

# Switches Routers & Gateways

Comparison table for features of Switches Routers & Gateways

Feature	Router	Switch	Gateway
<b>Function</b>	Connects multiple networks	Connects multiple devices	Connects different networks with different protocols
<b>Primary Use</b>	Directs data between networks	Forwards data within a network	Translates and routes data between different networks
<b>Addressing</b>	IP Addresses	MAC Addresses	IP Addresses, and possibly other protocols
<b>Device Communication</b>	Uses IP to route packets	Uses MAC addresses to switch frames	Converts data formats, addresses, protocols
<b>Typical Location</b>	Between LANs or between LAN and WAN	Within a LAN	Between different networks (e.g., LAN to Internet)
<b>Traffic Management</b>	Routes traffic based on IP addresses	Switches traffic based on MAC addresses	Routes and translates data between networks

