



Frequently Asked Questions: Packet Tracer 5.0

Last updated July 10, 2008

Q. What is Packet Tracer 5.0?

A. Packet Tracer (PT) 5.0 is a comprehensive, networking technology teaching and learning program that offers a unique combination of realistic simulation and visualization experiences, assessment and activity authoring capabilities, and opportunities for multiuser collaboration and competition. Innovative features of the PT 5.0 software will help students and teachers collaborate, solve problems, and learn concepts in an engaging and dynamic social environment. Some of the benefits of Packet Tracer 5.0 are as follows:

- Provides a realistic simulation and visualization learning environment that supplements classroom equipment
- Enables multiuser, real-time collaboration and competition for dynamic learning
- Enables authoring and localization of structured learning activities such as labs, demonstrations, quizzes, exams, and games
- Empowers students to explore concepts, conduct experiments, and test their understanding
- Allows students and teachers to design, build, configure, and troubleshoot networks using virtual equipment
- Supports a variety of teaching and learning tasks such as lectures, group and individual labs, homework, and competitions

Q. What's new in Packet Tracer 5.0?

A. Packet Tracer 5.0 makes teaching and learning networking technology easier through a number of new features:

Additional platform support: Packet Tracer 5.0 runs on an expanded list of platforms, including Windows (Windows XP, Windows 2000, Vista Home Basic, and Vista Home Premium) and Linux (Ubuntu and Fedora).

Additional protocol support: Packet Tracer 5.0 supports an expanded list of protocols to reflect current networking trends in government and industry, including IPv6, multi-area OSPF, route redistribution, RSTP, SSH, and multilayer switching. PT 5.0 also includes more protocol support for teaching CCNA-level concepts and deeper modeling of protocols.

Multiuser functionality: Packet Tracer 5.0 is a peer-to-peer, network-capable application that enables social learning. The multiuser functionality supports collaboration, competition, remote instructor-student interaction, social networking, and gaming.

Q. How do I obtain Packet Tracer 5.0?

A. PT 5.0 is available free of charge to all Networking Academy instructors, students, and alumni. The software can be downloaded from the Packet Tracer resource page on Academy Connection. To access this page, log in to Academy Connection and click the **Packet Tracer** graphic on the left of the page, then select the appropriate download package for your needs.

Q. Is Packet Tracer 4.11 still available?

A. Packet Tracer 5.0 has superseded PT 4.11 and is the only version of Packet Tracer that is currently available for download from Academy Connection.

Q. Do I need to upgrade to Packet Tracer 5.0 immediately?

A. Packet Tracer 5.0 is a major new release that includes numerous functions that are not available in PT 4.11. Although there are no curricula requirements that make it necessary to move to PT 5.0, you may want to upgrade to the new version to take advantage of the many improvements and new features included in this release.

Q. Can I use activities created in a prior version of Packet Tracer with PT 5.0?

A. Yes. Packet Tracer 5.0 supports activities authored in PT 4.0, 4.01, 4.1, and 4.11. All activities included in the CCNA Discovery and CCNA Exploration curricula are also fully compatible with Packet Tracer 5.0.

Q. Can I use a new activity created in PT 5.0 with a prior version of Packet Tracer?

A. No. Activities authored in Packet Tracer 5.0 can only be used with the 5.0 software. Packet Tracer 4.0, 4.01, 4.1, and 4.11 cannot load PT 5.0 data files; they will open as blank activities.

Q. What happens if I'm still using an older 4.x version of Packet Tracer and have an issue?

A. If you are still using PT 4.0, 4.01, 4.1, or 4.11 and encounter an issue, please download and install Packet Tracer 5.0. Most known issues in the 4.x versions of Packet Tracer have been fixed in the new 5.0 release. If the issue persists in the latest version, please contact the Global Support desk for assistance. To access the Support Desk, log in to Academy Connection and click **Help** at the top of the page, then select **Academy Support**.

Q. Can students and instructors install Packet Tracer 5.0 on their home computers or personal laptops?

A. Yes. Packet Tracer can be freely distributed to any Networking Academy instructor, student, or alumni. This enables students to use Packet Tracer on their home computers or on any computer outside of class for homework, practice, and exploratory learning.

Q. On what platforms can I install and run Packet Tracer 5.0?

A. Packet Tracer 5.0 is compatible with the following platforms: Windows (Windows XP, Windows 2000, Vista Home Basic, and Vista Home Premium) and Linux (Ubuntu and Fedora).

Q. What are the system requirements for Packet Tracer 5.0?

A. To successfully install and run PT 5.0, the following minimum prerequisites must be met:

- CPU: Intel Pentium 300 MHz or equivalent
- OS: Microsoft Windows 2000, Windows XP, Vista Home Basic, Vista Home Premium, Fedora 7, or Ubuntu 7.10
- RAM: 96 MB
- Storage: 250 MB of free disk space
- Screen resolution: 800 x 600 or higher
- Macromedia Flash Player 6.0 or higher
- Language fonts supporting Unicode encoding (if viewing in languages other than English)
- Latest video card drivers and operating system updates

For **maximum** performance when running PT 5.0, the following capabilities are recommended:

- CPU: Intel Pentium II 500 MHz or better
- OS: Microsoft Windows XP
- RAM: 256 MB or more
- Storage: 300 MB of free disk space
- Screen resolution: 1024 x 768
- Sound card and speakers
- Internet connection: 56K dial-up or faster (if using the multiuser feature)

Q. What protocols can be modeled using Packet Tracer 5.0?

A. PT 5.0 supports the following protocols:

- HTTP, Telnet, SSH, TFTP, DHCP, and DNS
- TCP and UDP; IPv4, IPv6, ICMPv4, and ICMPv6
- RIP, EIGRP, multi-area OSPF, static routing, and route redistribution
- Ethernet/802.3, 802.11, HDLC, Frame Relay, and PPP
- ARP, CDP, STP, RSTP, 802.1q, VTP, DTP, and PAgP

Q. Are there any activities available that demonstrate the new protocols or other new features in Packet Tracer 5.0?

A. Supplemental PT 5.0 activities that complement the CCNA Discovery and CCNA Exploration curricula are available for download from the Packet Tracer resource page, including activities demonstrating OSPF, IPv6, SSH, RSTP, Spanning Tree, VLANs, and Frame Relay.

Q. Will new Packet Tracer 5.0 activities be included in the CCNA curricula?

A. New PT5.0 activities that complement the CCNA Discovery and CCNA Exploration curricula will be integrated into the course materials during the next minor revision of each curriculum. We will provide more information when it is available.

Q. Why isn't IGRP available in Packet Tracer 5.0?

A. IGRP is a protocol that is being phased out on Cisco equipment and is being replaced by EIGRP. The version of the IOS that PT 5.0 emulates does not contain IGRP.

Q. What can I create using the Activity Wizard?

A. The Activity Wizard allows users to set up scenarios using text, basic network topologies, and predefined packets. Users can create customized network scenarios and add instructional text. The Activity Wizard also includes grading and feedback capabilities. Instructors can use the Activity Wizard to create an unlimited number of guided and exploratory learning experiences that provide immediate feedback to students. These activities can also be saved and shared with other instructors in the Networking Academy community.

Q. Why won't the Packet Tracer tutorials launch so I can view them?

A. If your browser has a pop-up blocker enabled, it may prevent the tutorials from launching. Disable all pop-up blockers to view the tutorials.

Q. Why can't I set up a wireless connection to another copy of Packet Tracer using the multiuser functionality?

A. Wireless connectivity uses a distance parameter set within each instance of Packet Tracer to establish connectivity. In a multiuser connection, the distance parameter cannot be specified, so a wireless connection is not possible.

- Q. Why isn't the multiuser functionality supported in the Activity Wizard?**
- A.** There is currently no way to pass evaluation data across a network between multiple instances of Packet Tracer because of the way that Packet Tracer evaluates the networks in an activity.
- Q. Why can't I create a custom device in the Linux Ubuntu version of Packet Tracer?**
- A.** In order to create a custom device, the Packet Tracer application needs to be able to write to the PT/template folder. In Ubuntu, Packet Tracer must be installed at the root level, and then run as root, in order to successfully write to this folder.
- Q. Where can I get help with issues related to downloading or installing Packet Tracer 5.0?**
- A.** For general assistance, contact the Global Support Desk. To access the Support Desk, log in to Academy Connection and click **Help** at the top of the page, then select **Academy Support**.
- Q. Where should I report bugs in the Packet Tracer program or Packet Tracer activities in the CCNA curricula?**
- A.** Please report bugs and errors through the Curriculum and Assessment Quality Support site. To access this site, log in to Academy Connection and click **Help** at the top of the page, then select **Curriculum and Assessment Quality Support**. Select the **Contact Curriculum Team** tab, provide as much detail as possible, and then click **Submit**.
- Q. Where can I go to discuss using Packet Tracer in the classroom, ask other instructors for ideas and feedback, or share Packet Tracer activities that I've developed?**
- A.** To collaborate with other instructors, join the Packet Tracer community discussion. To access the discussion board, log in to Academy Connection and click **Forums & Chat** under Resources, then select **Instructor Community**, then **Packet Tracer**.