

TIP: *What is Fibre Channel?*

Fibre Channel is a standard originally developed by ANSI in 1988 and approved in 1994. The standard supports high speed data communications among mainframes, work stations, desktop computers, storage devices and other peripherals. It is typically used to quickly transfer large amounts of data. Fibre Channel combines the advantages of traditional channels such as SCSI with protocol networks like Ethernet.

Is the word "fibre" misspelled?

No. Because fibre channel can operate over both copper and fiber-optic lines, the trade association changed to the French spelling, *fibre*, to avoid the notion that it worked only over fiber-optic cable.

There are Three Topologies:

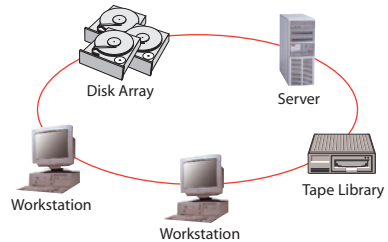
Point-to-Point

The least complicated topology, it uses simple bi-directional links between two connected devices.



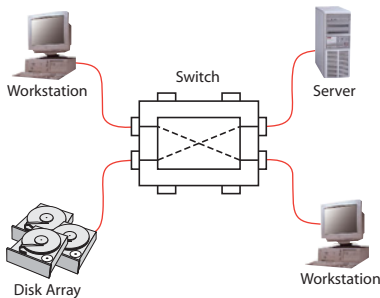
Arbitrated Loop

Provides an economical, high speed connection for up to 126 devices. The devices are arranged in a loop configuration. A switching device is not necessary.



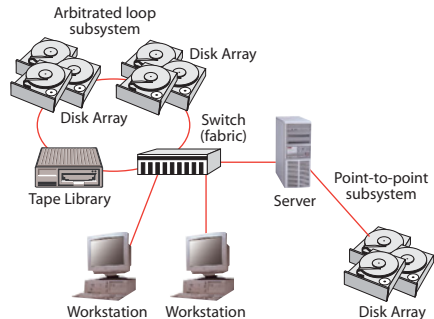
Crosspoint Switch (Fabric Switched)

The most complex topology, it allows many devices to communicate simultaneously. Requires a switch to act as the heart of the network.

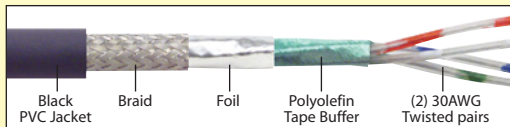


Combining Topologies:

A fabric with arbitrated loop and point-to-point subsystems.



Cable Construction



Connectors

