

In this topology each device is connected with one device on its left and other device on its right. It forms a ring because the last device is connected to the first device. This way each has to dedicated point to point links on the either side of it. If a device wants to send data to another device then it sends data in one direction. each node has a receiver and a transmitter. If the message is for the current node then it receives other wise it forwards it to next node.

The operation of ring topology has four steps:—

- a.) One device is called monitor which becomes main device to perform all operations.
- b.) To transmit the data, station has to hold the token. After the transmission is done the token is released for other station to use.
- c.) When no station is transmitting any data then the token will simply move from one node to other.
- d.) The token release is done in two ways —
 - i) early token release
 - ii) Delay token release

i) Early token release =
early token release, releases the token just after transmitting the data.

ii) Delay token =
Delay token release, releases the token after the acknowledgement is received from the receiver.

Advantage

- i) The possibility of message collision is very less because of use of token.
- ii) Suitable for places where one message to be delivered to all.
- iii) Managing is easier as to add or remove a device from topology requires only two links to be changed - one on the left other on the right.

Disadvantage

- i) If link fails, the communication breaks the middle.
- ii) At a time only one node can transmit
- iii) Communication is slow because it is in circular manner.
Ex = Ring topology is used in MAN & WAN.

