

Tailscale Glossary

Coordination Server:

A machine on the Internet that coordinates and configures your *Nodes* for you.

A Coordination Server is a service provided by *Tailscale* or can be self-hosted by Headscale.

DERP (Designated Encrypted Relay for Packets):

A server that acts as a Relay between two *Nodes* that can't communicate directly because of firewall restrictions or NATs. Uses HTTPS to tunnel.

DERPs are provided for free by *Tailscale* or you can also register your own DERPs for your *Tailnet* to reduce latency.

Exit Node:

A *Node* that provides routing outside of its *Tailnet* to the Internet.

Headscale:

A free and open source, 3rd party software package that can be used to self-host your own *Coordination Server*. See <https://github.com/juanfont/headscale>.

Hub and Spoke Network:

A network where machines route all their network traffic through a central server (*Relay*).

Mesh Network:

A network where the machines communicate directly with each other without passing through a *Relay*.

Node:

A machine registered in a private tailscale network (*Tailnet*).

Relay:

A server that acts as an invisible intermediary between two other machines to route their packets to each other.

Shared Node:

A *Node* that appears in one or more *Tailnets* simultaneously.

Subnet Router:

A *Node* that provides routing to a local network, so machines that are not participating in its *Tailnet* can be accessed.

Taildrop:

Tailscale feature that allows copying files between devices on your *Tailnet*.

Tailnet:

A set of machines (Nodes) connected together in a private *Tailscale* network.

Tailscale:

A software product that allows you to connect machines together anywhere with Internet access in a private *Mesh Network*.

Also, the company that makes the *Tailscale* product, see <https://tailscale.com/>

See *Headscale*.

Tailscale IP Address:

A unique IP address assigned to each *Node* on your *Tailnet*. They are all in the range 100.x.y.z (e.g. 100.10.25.30).