

Wired Methods of Connecting Devices

Computers need to transmit data. This can be internally transmitting data between the different components (such as between the CPU and RAM), or it can be externally transmitting data between an IT system and it's peripherals.

		Use	✓	✗
USB		Is a connector that is very commonly used with peripheral devices.	It has fast transfer speeds, can connect multiple devices, provides power and is very compatible with computers.	It does have a relatively short range.
SATA		Is a connector that is most commonly used with internal storage devices but can work with external ones.	It is very fast and very compatible with computer systems.	It has a short range and doesn't supply power.
VGA		Is a connector that is used with display devices.	It is compatible with older devices and has built-in locking mechanisms.	The signal can degrade easily, it cannot achieve a very high resolution and doesn't include an audio signal.
HDMI		Is another connector that is used with display devices.	It is capable of excellent resolutions and transmits an audio signal too.	It doesn't have a locking mechanism.
Ethernet Cable		Is used to transmit data between IT systems, often in a local area network.	It is very reliable, has a good range and is very compatible with computers.	It does offer limited mobility, is often not compatible with mobile devices and cannot transmit data over very long distances.
Fibre Optic		Is a method of transmitting data between IT systems that is commonly seen used as part of the telephone network.	It has excellent transfer speeds & range and also is very secure.	It is very expensive.

Wireless Methods of Connecting Devices

More and more commonly we are seeing wireless connection methods replacing these wired methods in many instances.

		Use	✓	✗
Infrared		Is a wireless connection that is commonly used with remote controls. It was also commonly used with peripheral devices like wireless mice & keyboard, but not as much anymore.	It has a low susceptibility to interference.	It is short ranged, requires line of sight and is slow.
Bluetooth		Is a wireless connection that is commonly used with peripheral devices like wireless mice & keyboards. It's also used to transfer data between two IT systems and to share a mobile broadband connection.	It is easy to connect, has a low susceptibility to interference and has a low power consumption.	It is also relatively slow and not very secure.
WiFi		Is a wireless connection that is used to access the internet, create a wireless LAN and to connect to some peripherals such as printers.	It is relatively fast and long ranged and has a low installation cost.	It can be complex to set up and insecure.
Mobile Broadband		Is a mobile connection that is used with mobile devices to access the internet on the go.	It is widely available wherever you are and is very easy to connect to.	It is expensive and is quite a bit slower than WiFi connections.

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