

Explain how data is transferred across a network



Protocol – the format and rules for transmitting data e.g TCP, IP, HTTP

Data packets – data is carried in packets

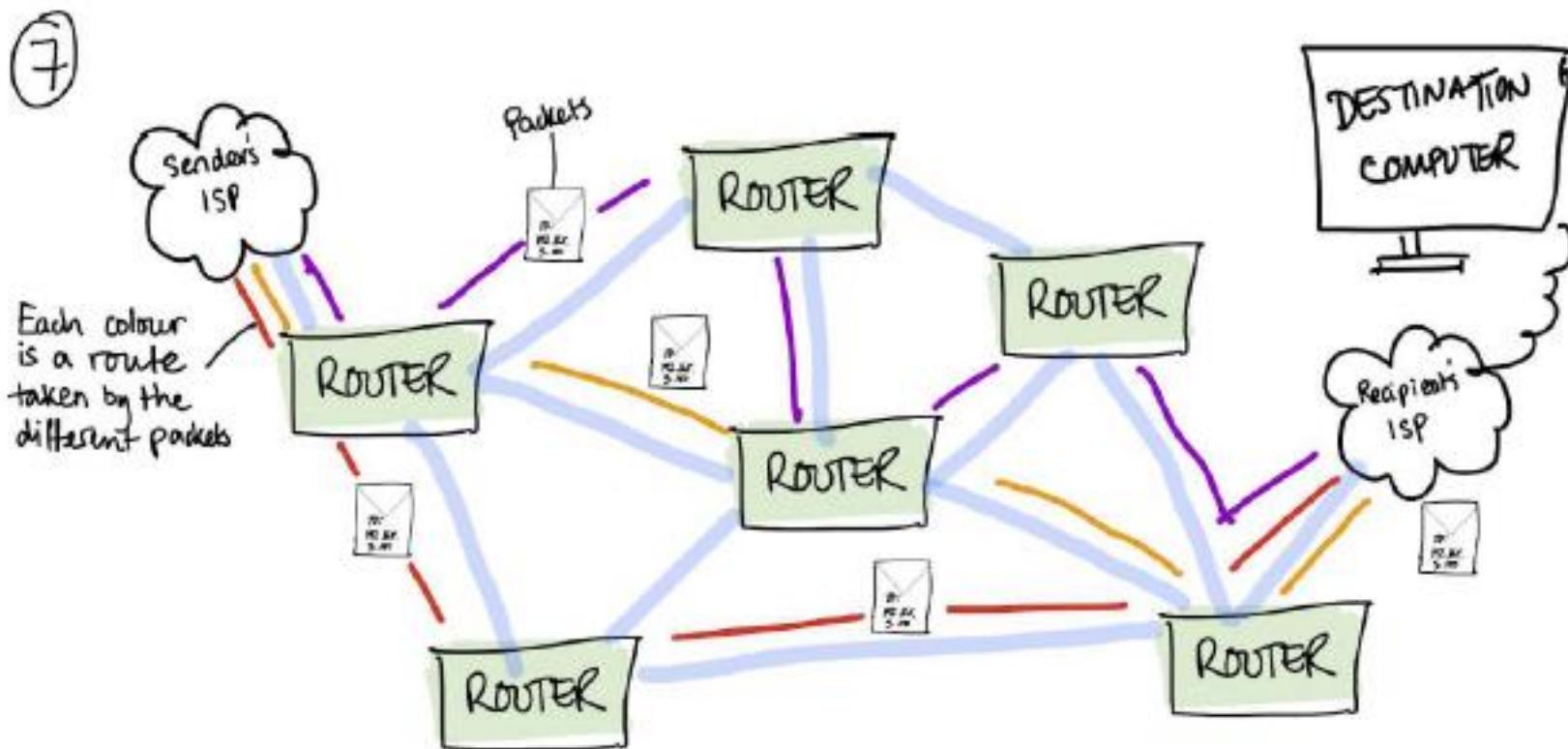
Packet switching – sending packets of data across the internet

Data is split into lots of different pieces called data packets

The packets are then sent individually through the network to the destination

The destination puts the pieces together to show the user

Packet switching



Each data packet is sent from the sender's ISP to the destination ISP via **connected routers**.

The route (or path) that each packet takes can be different, maximising efficient use of the network by avoiding bottlenecks or offline routers and utilising spare capacity.

This process is called **packet switching**.