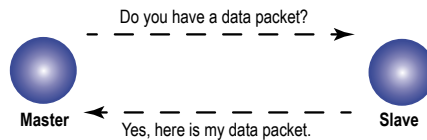


Theory and Terminology

Master/Slave Networks

In master/slave networks, one device acts as a master device by establishing the timing and controlling communications. In a master/slave environment, the master device must initiate communications with the other devices. The slave devices cannot initiate communications with the master device, nor can they communicate with the other slave devices.



Peer-to-Peer Networks

In a peer-to-peer network, all devices behave equally. Any node can initiate communications when an event occurs. Data is exchanged with one other peer or with all peers depending on the network connections.

One advantage to the peer-to-peer network is that all devices add network resources - as the number of nodes increases, the resources also increase. However, under heavy communication loads, peer-to-peer networks suffer from decreased performance.

