

3.1.2 Device Connection Facts

There are two methods for connecting to a Cisco device. Once you establish a connection, you can configure the device so it's ready to perform tasks on the network.

This lesson covers the following topics:

- Local connection
- Remote connection

Local Connection

A local physical connection is required for the initial setup of the device. During this setup, you'll configure IP addresses, passwords, and other settings. A common connection method used for Cisco devices is the *console cable*. It is an RJ-45 to DB-9 serial or USB serial cable. There is a blue console port located on the back of Cisco devices. You can connect to this port using the specially designed console cable. This console cable is also called a *roll-over cable* because the pins that make up the connectors are flipped from end to end. Console cables were originally RJ-45 to serial connections, but because most laptops no longer have serial ports, USB connections have become more common.

Once you have established a physical connection between the computer and the Cisco device, you need to open emulation software on the device. There are several options available including Putty and TeraTerm. You use this software to make a connection through the serial or USB port of the computer. There are no passwords in place by default on the Cisco device. So, activating the connection and pressing the Enter key a couple of times will provide you with a device prompt. The following table shows the requirements for a console connection.

Cable Type	Cisco Port	Computer Port
RJ-45 to DB-9 Console Cable	RJ-45 Console Port	Serial Port
USB to RS-232 Serial Adapter	RJ-45 Console Port	USB Type-A Port (driver software may be needed)
USB Type-A to USB Type-B	USB Type-B	USB Type-A Port (driver software may be needed)

Remote Connection

The second method for connecting to a Cisco device is remote access. Remote access provides you with access to the device regardless of location. As long as the device has an IP address and is live on the network, you can access the router to get to its configuration screens. You can connect using a terminal emulation program like Telnet, SSH, or even a web browser.

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