Video – PT File Types

Hello everyone. This is our Cisco Packet Tracer file types walkthrough video. In this video we're going to walk through three different types of Packet Tracer file extensions that you may see in your Cisco Academy courses. So let's get started.

This activity I have up right here, you may have seen it before. This may have come from a previous chapter. In this activity we have a PC hooked to a wireless router, a wireless router to a cable modem, connected to the internet, and connected to a Cisco.com webserver. And there's this laptop sitting out there for wireless. But let's go into the actual file type that this is. At the top of our window we see it's a PKT file. A PKT file is a Packet Tracer file where you've just opened up Packet Tracer and you've built a network from scratch. With this type of environment here, we can actually add a background image, like we've seen before. So we'll click on Set Tiled Background and then I can click on Browse. And on my desktop I have an estate image. I can double click on it, and then I can click on apply, and now my background will change. I can close off the background image window and now we have the estate. Now the cool thing here is I've embedded this graphic into the activity.pkt file. What I'm going to do now is click File > Save As, and right below Save As before I click it, there's a Save As PKZ. A PKZ is a different file extension in Packet Tracer. A PKZ supports more file embedding features, including things like a PDF. We don't use it as much though, so we're going to stick with where we are now which is the PKT. So I'm going to click Save As. And I'll choose my desktop. And I'm going to call this NewActivity because it's the original activity but now with an estate graphic added into it. I'll click save, and now I have my activity saved as NewActivity. So it appears on my desktop right below my other activity and now what I'm going to do is go ahead and close the NewActivity. I'll use the red x to close it. I'm not going to save it again. It has already been saved. And now I'm going to click on the graphic that I embedded into the new activity. And I'm going to delete it. So I'll go ahead and delete that graphic. And check it out. The graphic is deleted and I'm going to open up the NewActivity again. The same activity file that we put that graphic in. So it opens up and check it out. In that activity file that we put the estate graphic in and then deleted the graphic, the graphic is still here. With PKT files, when you embed a graphic inside of it, I can now take this file and I can email it to a friend, I can post it inside of our Cisco Academy Packet Tracer Facebook group. And you're actually able to then share a Packet Tracer file with an embedded image. So I don't need to send the file of the graphic as an attachment wherever I post the Packet Tracer. The graphic is now part of the Packet Tracer. So this is a cool feature of Packet Tracer because then you can custom build your own networks while you practice, put a beautiful topology image, and it's all maintained within the PKT file.

So let's continue onwards now and go to the next file type. We've mentioned PKZ. We've mentioned PKT. Now we're going to do PKA. So here I am on Cisco Netacad in one of the courses known as Networking Essentials. And as you go through course reading on Netacad, eventually you might come to a page that has what's called a PKA file. And here we see this is a Packet Tracer troubleshooting wireless lab. Inside of this page that we're on, there's a link where I can click and get the PKA file for Packet Tracer. So we'll go ahead and click on that. I'll get a download window where I'm going to open up this Packet Tracer activity. And this is going to be what's called a PKA or an activity file, not just a PKT like we saw before. With a PKA file, what we're actually going to see here, and I'm going to close off the profile. What we're going to see here is that we have the lab activity just like before. I'll resize my window a little bit. But what comes with the PKA is also an instruction window. And in this instruction window, we have walkthrough for what we need to do to complete this assignment. At the bottom of this activity window, we even see it supports a completion percentage. This will track my successful configuration of this lab. As I successfully configure the lab, that completion score is going to be counting upwards towards 100%. On the right side we have a pre-built network. We also the ability inside of here to not only of course read the instructions as mentioned, but there's a check results feature. With that grading scale, saying I'm at 0%, I can click on check results and I might be able to get more feedback. The original feedback shows the activity is incomplete, keep working at it. There is a connectivity task tab where sometimes you can even see what's being tested on. Maybe one PC talking with another. If it's enabled for the course, you'll actually have the ability to do assessment items and be able to see the exact items that you're getting graded wrong on. Helps you out when you're trying to figure out what you're doing incorrectly. I'll go ahead and close this check results window and again, we're back to the lab environment.

So, inside of this lab environment for PKA files, you'll be tested on successfully fixing a problem or building a network from the ground up. Either way, you need to get comfortable with using Packet Tracer and now you know the different extensions of PKT, PKZ, and PKA.