Study on different types of networking devices.

Apparatus (Software): No software or hardware needed.

1. **Repeater:** Functioning at Physical Layer. A **repeater** is an electronic device that receives a signal and retransmits it at a higher level and/or higher power, or onto the other side of an obstruction, so that the signal can cover longer distances. Repeater have two ports, so cannot be use to connect for more than two devices.

2. Hub: An **Ethernet hub**, **active hub**, **network hub**, **repeater hub**, **hub** or **concentrator** is a device for connecting multiple twisted pair or fiber optic Ethernet devices together and making them act as a single network segment. Hubs work at the physical layer (layer 1) of the OSI model. The device is a form of multiport repeater. Repeater hubs also participate in collisiondetection, forwarding a jam signal to all ports if it detects a collision.

3. **Switch:** A **network switch** or **switching hub** is a computer networking device that connects network segments. The term commonly refers to a network bridge that processes and routes data at the data link layer (layer 2) of the OSI model. Switches that additionally process data at the network layer (layer 3 and above) are often referred to as Layer 3 switches or multilayer switches.

4. **Bridge:** A **network bridge** connects multiple network segments at the data link layer (Layer 2) of the OSI model. In Ethernet networks, the term *bridge* formally means a device that behavesaccording to the IEEE 802.1D standard. A bridge and switch are very much alike; a switch being a bridge with numerous ports. *Switch* or *Layer 2 switch* is often used interchangeably with *bridge*. Bridges can analyze incoming data packets to determine if the bridge is able to send the given packet to another segment of the network.

5. **Router:** A **router** is an electronic device that interconnects two or more computer networks,and selectively interchanges packets of data between them. Each data packet contains address information that a router can use to determine if the source and destination are on the same network, or if the data packet must be transferred from one network to another. Where multiplerouters are used in a large collection of interconnected networks, the routers exchange

information about target system addresses, so that each router can build up a table showing the preferred paths between any two systems on the interconnected networks.

6. **Gate Way:** In a communications network, a network node equipped for interfacing withanother network that uses different protocols.

• A gateway may contain devices such as protocol translators, impedance matching devices, rate converters, fault isolators, or signal translators as necessary to provide system interoperability. It also requires the establishment of mutually acceptable administrative procedures between both networks.

• A protocol translation/mapping gateway interconnects networks with different network protocol technologies by performing the required protocol conversions.