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| **Mesh Topology** Devices are connected with many redundant interconnections between network [nodes](http://www.webopedia.com/quick_ref/node.html). In a true mesh topology every node has a connection to every other node in the network.  | http://www.webopedia.com/img/mesh.gif |
| **Star Topology** All devices are connected to a central [hub](http://www.webopedia.com/quick_ref/hub.html). Nodes communicate across the network by passing data through the hub.  | http://www.webopedia.com/img/star.gif |
| **Bus Topology** All devices are connected to a central cable, called the [bus](http://www.webopedia.com/quick_ref/bus.html) or [backbone](http://www.webopedia.com/quick_ref/backbone.html).  | http://www.webopedia.com/img/bus.gif |
| **Ring Topology** All devices are connected to one another in the shape of a closed loop, so that each device is connected directly to two other devices, one on either side of it.  | http://www.webopedia.com/img/ring.gif |
| **Tree Topology** A hybrid topology. Groups of star-configured networks are connected to a linear bus backbone.  | http://www.webopedia.com/img/tree.gif |

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| **Technology** | **Speed** | **Wireless** | **Range** | **Support** | **Cost** |
| Ethernet 10/100 | 100Mbs | N | A | A | A |
| 802.11b | 11Mbps | Y | B | A | B |
| 802.11a | 52/72 Mbps | Y | C | B | C |
| PhoneLine 2.0 | 10Mbps | N | A | B | B |
| Gigabit Ethernet | 1000Mbps | N | A | D | D |
| 802.11g | 22/54Mbps | Y | C | NA | NA |
| Firewire | 400Mbps | N | D | C | A |
| Bluetooth | 1.5Mbps | Y | D | C | C |
| HomeRF 2.0 | 10Mbps | Y | B | C | C |
| PowerLine | 14Mbps | N | A | C | C |