

A+ Core 1 and Core 2 CertMaster Perform 15.0

5.2.3 Patch Panels

In most types of office cabling, the computer is connected to a wall port and via cabling running through the walls to a **patch panel**. The cables running through the walls are terminated to insulation displacement connector (IDC) punchdown blocks at the back of the panel.

IDCs at the rear of a patch panel

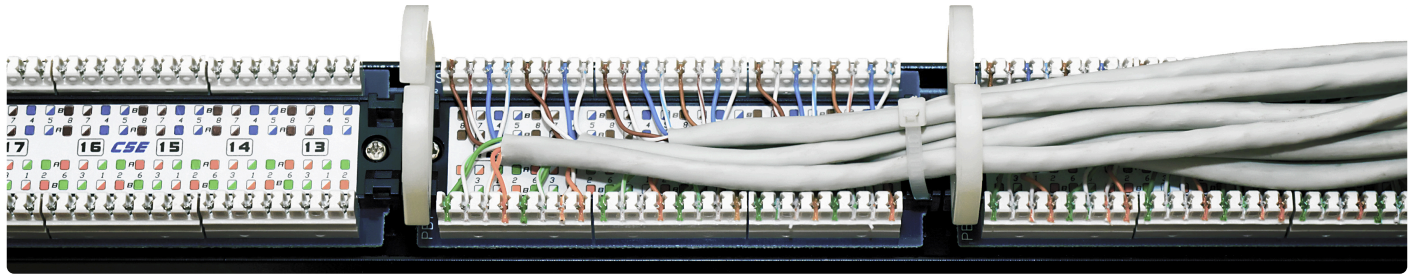


Image by plus69 © 123RF.com.

The other side of the patch panel has pre-wired RJ45 ports. A patch cord is used to connect a port on the patch panel to a port on an Ethernet switch. This cabling design makes it easier to change how any given wall port location is connected to the network via switch ports.

Patch panel with prewired RJ45 ports

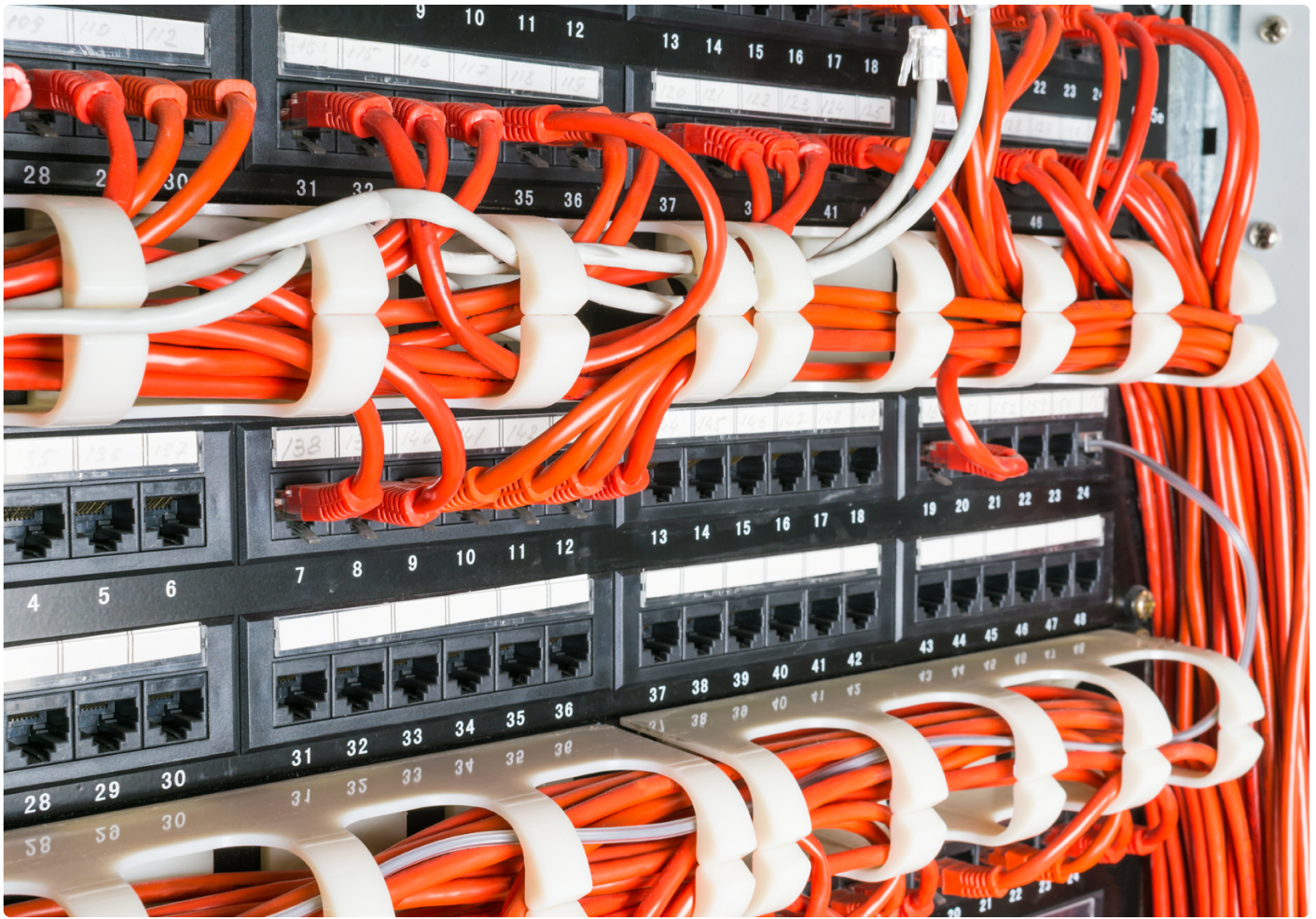


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It is vital to use an effective labeling system when installing structured cabling so that you know which patch panel port is connected to which wall port.

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