# Patch Panel

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A patch panel is a flat piece of hardware with network ports, typically found in a server room or wiring closet. Its main purpose is to keep network cables neat and organized, reducing clutter. While not essential, it greatly helps with cable management.

Unlike wall plates, patch panels have a large number of ports and are installed on server racks. They connect network cables from various devices throughout a building to a central switch. This setup makes troubleshooting and maintenance much easier.

There are different ways to attach cables to patch panels, including punch-down types, Keystone blank panels (where wires are punched into Keystone jacks that are then inserted into the panel), and coupler patch panels (which are toolless and allow direct plugging of RJ45 connectors). Patch panels also come in different types depending on the network, such as Ethernet, fiber optic, and coaxial.