

Tested Ethernet Products

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Repeater hubs and media converters are relatively simple network components and most of the devices we have tested performed well. We have also tested switches from a number of different manufacturers. Problems have been encountered with a few devices, so please refer to the list of products [not recommended](#) for use in a CobraNet system design.

If you are not familiar with how these devices operate, refer to the [Ethernet Overview](#) section for a discussion of hubs and switches and how they work.

Recommended Products

The equipment that we have actually used (successfully) in our CobraNet labs is listed below:

Switches

For switched networks, proper operation with CobraNet hinges on the CobraNet timing specifications. These specifications are difficult to exceed if all links are at least 100Mbit, none of the links are saturated and there are no more than 7 switches through any active path in the network. Internal bandwidth limitations tend to be the most typical reason for disqualifying a switch from use in a CobraNet design.

If the switch you plan to use is not on our list of "recommended devices" we highly recommend that you [contact us](#). We'd be glad to assist you in switch selection.

Product	Manufacturer	Model	Expansion Slots ³
Managed Switch	Allied Telesyn	AT- 8224XL ² , 24-10/100 ports	2
Managed Switch	Allied Telesyn	AT 8216FXL/SC , 16-100BASE-FX ports	2
Unmanaged Switch	Allied Telesyn	AT- FS709 FC , 8-10/100 ports, 1 100BASE-FX port	No
Unmanaged Switch	Allied Telesyn	AT- FS705E FC , 4-10/100 ports, 1 100BASE-FX port	No
Managed Switch	3Com	Superstack 3 Switch 3300 ² XM, 24-10/100 ports	1
Managed Switch	3Com	Superstack 3 Switch 3300 ² TM, 24-10/100 ports, 1-1000BASE-T uplink port	1
Managed Switch	3Com	Superstack 3 Switch 3300 ² SM, 24-10/100 ports, 1-1000BASE-SX uplink port	1

Managed Switch	3Com	Superstack 3 Switch 3300 , ² 12-10/100 ports	1
Managed Switch	3Com	Superstack 3 Switch 3300 , ² 24-10/100 ports	1
Managed Switch	3Com	Superstack II 3300 FX , 8 FX ports, 2 10/100BASE-TX ports	1
Unmanaged Switch	3Com	SuperStack 3 Baseline 10/100 Switch 24-Port	No
Managed Switch	Cisco	2950	2
Managed Switch	Cisco	3550	2
Managed Switch	Cisco	3524XL ²	2
Unmanaged Switch	D-Link	DSS-5+	No
Managed Switch	Dasan	V1124 , 24 10/100 ports	1
Managed Switch	Fore Systems	3810	-
Managed Switch	Extreme Networks	Summit Series	No
Managed Switch	Extreme Networks	Black Diamond	-
Managed Switch	HP	ProCurve 1600M ¹	1
Managed Switch	HP	ProCurve 2424M ^{1,2}	1
Managed Switch	HP	ProCurve 2512	2
Managed Switch	HP	ProCurve 2524	2
Managed Switch	HP	ProCurve 2650 , 48-10/100 ports, 2 dual personality ports	No
Managed Switch	HP	ProCurve 4000M ¹	-
Managed Switch	HP	ProCurve 4101gl	4
Managed Switch	HP	ProCurve 4148gl , 48-10/100 ports	2
Managed Switch	HP	ProCurve 4108gl	8
Managed Switch	HP	ProCurve 4108gl Bundle, 72-10/100 ports and transceiver module	4
Managed Switch	HP	ProCurve 8000M ¹	-
Unmanaged Switch	HP	ProCurve 2312 , 12-10/100 ports	2
Unmanaged Switch	HP	ProCurve 2324 , 24-10/100 ports	2
Unmanaged Switch	Linksys	EG0801W , 8-10/100 ports, 1 1000BASE-T uplink port	No
Managed Switch	MiLAN	MIL-SM800 , 8-10/100 ports	No
Managed Switch	Nortel	BayStack 450-12T Switch, 12-10/100 ports	1
Managed Switch	Nortel	BayStack 450-24T ² Switch, 24-10/100 ports	1
Managed Switch	Nortel	BayStack 450-12F Switch, 12-100BASE-FX ports	1
Managed Switch/Router	Riverstone Networks	RS-1000 , 32, 10/100 ports	2
Managed Switch/Router	Riverstone Networks	RS-3000 , 32, 10/100 ports	2
Managed Switch/Router	Riverstone Networks	RS-8000 , 32, 10/100 ports	-
Managed Switch/Router	Riverstone Networks	RS-8600 , 32, 10/100 ports	-

¹ If you plan to use the meshing feature contained in this switch, [drop us a line](#). It's critical that you use the correct version of HP firmware for this to work properly with CobraNet.

² For step-by-step switch setup information, visit the [Setup Procedure](#) page.

³ Expansion slots allow additional ports of various types to be added to the switch. These may include 100BASE-FX ports, 1000BASE-T ports, 1000BASE-SX or 1000BASE-LX ports. Consult the manufacturer's literature for additional details on the available expansion slot options.

Table 3: CobraNet tested switches

Media Converters

If you plan to use media converters in your CobraNet network design, please be sure that they are capable of [auto-negotiation](#). Not all media converters support auto-negotiation and this can cause problems if you don't completely understand how this will affect your network. Read more about how media converters interact with other network devices in the paper [CobraNet and Media Converters](#).

Repeater Hubs

Nowadays, the cost difference between switches and repeater hubs are equivalent, but the added benefits of switches are great. We discourage the use of repeater hubs in new CobraNet designs. However, if you find yourself faced with using repeaters, you may find the following information useful.

So far, we have seen no 100BASE-T repeaters fail. As long as vendors' equipment complies with the IEEE 802.3u Fast Ethernet standards, we fully expect the equipment to operate properly in a CobraNet context.

Be aware that there are some devices out there which call themselves repeaters but are actually switches or bridges. We have found that these tend to be fiber transceivers, fiber ports on hubs and fiber hubs. Please be careful in specifying fiber gear in that regard.

Product	Manufacturer	Model
8 Port 100BASE-TX Class II Hub	LinkSys	FEHUB08W
8 Port 100BASE-TX Class II Hub	SMC	5008TX
4 Port 100BASE-TX Class II Hub	Bay Networks	NetGear FE104
8 Port 100BASE-TX Class II Hub	Network Peripherals	NuHub FE-5108
12 Port 100BASE-TX Class I Hub	3COM	LinkBuilder FMS 100

Table 1: CobraNet tested hubs

Not Recommended

Digi MIL-5040FXT Buffered Repeater - Although it calls itself a repeater, this device is essentially a switch that does not support auto-negotiation. Thus the ports can only operate in 100Mbit half-duplex mode (i.e., no full-duplex, no 10Mbit). This device should NOT be used in CobraNet repeater networks since it IS a switch. The buffered repeater is also not desirable for CobraNet switched networks since it doesn't allow a full-duplex connection.

10/100 Hubs - There really is no need to use 10/100 hubs in a CobraNet network. They add expense and complexity to the network design that isn't required. Any devices connected to such a hub at the 10Mbit rate are at risk of being flooded with CobraNet traffic to the point of causing problems for the connected device and in some cases the 10/100 hub itself.

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