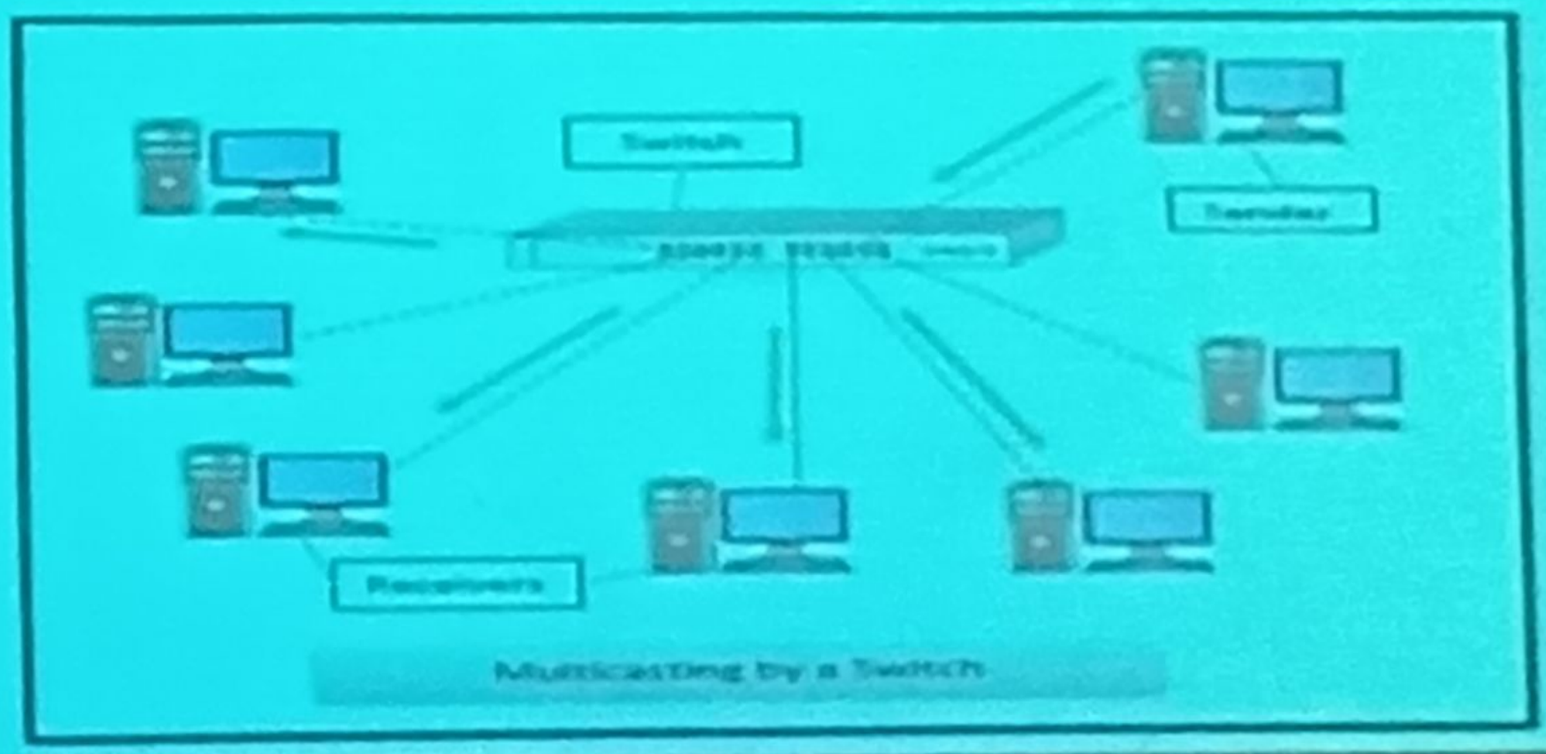
Hub: Hub is a node that broadcasts data to every connected computer or device.

Bridge: A bridge is a network device that connects two subnetworks to create a single network. Through a bridge, two LANs (even different topologies) can be connected to form a larger and extended LAN. Bridge operate at layer 1 & 2 (Physical and Data Link Layer) based on the OSI model. Bridge can perform three basic functions forwarding, filtering and learning functions. Forwarding is passing a frame towards its ultimate destination. Filtering operates by discarding frames where their destination is not available. Learning is the function of bridge perform when it does not receive a positive response in return for comparing a frame to its host's table.



Switch: A switch is a device that forward incoming data from any one of multiple input ports to the specific output port that will take it toward its intended destination. Switch operate at layer 1 & 2 (Physical and Data Link Layer) based on the OSI model. Some high end switch is operate at layer 3 (Network Layer) also.

Routers: A router is a networking device that forwards data packets between computer networks on the global Internet. Router operate at layer 3 (Network Layer) based on the OSI model. Routers route upper layer protocols. They do not perform protocol conversion. A Router takes a chunk of information arriving on one of its incoming communication links and forwards that chunk of information on one of its outgoing communication links.

Gateways : Gateway is a network point that act as an entry and exit point for a network. Gateway can operate at all layers in a network, meaning they perform protocol conversion at all seven layers. The basic purpose of gateways is to interconnect heterogeneous networks. Networks that are not architectural the same, require protocol conversion at all or some layers.