Network Connectors Explained

Sunday, February 15, 2026 1:11 PM

This explains various network connectors, detailing their types and applications based on cable types like twisted pair, coaxial, telephone, or fiber optic.

RJ-45: Common 8-pin connector for Local Area Networks (LANs) using unshielded twisted pair cables.
RJ-48: Similar to RJ-45, but used with shielded twisted pair cables, often for T1 lines.
RJ-11: A 4-wire connector primarily for telephone equipment, also used for computer modems.
BNC Connector: Used with coaxial cable for analog and digital video/audio transmissions, now less common.
F-type Connector: Threaded coaxial cable connector primarily used by cable providers for modems and satellite internet.
USB Connector: Versatile, used for networking via wireless or wired adapters.
Fiber Optic Connectors:
SC (Standard Connector): "Square connector" with a push-pull mechanism.
MTRJ (Mechanical Transfer Register Jack): Small form factor, latched push-pull, uses two fibers.
LC (Local/Lucent Connector): Half the size of SC, latching mechanism, good for dense racks.
ST (Straight Tip): Uses a half-twist bayonet lock, common with single-mode fiber, but declining in use due to size.
UPC vs. APC End Faces: Discusses how the angle of the connector tip affects signal reflection and loss in fiber optics (APC reduces signal loss)