Cheatography

Data Communications Cheat Sheet
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Types of Networks

LAN	Local Area Network
WAN	Wide Area Network
PAN	Personal Area Network

Types of Connections

Point to Point
Server Client

Path of a Packet

Application	HTTP
Transport	UDP & TCP
Network	IP
Link	Ethernet or Wifi
Physical	Coaxial Ethernet Cable

Network Topologies

Bus	A single cable, the backbone functions as a shared communication medium that devices attach or tap into with an interface connector.
Ring	All messages travel through a ring in the same direction (either "clockwise" or "counterclockwise"). A failure in any cable or device breaks the loop and can take down the entire network.
Star	Features a central connection point called a "hub node" that may be a network hub, switch or router.
Tree	A Bus/Star hybrid in which only hub devices connect directly to the tree bus, and each hub functions as the root of a tree of devices.

Network Topologies (cont)

Mesh	Messages can take any of several possible paths from source to destination. Some WANs, most notably the Internet, employ mesh routing.