Brief Detail of Network Cable Generation or Category

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| **Category** | **Maximum data rate** | **Usual application** |
| CAT 1 (de facto name, never a standard) | Up to 1 [Mbps](http://searchnetworking.techtarget.com/definition/Mbps) (1[MHz](http://searchnetworking.techtarget.com/definition/MHz)) | [Analog](http://searchcio-midmarket.techtarget.com/definition/analog) voice ([POTS](http://searchenterpriselinux.techtarget.com/definition/plain-old-telephone-service)) Basic Rate Interface in [ISDN](http://searchenterprisewan.techtarget.com/definition/ISDN) Doorbell wiring |
| CAT 2 (de facto name, never a standard) | 4 Mbps | Mainly used in the IBM cabling system for [Token Ring](http://searchnetworking.techtarget.com/definition/Token-Ring)networks |
| CAT 3 | 16 Mbps | Voice (analog most popular implementation) [10BASE-T](http://searchnetworking.techtarget.com/definition/10BASE-T) [Ethernet.](http://searchnetworking.techtarget.com/definition/Ethernet) |
| CAT 4 | 20 Mbps | Used in 16 Mbps Token Ring. Otherwise not used much.  Was only a standard briefly and never widely installed. |
| CAT 5 | 100 MHz | 100 Mbps TPDDI 155 Mbps [ATM.](http://searchnetworking.techtarget.com/definition/ATM)  No longer supported; replaced by 5E. 10/100BASE-T 4/16MBps Token Ring Analog Voice |
| CAT 5E | 100 MHz | 100 Mbps TPDDI 155 Mbps [ATM](http://searchnetworking.techtarget.com/definition/ATM) [Gigabit Ethernet.](http://searchnetworking.techtarget.com/definition/Gigabit-Ethernet)  Offers better [near-end crosstalk](http://searchnetworking.techtarget.com/definition/near-end-crosstalk) than CAT 5 |
| CAT 6 | Up to 250 [MHz](http://searchnetworking.techtarget.com/definition/MHz) | Minimum cabling for data centers in [TIA-942.](http://searchdatacenter.techtarget.com/definition/TIA-942) Quickly replacing category 5e. |
| CAT 6E | Up to 500 [MHz](http://searchnetworking.techtarget.com/definition/MHz) (field-tested to 500 MHz) | Support for 10 Gigabit Ethernet ([10GBASE-T.](http://searchnetworking.techtarget.com/definition/10-Gigabit-Ethernet)) May be either shielded (STP, ScTP, S/FTP) or unshielded (UTP). This standard published in Feb. 2008. Minimum for Data Centers in ISO data center standard. |
| CAT 7 (ISO Class F) | 600 MHz 1.2 [GHz](http://searchnetworking.techtarget.com/definition/gigahertz) in pairs with Siemon connector | Full-motion video Teleradiology Government and manufacturing environments Fully Shielded (S/FTP) system using non-RJ45 connectors but backwards compatible with hybrid cords. Until February 2008, the only standard (published in 2002) to support 10GBASE-T for a full 100m. |