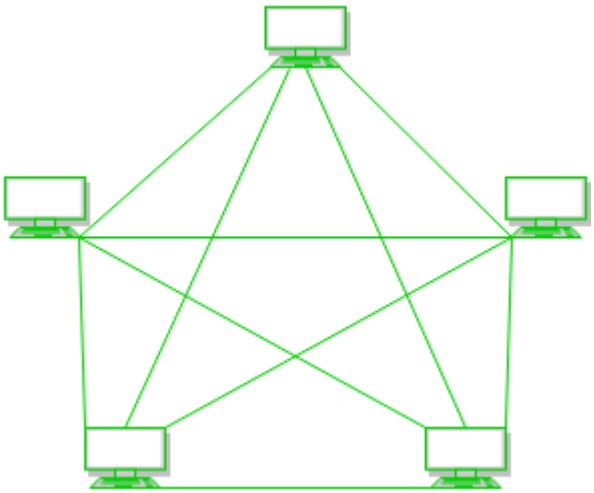
Types of Network Topology

The arrangement of a network which comprises of nodes and connecting lines via sender and receiver is referred as network topology. The various network topologies are :

a) **Mesh Topology :**
In mesh topology, every device is connected to another device via particular channel.



Every device is connected with another via dedicated channels. These channels are known as links.

Advantages of this topology :

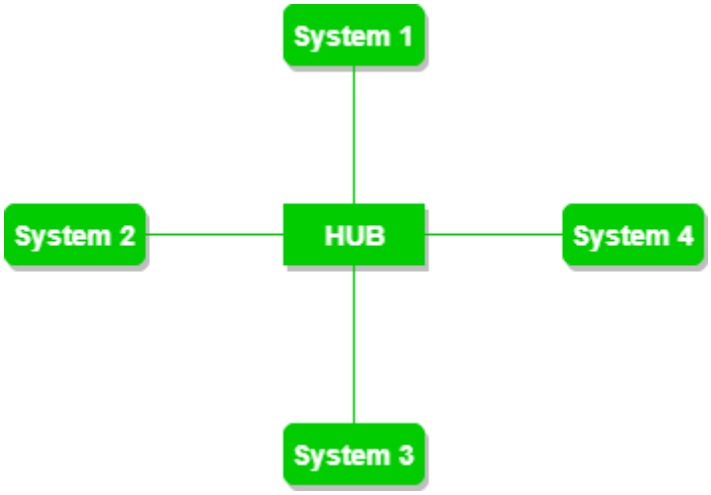
- It is robust.
- Fault is diagnosed easily. Data is reliable because data is transferred among the devices through dedicated channels or links.
- Provides security and privacy.

Problems with this topology :

- Installation and configuration is difficult.
- Cost of cables are high as bulk wiring is required, hence suitable for less number of devices.
- Cost of maintenance is high.

(b) Star Topology :

In star topology, all the devices are connected to a single hub through a cable. This hub is the central node and all others nodes are connected to the central node.



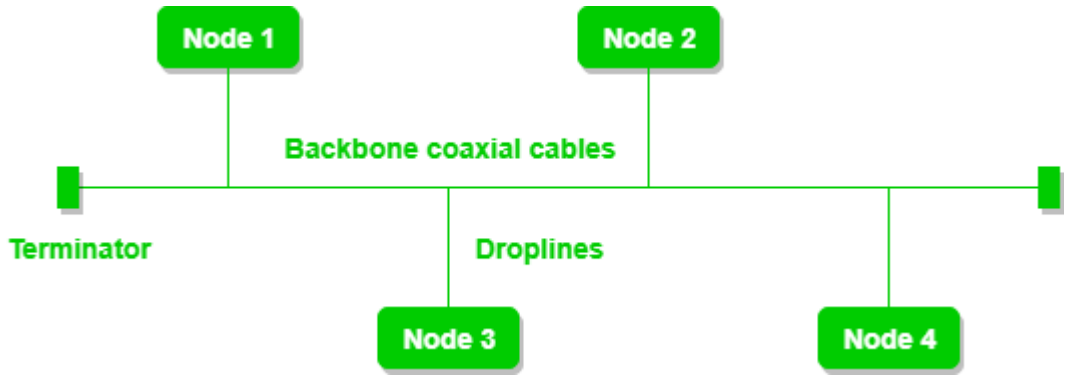
- **Advantages of this topology :**
  If N devices are connected to each other in star topology, then the number of cables required to connect them is N. So, it is easy to set up.
- Each device require only 1 port i.e. to connect to the hub.

Problems with this topology :

- If the concentrator (hub) on which the whole topology relies fails, the whole system will crash down.
- Cost of installation is high.
- Performance is based on the single concentrator i.e. hub.

(c)Bus Topology :

Bus topology is a network type in which every computer and network device is connected to single cable. It transmits the data from one end to another in single direction. No bi-directional feature is in bus topology.



A bus topology with shared backbone cable. The nodes are connected to the channel via drop lines.

Advantages of this topology :

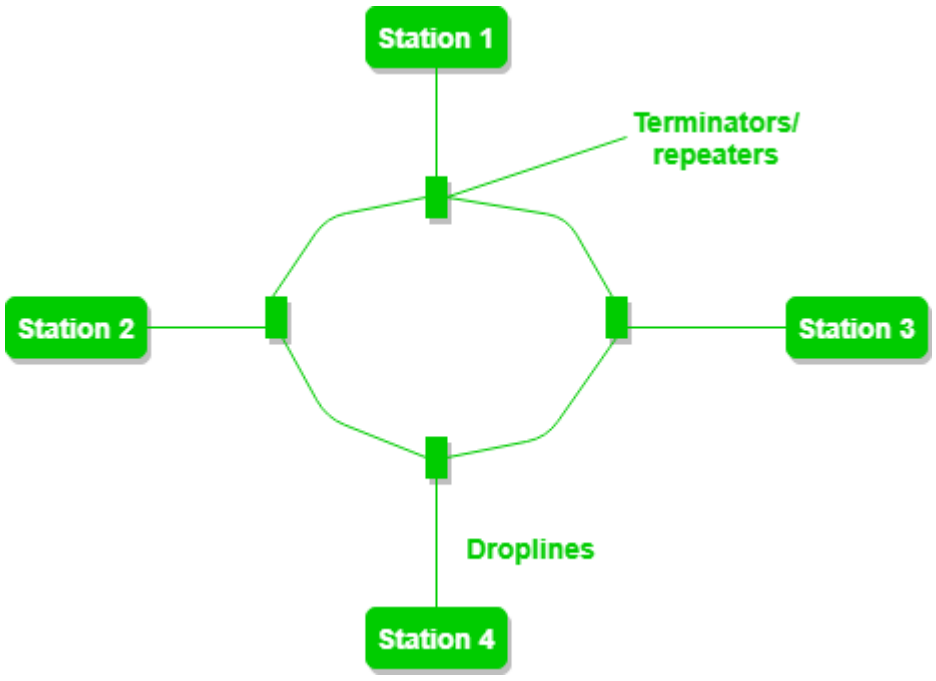
- If N devices are connected to each other in bus topology, then the number of cables required to connect them is 1 .which is known as backbone cable and N drop lines are required.
- Cost of the cable is less as compared to other topology, but it is used to built small networks.

Problems with this topology :

- If the common cable fails, then the whole system will crash down.
- If the network traffic is heavy, it increases collisions in the network.

(d) Ring Topology :
In this topology, it forms a ring connecting devices with its exactly two neighbouring devices.

A number of repeaters are used for Ring topology with a large number of nodes, because if someone wants to send some data to the last node in the ring topology with 100 nodes, then the data will have to pass through 99 nodes to reach the 100th node. Hence to prevent data loss repeaters are used in the network.



Advantages of this topology :

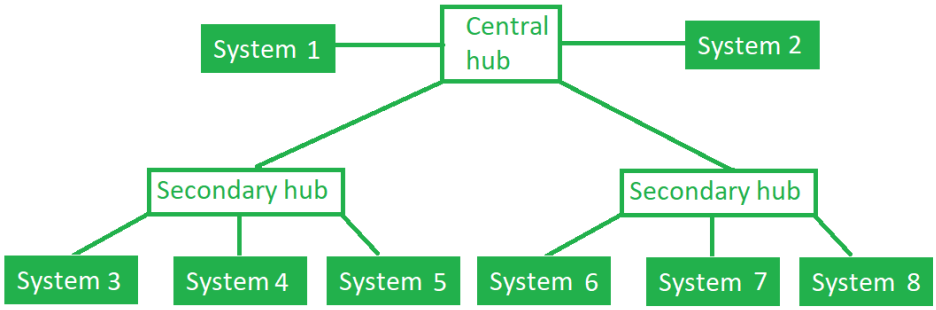
- The possibility of collision is minimum in this type of topology.
- Cheap to install and expand.

Problems with this topology :

- Troubleshooting is difficult in this topology.
- Addition of stations in between or removal of stations can disturb the whole topology.

(e)Tree Topology :

This topology is the variation of Star topology. This topology have hierarchical flow of data



Advantages of this topology :

- It allows more devices to be attached to a single central hub thus it increases the distance that is travel by the signal to come to the devices.
- It allows the network to get isolate and also prioritize from different computers.

Problems with this topology :

- If the central hub gets fails the entire system fails.
- The cost is high because of cabling.