

Trunk Communication Optical Cable Planning

Article Overview

Effective trunk optical cable planning requires careful consideration of topology, fiber type, routing, environmental factors, and installation methods to ensure high-capacity, reliable, and maintainable networks.

Key Design Considerations

1. **Network Topology and Trunk Structure** Trunk cables form the backbone of communication networks, connecting major nodes or regions. Common topologies include spine-and-leaf for data centers and trunk-and-branch for submarine or regional networks (). Trunk-and-branch designs optimize cable length and cost by strategically placing branching units (BUs) and landing stations, often modeled as a weighted Steiner tree problem to minimize total construction and installation costs ().

2. **Fiber Type and Count** High fiber count trunks are essential for modern high-bandwidth applications. Single-mode fibers like OS2 G.657.A2 are preferred for long-distance backbones, while multimode fibers (OM4/OM5) may be used for short, high-speed links (). Fiber counts should align with current and projected bandwidth demands, considering future upgrades to 25G, 40G, or 100G Ethernet.

3. **Routing and Environmental Factors** For terrestrial and submarine trunks, route planning must account for terrain, seabed topography, seismic activity, protected habitats, and human activities such as fishing or anchoring (). Automated path planning tools, incorporating constraints like minimum crossing angles with existing cables, improve safety and maintainability (). For indoor or campus networks, routing decisions involve ducts, risers, trays, or aerial spans, balancing accessibility and protection ()...

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