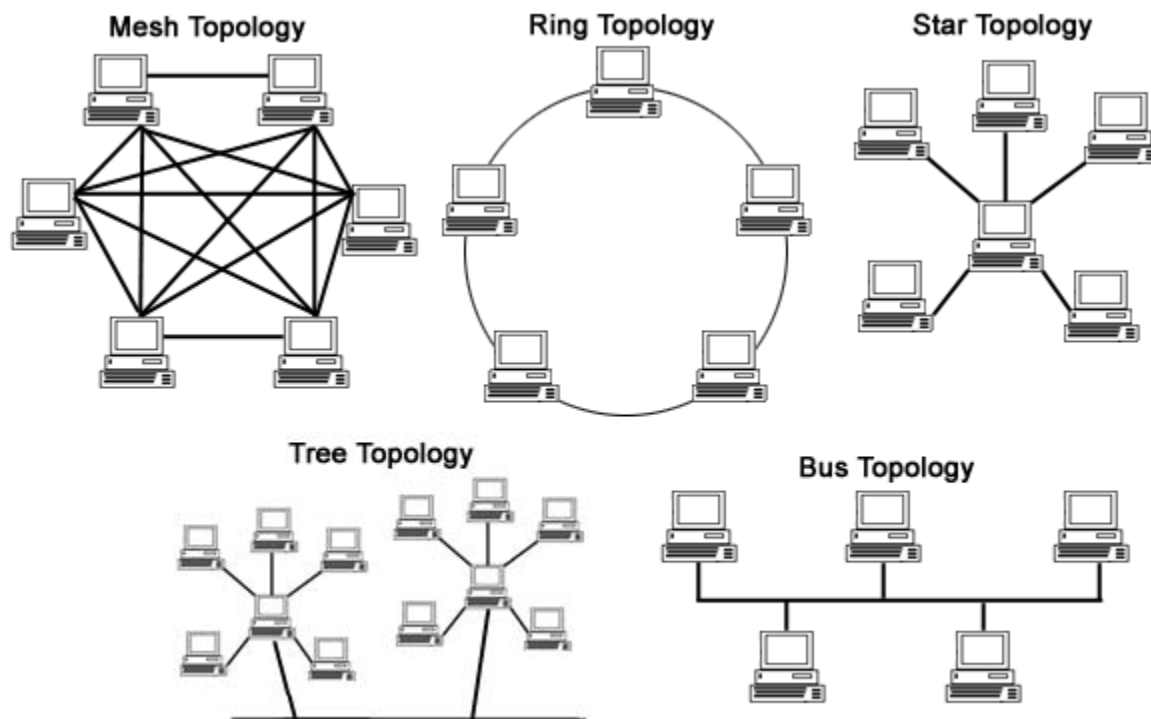**A network** is a collection of computers, servers, mainframes, network devices, peripherals, or other devices connected to one another to allow the sharing of data. An example of a network is the Internet, which connects millions of people all over the world.

Network topologies and types of networks

The term network topology describes the relationship of connected devices in terms of a geometric graph. Devices are represented as vertices, and their connections are represented as edges on the graph. It describes how many connections each device has, in what order, and it what sort of hierarchy.

Typical network configurations include the bus topology, mesh topology, ring topology, star topology, tree topology and hybrid topology.

Examples of network topologies

Mesh Topology

Ring Topology

Star Topology

Tree Topology

Bus Topology

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Most home networks are configured in a tree topology that connects to the Internet. Corporate networks often use tree topologies, but they also often incorporate star topologies.