



Lab 3.1.9f UTP Cable Purchase – Instructor Version

Objective

- Introduce the variety and prices of network cabling and components in the market.
- Gather pricing information for UTP patch cables and bulk cable.

Background

Put together a price list for an upcoming cabling project. Gather pricing information for the horizontal (UTP) cabling. If UTP is not used in the immediate area, substitute shielded products. The items include the following:

- 24 – 1 m (3 ft) Category 5 or higher UTP patch cables
- 24 – 3 m (10 ft) Category 5 or higher UTP patch cables
- 2 – 15 m (50 ft) Category 5 or higher UTP patch cables
- 152.4 m (500 ft) UTP compare the price to shielded twisted pair
- 152.4 m (500 ft) UTP plenum

Step 1 Research cable pricing

Use at least three sources for pricing. On the Web try <http://www.cdw.com> and <http://www.google.com>. Perform searches from those sites looking for **Category 5 jumpers**, **Category 5 patch**, and **Category 5 bulk**. While the CDW site will give prices quickly, the Google search will turn up many interesting things from custom cable building firms to instructions for building cables. Also refer to networking equipment and supplies catalogs.

Step 2 Compile a table of the results

Answers are variable. Prices depend on the site being purchased from and the availability of the product. Other issues may concern the color of the cable and whether it is Category 5, Category 5e or Category 6.

Students may have questions about whether the cable should be stranded or solid. The general answer to that is that it depends on what the cable is used for. Patch cable is stranded while cable connecting the closet to outlets is most often solid.

Another issue that may appear is that some providers may not provide bulk cable in lengths of 500 ft. As seen in the chart below, 500 ft. was not available, so 1000 ft. was selected.

Site, Catalog or Store	www.cdw.com	www.blackbox.com	www.cables.com
24 - 1 m (3 ft) Category 5 or	<u>\$190.80</u>	<u>\$131.04</u>	<u>\$70.80</u>
24 - 3 m (10 ft) Category 5 or	<u>\$286.80</u>	<u>\$184.80</u>	<u>\$60.00</u>
2 - 15 m (50 ft) Category 5 or	<u>\$47.90</u>	<u>\$45.90</u>	<u>\$12.00</u>
152.4 m (500 ft) UTP	<u>\$103.95</u>	<u>\$79.00</u>	<u>\$69.00</u>
152.4 m (500 ft) shielded twisted	<u>\$249.95</u>	<u>\$158.97</u>	<u>N/A</u>
152.4 m (500 ft) UTP plenum	<u>\$322.95 (1000 ft)</u>	<u>\$139.80</u>	<u>\$189.99 (1000 ft)</u>