

2-2 Identifying Cable Costs

In this project, you use the Internet to identify cable characteristics and associated costs.

As a network administrator, you will need to have a detailed knowledge of network media and their associated connectors. When you are called upon to troubleshoot or implement a network, this knowledge will prove invaluable.

A common task for network administrators is to source out the costs of cable and connectors. Consider the following scenario: You have been contracted by SnickCo, a maker of snowshoes and toques, to begin the process of implementing a network. SnickCo requires a network of 30 systems and needs to know the costs associated with the media for the network. The network will require both UTP and 20 feet of STP cable.

Estimated time: 20 minutes

1. Get on the Internet and from a search engine, look for a company that sells network cable. The search is likely to return many results, and it may be necessary to restrict your search to local vendors.
2. Browse a vendor's Web site and locate UTP Category 5/5e and STP cable.
3. To connect 25 systems with UTP cable, you need 25 patch cables. To connect other network devices, you need additional cables.
4. Continue to search the site for the costs for the STP cable. To get a better idea of costs, it might be necessary to find information from several vendors.
5. Compare the cost of buying bulk cable and connectors to the cost of buying pre-made cables and connectors.
6. Create a spreadsheet that details the cost for the company.