

Data Communication Systems

- Data communications are the exchange of data between two devices using one or multiple forms of transmission medium using a predetermined transmission mode.
- Systems that facilitates this movement of data between devices or endpoints are called data communication networks.
 - Five (5) components make up a data communication network.
 - Devices can be both hardware and software.



Components of a Data Communications Network

- 1. Data
- 2. Sender
- 3. Receiver
- 4. Transmission Medium
- 5. Protocol



Data

- Communication of data means a message or data will be transmitted from one device and will be received in the destination or target device.
 - Data or message can be of various forms such as text, audio, video, image or combinations of these forms etc.



Sender

- The device that sends the data or message to the destination or target is the Sender.
 - Can be a computer, cell phone, video camera and so on.



Receiver

- The device that receives the data is the Receiver.
 - Can again be a computer, cell phone, video camera and so on.



Transmission Medium

- In a data communication network, the transmission medium is the physical path for the data to travel to its destination.
- Sender sends the data at one end of this path and the Receiver receives from the other end of the path.
 - Transmission medium could be like twisted-pair cable, coaxial cable, fiber-optic cable etc.



Protocol

- A set of rules that applies on the full data communication procedure.
- An agreement between the two devices to successfully communicate with each other.
 - For example, how to send the data, how the data will be traveling, how to ensure that full data has received, how to handle errors in transmission etc.
- Both devices follow the same set of rules or protocol so that they understand each other.



