

Video – Introduction to Packet Tracer

Hello everyone! We'd like to introduce you to an exciting and easy to use network simulation tool: Cisco Packet Tracer. This simulation tool provides amazing features allowing you to build networks from scratch, open sample files from prebuilt networks, test new and existing network designs, and even examine how data flows through your network.

You can build networks that include servers, firewalls, routers, and switches, and even wireless connections. But with Cisco Packet Tracer, it doesn't end there. Packet Tracer provides support for the Internet of Things. In the IoT, known as Internet of Things, devices and sensors that have never been connected before, are now being connected.

Look at the example I prepared here. This beautiful house has multiple devices connected to the network. Now, I was just playing around with Cisco Packet Tracer and I had to edit smart lawn sprinklers, smart ceiling fans, smart door sensor, a smart thermostat, even a water level monitor, and a garage door. And they're all interconnected. We can even set up a wireless router and switches and laptops, firewalls and computers, and new devices called our smart home gateway.

With Cisco Packet Tracer, though, we could either start from here - that blank screen - and build it from scratch, or we can even open up prebuilt sample labs. These are prebuilt sample labs with prebuilt networks. To do it, we'd go to File, and then Open Samples. We are going to have a list of multiple folders where we can browse through different labs. In each of these folders are prebuilt sample labs. For example, we have server labs. In the server labs, we can see security with AAA, DNS, file servers, secure web browsing, email servers, and even go into IoT registration servers for our IoT devices.

For now, we're going to head over to the PC directory, and then the VPN folder. In the VPN folder, there's a VPN Easy file that we can open up. This file gives us a basic VPN connection that we can test within Cisco Packet Tracer. We can follow the instructions to deploy our own VPN.

Packet Tracer is not a replacement for real, physical equipment, but it's an excellent tool that allows you to build and model your own configurations. It also supports a lot of the technology required to practice for your Cisco certification exams. And, good news! Cisco Packet Tracer is free of charge. This tool is available for both Linux and Windows operating systems. It's even available for mobile devices, like smartphones and tablets.

There's so many areas to explore in Cisco Packet Tracer, the best thing you can do right now is download and install the latest version, and just start playing. The opportunities to learn technologies and build your skills are endless. So let's get going, and let's do this.