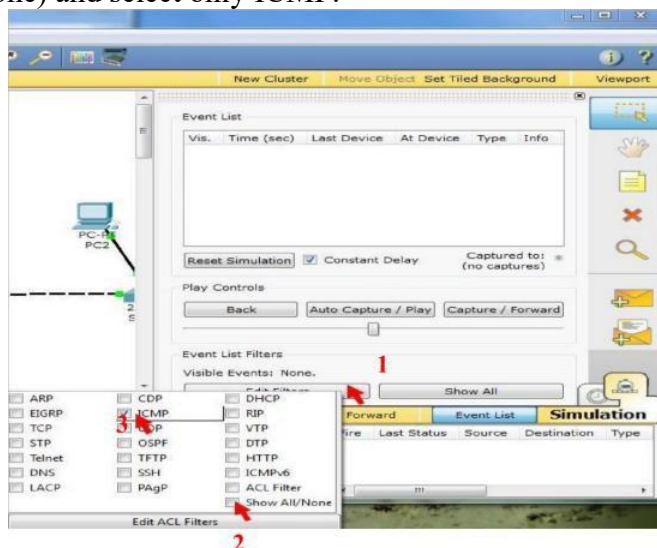
STEP – X (Optional):

Verifying Connectivity in Simulation Mode.

Be sure you are in Simulation mode.

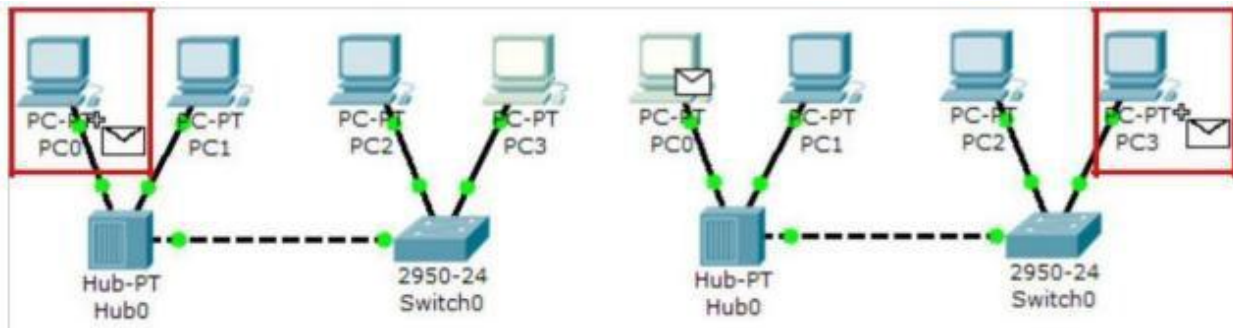


Deselect all filters (All/None) and select only ICMP.



Select the Add Simple PDU tool used to ping device.

Click once on PC0, then once on PC3.



Continue clicking Capture/Forward button until the ICMP ping is completed. You should see the ICMP messages move between the hosts, hub and switch. The PDU Last Status should show as Successful. Click on Clear Event List if you do not want to look at the events or click Preview Previous Events if you do. For this exercise it does not matter.

The screenshot shows the Packet Tracer 5.0 interface. The main window displays a logical network diagram with a Hub-PT Hub0 connected to a 2950-24 Switch0. PC0 and PC1 are connected to Hub0, and PC2 and PC3 are connected to Switch0. A message box titled "Buffer Full -- Packet Tracer 5.0" is displayed over the diagram, stating: "The maximum number of events has been reached. You may clear the event list and continue from where you left off or adjust the filters to view previous events." Below the message box are buttons for "Clear Event List" and "View Previous Events".

The Event List window is open, showing a table of events:

Vis.	Time (sec)	Last Device	At Device	Type	Info
	0.009	Switch0	PC3	ICMP	
	0.010	PC3	Switch0	ICMP	
	0.011	Switch0	Hub0	ICMP	
			PC0	ICMP	
			PC1	ICMP	

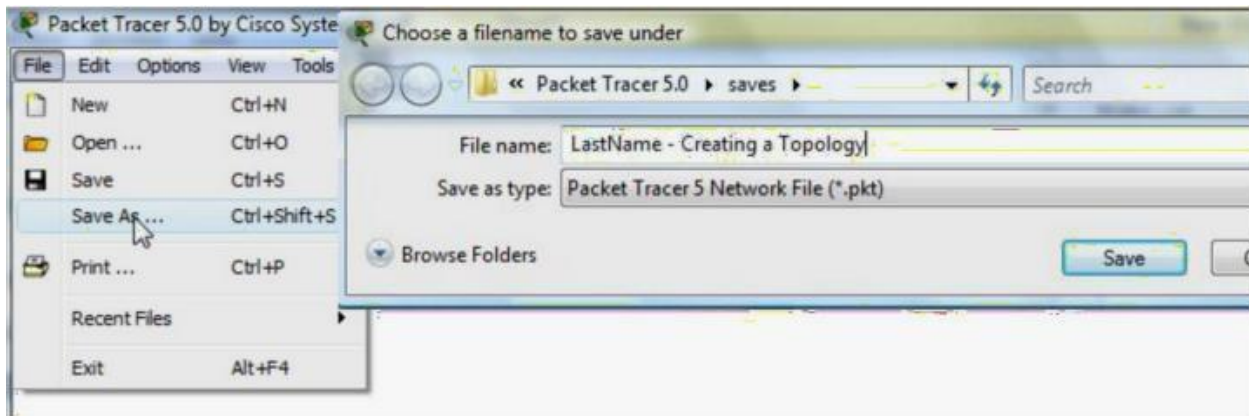
The Event List Filters section shows "Visible Events: ICMP" and buttons for "Edit Filters" and "Show All". The Simulation window at the bottom shows the "Event List" tab selected, with a table of events:

Fire	Last Status	Source	Destination	Type
	Successful	PC0	PC3	ICMP

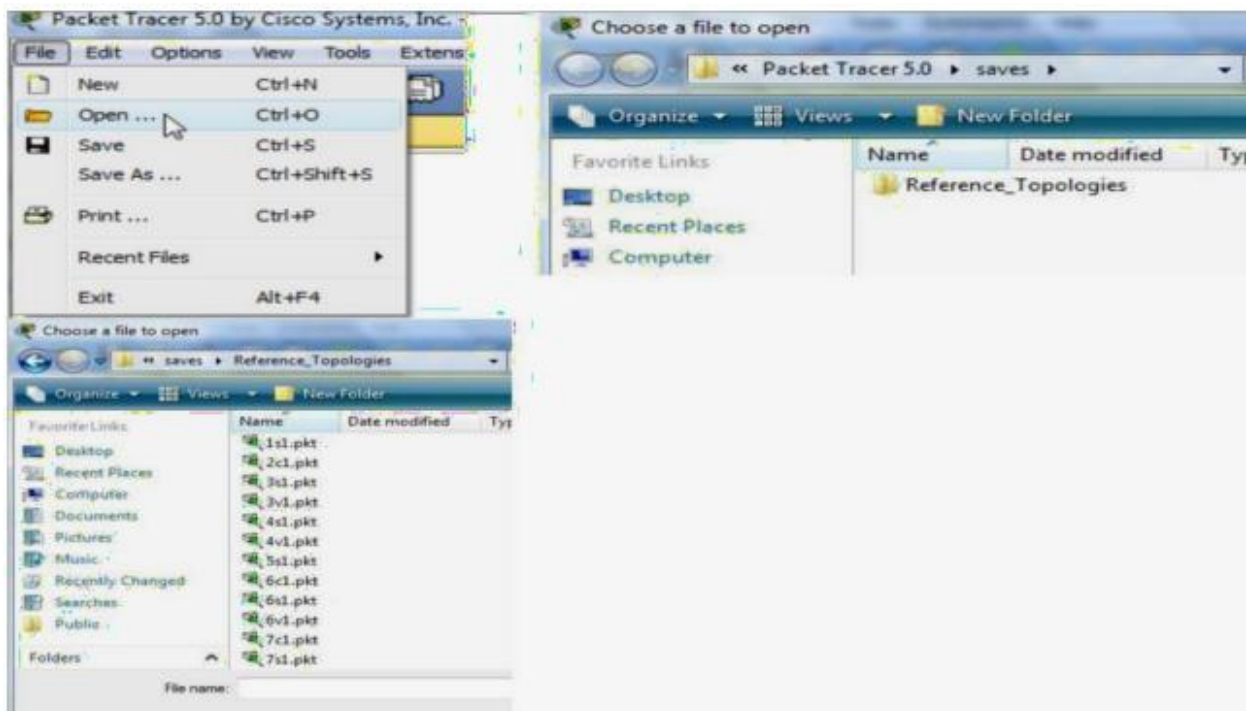
STEP – XI:

Saving the topology.

Perform the following steps to save the topology (uses .pkt file extension).



Opening Existing PT Topologies:

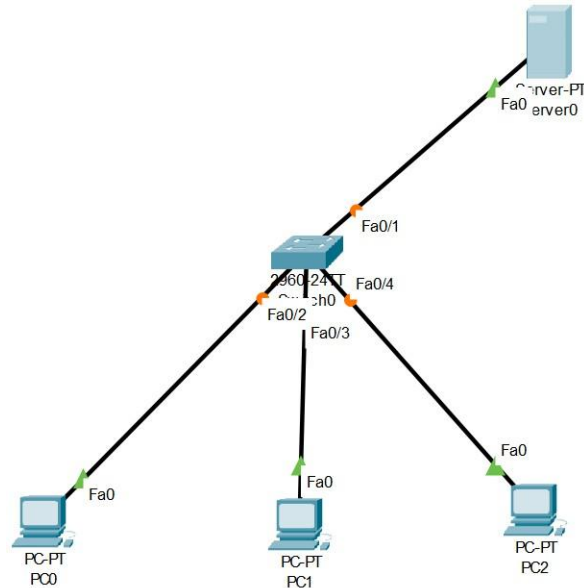


DHCP

It stands for **dynamic host configuration protocol**; it is a network management protocol used mainly to distribute IP address to all connected devices in a network. Whenever a system is turned on in a network it sends a request to server this request is called **DHCP DISCOVER**.

On receiving the request, it supplies the client with a IP address from its pool this offer is called **DHCP OFFER**, on receiving the offer the client responds with the packet called **DHCP REQUEST** to eventually get the IP.

a) Select 3 PCs and a server from “End Devices” your work area will look like this:

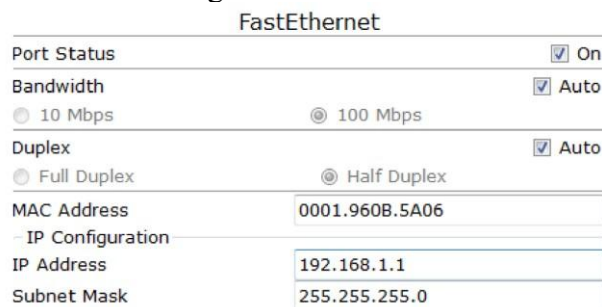


b) Choose “Connection Type” to connect these devices with Switch.

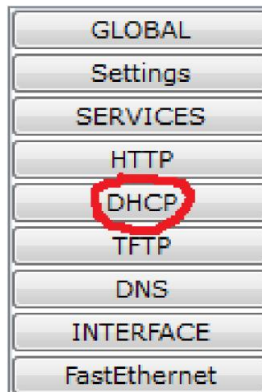
c) Now click the Server. The screen you will see will look something like this:



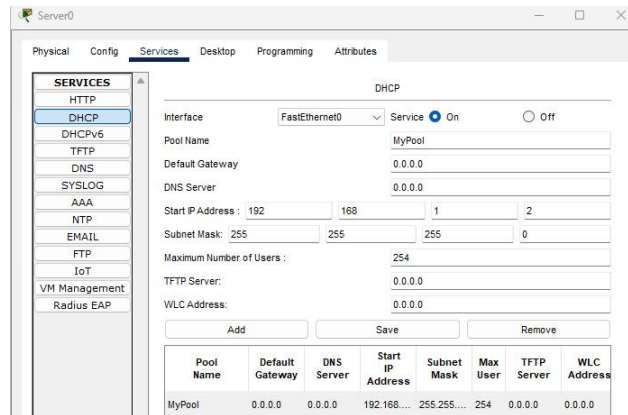
d) Here go to Fast Ethernet placed just under Interface marked with red. After clicking “Fast Ethernet” you will see following window. Here assign IP ADDRESS to this SERVER:



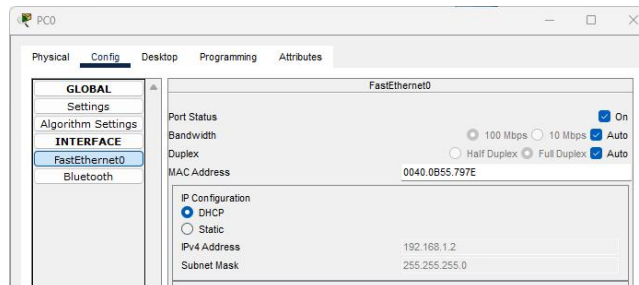
e) Now click “DHCP” to make this server a DHCP server:



f) DHCP is “Dynamic Host Control Protocol” a DHCP server is responsible for assigning IP Addresses to the devices present in the Network from its pool. This concept can be seen in the image shown below:

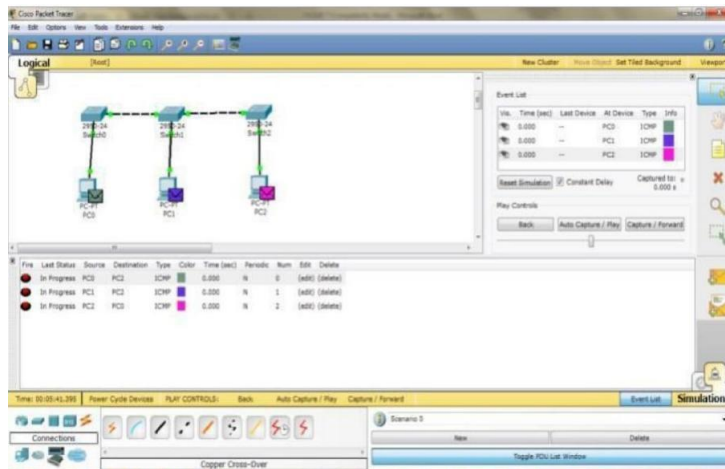


g) Now each device will take IP from DHCP. Now click on all three PCs, go to “DESKTOP”, then “IP CONFIGURATION”, here select option “DHCP” instead of assigning IP Address statically. One PC is shown below:

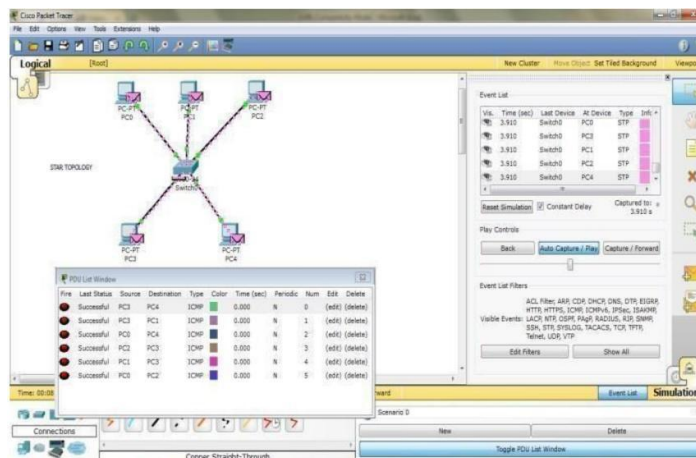


Simulation of Different Topologies

1) Bus Topology



2) Star Topology



3) MESH Topology

