

Video – Introduction to Physical View

Hello everyone. This is our Cisco Packet Tracer physical view walkthrough video. And this is going to be the best video yet. Here we get to explore in what is called the physical view of Packet Tracer. We've so far been in logical view. Behind the logical view button, we actually have a three-tiered icon, and it's grayed out right now. You can click it, and that takes you to physical view.

Here in physical view, we're going to have a whole new toolbar at the top. We have a navigation toolbar with back buttons, with a little status display that says you're in the intercity. We're able to create things like new cities and new buildings, even container boxes and wiring closets. Then we can move those devices, and closets, and cities around as much as we want, and we're going to be able to even change images as we deploy our physical networks. Logical networking, that's about being able to see devices and how data's moving. Physical topologies and this physical view we're in is more about where the devices are located and how they're cabled. So here in physical view, I have my Packet Tracer up, but on the left side of my Packet Tracer, I have a couple images that we're going to be utilizing with this walkthrough video. These are just commercial images that I have the right to use. I have some graphics we'll bring in regarding world views, city views, and even an office view. Let's get started and have some fun.

In physical view, by default, we can zoom out a little bit, and we can see we get this depiction of what a city would look like logically, and then we even have a little home city container that we're going to work with in a little bit. Right now I'm in the intercity level of physical view. This is as far out as you can get. In order to actually change this graphic, I'm going to go to the top right corner and click on set background. Inside of set background I'll use the browse button, and I'm going to browse for a graphic that I have on my desktop. I want to have the NASA image as my intercity view. As far out as I can get in physical view. I'll just double-click on it, and then I'll click on apply, and check this out. My physical view has a depiction of the entire world, and I can use my magnifying glass to zoom in a little bit, and we can scroll over and take a look at North America, and all these other continents.

Right above North America, I have this next item or container I can go into. And this is going to be our city view. I can click on it and now I'm in a city. I can zoom out again and we see that default image that we have here for what a city would look like, but let's choose our own. I'll click on set background again, browse for my image, on my desktop, and now inside of here let's take a graphic of Minneapolis. We'll take this one. We can double-click on it, click apply, and again, I can zoom in again, recenter my image, and now I have this image of Minneapolis here.

I have another container that's built by Packet Tracer by default, and this container is called corporate office. I can put this in the sky or I can drag and drop it on top of any one of the buildings in my image. The neat thing here is, this is another container that'll take us to another image, but what if I had this amazing network with multiple offices? Here at the top, with these buttons, I can click on new building, and check it out, I get another container. And with these containers, you could actually click on the text right below them, and you can change the names of your buildings. So you could change corporate office to be something else. You can change office building to be, again, anything you like. At the same time, we're going to be able to use some other buttons that we'll see in just a little bit, but I don't need a second office building, so I'm going to go ahead and click on that red x, and I'll click on that office building to delete it.

Let's continue to play, though. Let's go into our corporate office building, which is this building here, in Minneapolis. I'll click on corporate office, and again, I can zoom out, and we get this default topology of what an office floorplan or blueprint would look like. We can use the default one in Packet Tracer or I can click on set background, browse, and just like before, I'll go to the desktop on my computer, and I have a blueprint of an office ready to go. I can double-click on it, and click apply, and now here I have an office blueprint. Again, I can zoom in a little bit, adjust my graphic, and there's something waiting for us. There's another default icon made by Packet Tracer which is a container for the wiring closet.

I can drag and drop this wiring closet in whatever room I want. I'll put it in my network closet over here. And I can even click on this container, and now I just have a blank, white space. Let's do another graphic. Not yet. In this

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wiring closet, we're going to have some fun. This is where we're going to put our network devices for our office building that's in the city of Minneapolis, which is on Planet Earth like we saw in that image when we started. So let's go ahead click on our network devices, and then down below, I want to have a WAN device. Let's click on the Cloud for WAN emulation. I would like a cable modem. So I'll click on cable modem, and I'll click on my physical topology in my main wiring closet. I'll see I have a table now, and on the table is a cable modem. Also, that cable modem should probably attach to something. So I'm going to go ahead and click on a firewall. That'll be in the security category, and there's the 5505 Cisco ASA firewall. I'll click on it, and then we try to put it on the table. Click on the table, it says, no thank you. It puts it in a wiring network rack. From there my firewall is deployed. How about we get ourselves a router? So I'll go and head over to the wireless devices, and I'll just click on a WRT300N wireless router. I'll click on it and I'll click on the table, and now I have a wireless router as well. Lastly, it'd be nice to have a PC somewhere, so I'll click on end device, and we'll have a PC or a server. Let's go with a server. I'll click on the server and I'll click on the table. It says, no thanks, and it puts it in my network rack. So right now, I physically have a wireless router, a cable modem, an ASA firewall, and a server, but nothing's cabled yet.

For ease of cabling, and also I wanted to show you something. We're going to go back to the logical view. Go ahead and click on the logical icon, top left corner, and here's all the devices. They're just randomly placed in logical view. So logically we're going to move our devices around a little bit, get them organized, and then we're going to cable them. For cabling, we'll just click on the orange connections button, click on the connection for automatically choose, and we'll just click on the cable modem and click on the firewall. The cable modem will hook directly to the firewall. We'll do it again, automatic cable selection, the firewall to the wireless router. Then the wireless router to the server.

At this time our devices are physically cabled, but we don't really have a depiction of what this physically looks like. So let's go back to the physical view again by clicking on the physical tab, and check it out. We see colored cables now interconnecting our devices. We can zoom in a little bit, and let's scroll over to that table, and we can actually hover over the orange cable coming off of the cable modem, and it tells us this cable's destination device is hooked to the ASA firewall. The destination port is ethernet zero zero, and even the cable length. If I scroll over and take a look at that network rack, there's the firewall with the orange cable that goes to the cable modem. Then there's a green cable on our ASA firewall and this says it goes to the destination device of wireless router. We can then head over the wireless router, hover over the green port connected into the internet port on the wireless router, and it says, yeah, this goes to the ASA firewall. The other port here is connected to our server. We'll see that pop up as well. We can then scroll over and take a look at the server, and we'll see that green port, which is connected to that wireless router. We can physically see how our networks are built.

Now, to close it all up, let's have one more piece of awesome fun. Go back by clicking the back button, and this takes you back one level, and look at this. It's all blue now, but what does that mean? Click back again, now there's this bubble around our main office. This bubble's your wireless signal. That's kind of cool. You play with wireless settings, you can adjust it. But this is our one office building, and again, when you click on that office building, we can see our wireless coverage, and we see our wiring closet. But a lot of buildings have multiple wiring closets, so you can go ahead and click on new closet in the top left corner. Packet Tracer gives you a new wiring closet. Drag and drop it wherever you want, click on it, and now you can deploy a whole other table of equipment and devices. We'll back up and go all the way out our office, the city we work in, the office building in that city, go back further, the planet you're on, and check it out. All your graphics have been modified, and you can click through your physical view, organize your devices, and view how things are physically placed and cabled.

Please take the time to practice and play with Cisco Packet Tracer and the physical view. It is a great way to learn about connecting devices and interconnecting the world around you.