

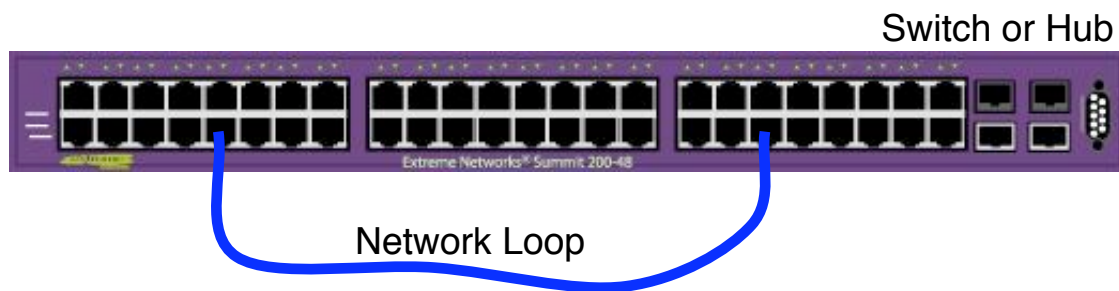


A network "Loop" simply put is a data connection that connects to itself. Network loops will often affect everyone on a school network and cause considerable frustration.

Below are examples of "Network Loops" which can cause an entire network to fail or at the very least cause intermittent network connectivity for workstations and servers. Some symptoms of a network loop are:

- ~ Internet access fails intermittently during the day.
- ~ Local network performance or Internet access becomes very slow.
- ~ Workstations can not connect to servers or lose their connection to servers.
- ~ Workstations are unable to check email or go to the Internet.

Network Loop Example #1



In this simple example a cat 5 cable is plugged into two ports on a switch. The result is a very slow network or the network will fail.

Network Loop Example #2



Network wall plate in a classroom can easily be looped during the summer when workstations are unplugged and the classroom is cleaned.

Network Loop Example #3



This a more complex example but happens often. A staff member wants a wireless access point in their classroom. They bring one from home and plug it in thinking the new addition is very harmless. The staff member plugs the wireless unit in incorrectly.

This loop is often hard to find and causes intermittent network failures affecting others.