

# Node Encyclopedia Article

## Node

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# Contents

<a href="#">Node Encyclopedia Article.....</a>	<a href="#">1</a>
<a href="#">Contents.....</a>	<a href="#">2</a>
<a href="#">Node.....</a>	<a href="#">3</a>

# Node

The term node has several meanings in computer science.

In the context of computer networks, a node is a location where processing of information occurs. A computer can be a node, as can a **printer**. Every node in a network has its own unique address, which is referred to as a **Data** Link Control (DLC address) or a Media Access Control (MAC) address.

In the context of the **tree** structure arrangement of hierarchical data, a node is a data point that is linked to other nodes of data. Each node represents a collection of information. The information in each node is retained in **memory** at a single location.

Trees are often constructed from a single node known as a root, or from a set of nodes--a forest of trees. The system of linked nodes generates a multilevel data network .

Nodes can also exist in **graphs**. Each data point in the graph represents a node. Similar to a tree, the data points in a graph are linked to other nodes.