

Why should you get a specialist to install your data cabling?



Data cabling in your office, otherwise known as building cabling, structured cabling or by the category number – Category 5e, 6, 6a or 7, is fundamental to the performance of your network and therefore your business success.



Why spend thousands of pounds on new systems and software only to find that because the cabling infrastructure has not been installed or tested properly, the systems run poorly?

With many years' experience in the IT industry, data cabling specialists such as Open Network Associates Ltd will ensure that your installation is carried out to the highest standards.

All data cabling needs to be installed correctly and most importantly tested, using sophisticated test equipment that represents a considerable investment on the part of the cable installation company. Bear this in mind when selecting your contractor; electricians or alarm engineers may not have the specialist data cabling experience required to meet these standards and complete the job to your expectations.



When it comes to troubleshooting, there are many basic cable testers which are useful tools. In particular, they can help the end user find basic faults like damaged patch and drop cables, or broken pairs. However, these testers will not tell you if the cable has been installed to the correct category standards or if the quality of cable and components are up to the job.



To guarantee the performance of the installed cabling, it should be tested using a certification tool like the Fluke DTX-1800.

There are many manufacturers of cable and components, good brand names such as ADC Krone, Nexans, Brand Rex, Panduit and Hellerman Tyton to name but a few, as well as some very good distributor specific products.

However buyer beware if you do not use a reputable product as there have been recent cases of cable being sold as Category 5e standard when in fact it is not 100% copper as is required by the standards bodies. Instead it has been found to be poor quality copper plated aluminium, which can lead to many problems both at the time of installation and in the future.

Having data cabling installed? Ask these questions -

- What tester do you use?
- When was the tester last calibrated?
- What cable and connector product do you use?
- Can I have printed-out test results at the end of the installation?

If the answer to any of the above questions is "no" or "I don't know" then do not use that installer.

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So when you are looking for a data cabling installation company, ask these questions of the installer –

- **What tester do you use?** – It should be independently verified by UL to meet ISO Level IV and TIA Level III Accuracy requirements, the Fluke DTX-1800 achieves this.
- **When was the tester last calibrated?** – Testers should be calibrated every year.
- **What cable and connector product do you use?** – A brand name is always recommended like ADC Krone, Nexans, Brand Rex, Panduit and Hellerman Tyton. There are other reliable products also available.
- **Can I have printed-out test results at the end of the installation?** – Any of the certification testers can give you a print out of the test results.

If the answer to any of the above questions is “no” or “I don’t know” then do not use that installer.

For more information on testing then please have a look at the white papers on our web site –

Six reasons to certify your cabling
Field testing of cables, why?

There are a number of other interesting industry white papers at www.onaltd.co.uk Click “White Papers” on the top menu.

