

Title:	Network Cables: Cat5 vs. Cat6				
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## Evolution

The Category 6, or Cat6, cable is far superior to the Cat5. Although the Category 5 enhanced, or Cat5e, cable replaced the Cat5 as the standard, the Cat6 is soon to be the ultimate successor of the two.

## Backward Compatibility

The Category 6 Ethernet cable is backward compatible with Cat5, Cat5e and Cat3 hardware (meaning: it has the ability to connect to prior standard network ports), but the Cat5 can only work with category standards lower than itself.

## Speed

Cat5 cables can transfer data at a rate of 100 Mbps. Cat6, on the other hand, can reach speeds more than 10 times faster than Cat5, approaching rates of over 1Gbps.

## Efficiency

Visually, Cat6 cable is thicker than Cat5 because it has more twisted copper wire and provides better efficiency in reducing outside interference, known as noise, from other networks. Cat5 cable is capable of transmitting up to 100 MHz compared to standard Cat6 which has double the bandwidth at 200 MHz.

## Industry Standard

With the emerging technologies, Cat5 cable is considered obsolete, and most electronic stores no longer carry Cat5 cables. Cat5's successor, Cat5e, is the current market standard, but Cat6 is the predicted favorite of the future market.

From: [Ethernet Cat5 Vs. Cat6 | eHow.com](#)