

Unit 8: Data Communications and Networks

Learning hours: 60

NQF level 4: BTEC Higher Nationals – H1

Description of unit

The aim of this unit is to develop an understanding of the architecture, operation and major design issues relating to data networks. It also covers the networking devices required for network operation and interconnection. The unit also aims to develop an appreciation of the properties of public and private switched networks (eg public switched telephone network (PSTN), packet switched data network (PSDN) and integrated services digital network (ISDN)).

Summary of learning outcomes

To achieve this unit a learner must:

- 1 Investigate **data communication networks and the requirement for open systems**
- 2 Investigate the **methods employed for data communication**
- 3 Investigate **local area networks**
- 4 Investigate **wide area networks** and internet working.