Top 10 Questions to ask your data cabling installer

A buyers guide to the IT cabling industry

Top 10 Questions

Is your Installer?

1. An expert in the industry?
2. Using industry trained engineers?
3. Providing you with test results on completion?
4. Providing you with a 20 + year warranty on completion?
5. Using premium cabling system brands?
6. Carrying public liability insurance cover of £5M?
7. Providing you with safe systems of working?
8. Including everything in your quote with no hidden extras?
9. Undertaking your installation the hours you wish?
10. Removing waste from site and cleaning up after installation?

Is your installer: An expert in the industry?

Cabling installation is a specialist service with regulations and accreditations gained through training courses to fully meet manufacturer's requirements

Make sure the company you use is an expert in the field and not just providing an add on service.

Key Questions to ensure your installer is an Expert

✓ Will your system be correctly labelled and documented?

✓ Will your data cabling be done by fully trained engineers?

✓ Will your data cabling be fully tested and results provided?

✓ Will your data cabling system be warranted?

Is your installer: Using industry trained engineers?

Training standards are backed by organisations such as BICSI, City and Guilds, IPAF and cable manufacturer vendor training

Without properly trained engineers installing the system how can you be sure your project is being completed correctly.
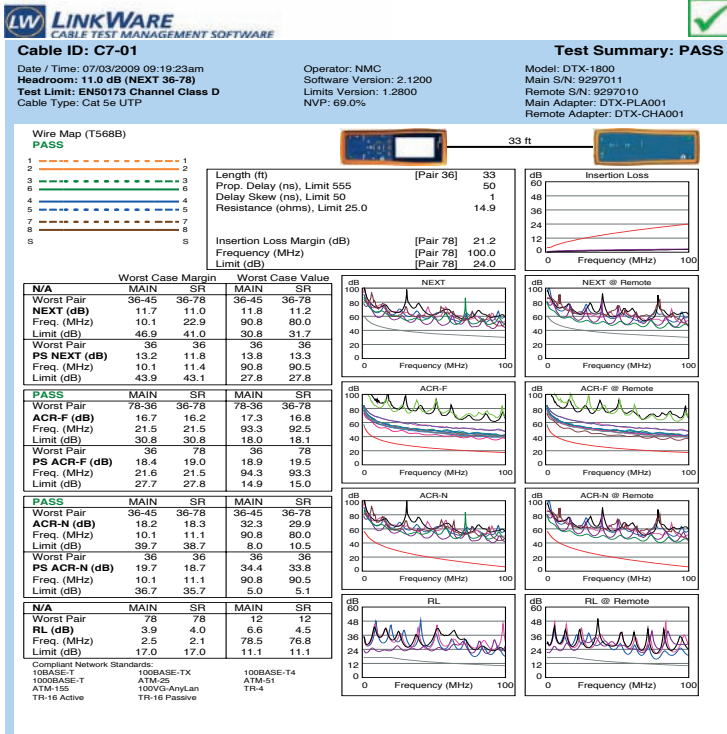

Key Questions regarding fully trained engineers

✓ Ask for documentation and certificates

✓ Check certificates are up to date

Is your installer: Providing you with test results on completion?

Without full test results you will not know if the system is:
1) Installed correctly for you
2) Working to your required standards
3) Capable of running efficiently

LINKWARE
CABLE TEST MANAGEMENT SOFTWARE

Cable ID: C7-01   **Test Summary: PASS**

Date / Time: 07/03/2009 09:19:23am   Operator: NMC   Model: DTX-1800
Headroom: 11.0 dB (NEXT 36-78)   Software Version: 2.1200   Main S/N: 9297011
Test Limit: EN50173 Channel Class D Limits Version: 1.2800   Remote S/N: 9297010
Cable Type: Cat 5e UTP   NVP: 69.0%   Main Adapter: DTX-PLA001
                                                                   Remote Adapter: DTX-CHA001

Wire Map (T568B)
PASS

33 ft

	[Pair 36]		
Length (ft)		33	
Prop. Delay (ns), Limit 555		50	
Delay Skew (ns), Limit 50		1	
Resistance (ohms), Limit 25.0		14.9	

Insertion Loss Margin (dB)	[Pair 78]	21.2
Frequency (MHz)	[Pair 78]	100.0
Limit (dB)	[Pair 78]	24.0

Insertion Loss

	Worst Case Margin		Worst Case Value	
N/A	MAIN	SR	MAIN	SR
Worst Pair	36-45	36-78	36-45	36-78
NEXT (dB)	11.7	11.0	11.8	11.2
Freq. (MHz)	10.1	22.9	90.8	80.0
Limit (dB)	46.9	41.0	30.8	31.7
Worst Pair	36	36	36	36
PS NEXT (dB)	13.2	11.8	13.8	13.3
Freq. (MHz)	10.1	11.4	90.8	90.5
Limit (dB)	43.9	43.1	27.8	27.8

PASS	MAIN	SR	MAIN	SR
Worst Pair	78-36	36-78	78-36	36-78
ACR-F (dB)	16.7	16.2	17.3	16.8
Freq. (MHz)	21.5	21.5	93.3	92.5
Limit (dB)	30.8	30.8	18.0	18.1
Worst Pair	36	78	36	78
PS ACR-F (dB)	18.4	19.0	18.9	19.5
Freq. (MHz)	21.6	21.5	94.3	93.3
Limit (dB)	27.7	27.8	14.9	15.0

PASS	MAIN	SR	MAIN	SR
Worst Pair	36-45	36-78	36-45	36-78
ACR-N (dB)	18.2	18.3	32.3	29.9
Freq. (MHz)	10.1	11.1	90.8	80.0
Limit (dB)	39.7	38.7	8.0	10.5
Worst Pair	36	36	36	36
PS ACR-N (dB)	19.7	18.7	34.4	33.8
Freq. (MHz)	10.1	11.1	90.8	90.5
Limit (dB)	36.7	35.7	5.0	5.1

N/A	MAIN	SR	MAIN	SR
Worst Pair	78	78	12	12
RL (dB)	3.9	4.0	6.6	4.5
Freq. (MHz)	2.5	2.1	78.5	76.8
Limit (dB)	17.0	17.0	11.1	11.1

NEXT
NEXT @ Remote
ACR-F
ACR-F @ Remote
ACR-N
ACR-N @ Remote
RL
RL @ Remote

Compliant Network Standards:
10BASE-T   100BASE-TX   100BASE-T4
1000BASE-T   ATM-25   ATM-51
ATM-155   100VG-AnyLan   TR-4
TR-16 Active   TR-16 Passive

Project: MCSP
Site: WATFORD

mcsp_watford.flw

LinkWare Version 5.0

FLUKE networks.

Key Questions regarding test results

✓ Does the test result in the top corner show a pass?

✓ Can you be provided results on hard copy and electronic copy?

✓ Make sure you get a test result for each individual cable

<u>Is your installer: Providing you with a 20+ year warranty ?</u>

Cable manufacturers will support a data installation for 20+ years on its cable and components if the installer has provided full test results and has undertaken approved training courses to install the systems.

This will give you peace of mind that your network system has been installed correctly and will work for you

<u>Key Questions regarding warranties</u>

✓ Ask to see approved certificate for manufacturer approval

✓ Ask to see a copy of the documentation of what the warranty covers

<u>Is your installer: Using premium brand cabling?</u>

Not all systems are equal. Premium brands offer better performance and longevity

Premium brands such as Hellermann Tyton, ADC Krone, Systimax, and Siemon.

<u>Key Questions regarding cabling systems</u>

✓Ask if the system comes with a warranty and what it covers

✓Ask the installer for reference sites of similar cabling systems

<u>Is your installer: Carrying public liability insurance of £5m</u>

If there is an incident on site that causes considerable damage or even total destruction of your property does the company have the insurance backing to reimburse you fully?

Who will be paying to put everything back to normal for you?

<u>Key Questions regarding insurances</u>

✓ Ask to see the certification for the required insurance

✓ Check to see the insurance is up to date

Is your installer: Providing you with safe systems of working?

Do you know the method of installation at your premises and do you know it has been planned safely?

Do you know which areas are at risk during installation and what areas to have your employees avoid?

Key Questions regarding health and safety

✓ Will a specific safety plan be produced for your project and not a generic one?

✓ Will the document give you a plan of what is going to happen and when so your employees are safe from harm?

✓ Will the document let you know what areas will be affected?

**Is your installer: Including everything in your quote with
no hidden extras?**

Make sure everything you require is included on the quotation or
shown as an option.

Items such as patch leads, data switches, containment, overtime
& expenses can be hidden extra costs which you only discover at
the end of the project

Containment ✔

Patch leads ✔

IT hardware ✔

Fixtures ✔

Out of Hours ✔

Travel and parking ✔

Key Questions regarding quotations

✓ Check to make sure everything you have asked for is included

✓ Check to make sure the labour rates include the working times
requested

<u>Is your installer: Undertaking your installation when you wish and starting in time to meet your deadlines?</u>

The best time for your installation is when it disrupts your operation the least.

Would you like installation at night?, the weekend?, during closures for holidays?

Would you like the option of 24:7 installations?

Will the project start on time to meet your deadlines?

<u>Key Questions regarding scheduling</u>

✓What is the lead time for starting work and the projected start date?

✓Ask for the additional costs for working out of hours and weekends

Is your installer: Removing waste from site and cleaning up after installation?

All packaging and waste materials from site should be disposed of correctly in order to avoid hazards and for neatness of installation

Dust and debris caused by drilling and installation should be cleaned up after installation

Key Questions regarding waste removal

✓ Ask if all waste be will removed from site

✓ Ask if dust and other by products will be cleaned up after installation

✓ Ask about the possibility of disposing of IT hardware in the correct environmentally friendly way

Installer Checklist

NM
Cabling

Do they: Understand my requirements? ✓

Have a good reputation? ✓

Provide test results? ✓

Have approved training? ✓

Only use quality components? ✓

Provide a 25 year warranty? ✓

Provide all inclusive quotations? ✓

NM Cabling Solutions: We Do!

NM CABLING SOLUTIONS

Network Cabling Solutions: Installed 24:7, Guaranteed 25 Years

1. Cat5e, Cat6 and copper wiring

2. Fibre optic cabling

3. Office moves and changes

4. Telephone cabling

5. Multi site installations

6. 25 year warranted installations

7. Audio Visual installations

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