Topology

Topology defines the structure of the network of how all the components are interconnected to each other. Network Topology is the schematic description of a network arrangement, connecting various nodes (sender and receiver) through lines of connection.

Types of Network Topology

Bus Topology:

Bus topology is a network type in which every computer and network device is connected to a single cable. It transmits data from one end to another in a single direction. No bi-directional feature is in bus topology.

Features of Bus Topology

- The bus topology is designed in such a way that all the stations are connected through a single cable known as a backbone cable.
- Each node is either connected to the backbone cable by drop cable or directly connected to the backbone cable.
- When a node wants to send a message over the network, it puts a message over the network. All the stations available in the network will receive the message whether it has been addressed or not.
- The bus topology is mainly used in 802.3 (Ethernet) and 802.4 standard networks.
- The configuration of a bus topology is quite simpler as compared to other topologies.
- The backbone cable is considered as a "single lane" through which the message is broadcast to all the stations.
The most common access method of the bus topologies is **CSMA** (Carrier Sense Multiple Access).

**CSMA:** It is a media access control used to control the data flow so that data integrity is maintained, i.e., the packets do not get lost. There are two alternative ways of handling the problems that occur when two nodes send the messages simultaneously.

- **CSMA CD:** CSMA CD (**Collision detection**) is an access method used to detect the collision. Once the collision is detected, the sender will stop transmitting the data. Therefore, it works on "**recovery after the collision**".
- **CSMA CA:** CSMA CA (**Collision Avoidance**) is an access method used to avoid the collision by checking whether the transmission media is busy or not. If busy, then the sender waits until the media becomes idle. This technique effectively reduces the possibility of the collision. It does not work on "recovery after the collision".

**Advantages of Bus Topology**

1. It is cost effective.
2. Cable required is least compared to other network topology.
4. It is easy to understand.
5. Easy to expand joining two cables together.

**Disadvantages of Bus Topology**

1. Cables fails then whole network fails.
2. If network traffic is heavy or nodes are more the performance of the network decreases.
3. Cable has a limited length.
4. It is slower than the ring topology.

**Exercise:**
