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DEFINITION

overlay

This definition

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An overlay network is a type of network infrastructure. An overlay network is a network that is built on top of an existing network. It is used to encapsulate network traffic, allowing it to be sent over a network that is not designed for that traffic. The traffic is then de-encapsulated at the destination.

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Most overlay networks run on top of the public Internet, which itself began as an overlay research network running over the infrastructure of the public switched telephone network ([PSTN](#)). Other examples of overlay network deployments include virtual private networks ([VPNs](#)), peer-to-peer ([P2P](#))

networks, content delivery networks ([CDNs](#)), voice over IP ([VoIP](#)) services such as Skype and non-native software-defined networks.

Overlay network protocols include Virtual Extensible LAN ([VXLAN](#)), Network Virtualization using Generic Encapsulation ([NVGRE](#)), stateless transport tunneling (STT), Generic Routing Encapsulation ([GRE](#)) and Network Virtualization Overlays 3 (NVO3).

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Path Computation Element Protocol (PCEP)

Path Computation Element (PCE) is a network component, application or node that can apply computational constraints and compute a...

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SDN overlay (software defined networking overlay)

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