**Cisco Packet Tracer — Download & Installation Guide  
  
Roll Number: 2420030028**

# **Introduction**

This document provides a clear, step‑by‑step process to DOWNLOAD and INSTALL Cisco Packet Tracer on Windows 10/11. It also includes first‑run activation and troubleshooting tips.

NOTE (August 2025): Cisco’s current stable release is Packet Tracer 8.2.2. A 9.0.0 Open Beta is available via the NetAcad Resource Hub, but most coursework should use the stable version unless your instructor specifically requires the beta.

Always download from the official Cisco Networking Academy (NetAcad) portal. Do NOT use third‑party download sites.

# **Prerequisites**

Before you begin:

• A free Cisco Networking Academy (NetAcad) / Skills For All account.

• A Windows 10 or Windows 11 PC with administrator rights.

• Internet connection for download and first login.

Optional: Your college/instructor may share a direct NetAcad link. If not, you can still access the Resource Hub after login.

# **Create/Log in**

Step 1 — Create or Log in to your Cisco account

1. Open your web browser and go to the Cisco Networking Academy website (NetAcad).

2. Click ‘Log In’. If you don’t have an account, choose ‘Sign Up’ and complete registration using your email.

3. After logging in, you will land on your NetAcad/Skills For All dashboard.

# **Get to downloads**

Step 2 — Go to the official Packet Tracer download page

1. From the dashboard, open the ‘Resource Hub’ or ‘Lab Downloads’ page (visible after login).

2. Locate ‘Cisco Packet Tracer’ downloads

3. Choose the STABLE version (8.2.2) for Windows 64‑bit unless your instructor requires the 9.0.0 Open Beta.

4. Click ‘Download’ and wait for the installer (e.g., CiscoPacketTracer822\_64bit\_setup\_signed.exe) to finish downloading.

# **Install on Windows**

Step 3 — Install Packet Tracer on Windows 10/11

1. Locate the downloaded file in your ‘Downloads’ folder.

2. Right‑click the installer and select ‘Run as administrator’.

3. If Windows SmartScreen appears, click ‘More info’ → ‘Run anyway’ (publisher should be Cisco Systems, Inc.).

4. In Setup, click ‘Next’, accept the License Agreement, and continue.

5. Choose the installation folder (keep the default unless you have a reason to change it).

6. Keep default options (desktop shortcut is recommended), then click ‘Install’.

7. When the wizard finishes, click ‘Finish’ and allow it to launch Packet Tracer.

# **First run activation**

Step 4 — First‑Run Activation/Sign‑In

1. On first launch, a login window.
2. 2. IMPORTANT: Click the green ‘Skills For All’ button and sign in using your NetAcad credentials.
3. 3. If you see a region selector, choose ‘Worldwide’ (unless your region requires a specific server).
4. 4. After successful sign‑in, Packet Tracer opens the workspace. You can now use it normally.
5. Tip: After the first successful login, Packet Tracer may allow limited offline use; however, plan to have Internet for periodic re‑authentication.

# **Verify version**

1. Step 5 — Verify Installation
2. 1. Open Packet Tracer.
3. 2. Go to Help → About to confirm the version (e.g., 8.2.2).
4. 3. Create a quick test: drag a ‘PC’ and a ‘Switch’ into the workspace and save the file (File → Save).

# **Troubleshooting**

1. Troubleshooting (common issues)
2. • Blank/looping login: Update to the latest Packet Tracer, ensure you click ‘Skills For All’, and try switching login server to ‘Worldwide’. Clear browser cache or reinstall if needed.
3. • Stuck at sign‑in / firewall: Temporarily disable VPN, allow Packet Tracer in Windows Firewall, or try a different network.
4. • Installer blocked: Use ‘Run as administrator’ and allow SmartScreen (publisher Cisco Systems, Inc.).
5. • Performance: Close other heavy apps. Packet Tracer runs best on 64‑bit Windows with at least 8 GB RAM.
6. If problems persist, reinstall Packet Tracer and try again.
7. Prepared for Roll Number: 2420030028  
   This document is for educational use. Always download Cisco Packet Tracer from the official NetAcad portal.