SUBJECT: COMPUTER NETWORKS

Hub (Network Device)

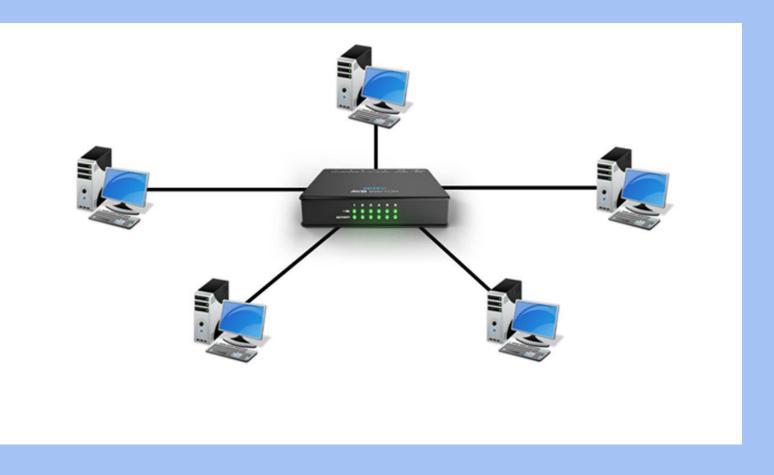
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What is a Hub?

A hub is a simple, relatively inexpensive networking device that operates at the physical layer (Layer 1) of the OSI model.

It serves as a central connection point for multiple devices in a star topology network.

Hubs are considered "dumb" devices because they lack the intelligence to understand or filter network traffic.



How Does a Hub Work?

- Data Reception: A hub receives data packets (electrical signals) from a connected device on one of its ports.
- Broadcast: The hub simply broadcasts the data packet out to all other connected devices, regardless of whether the data is intended for them or not.
- □ Collision Potential: Since all devices share the same bandwidth, if two devices send data simultaneously, a collision can occur, causing data loss and the need for retransmission.

Why were Hubs Used?

Cost-effective: Hubs were a cheap way to connect multiple devices in earlier networks.

❑ Simple setup: Easy to install and configure in basic network environments.

Why are Hubs Largely Obsolete?

□ Inefficiency: Due to the broadcast nature of hubs, a lot of unnecessary traffic is generated on the network, leading to congestion and slowing down communication.

Collision domains: All devices connected to a hub share the same collision domain, meaning collisions are more likely, especially in larger networks.

Security: Since data is broadcasted to every device, hubs offer very poor network security.



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