













exit. They also are known as Class 5 offices, the lowest of the five classes in the switching hierarchy, and edge offices, as they are at the very edges of the service provider's network. Manufacturers of COs include Lucent Technologies (5ESS), which previously was AT&T; Nortel (DMS), which previously was Northern Telecom; Signess (EMSD); and Ericeson (AYE). Siemens (EWSD); and Ericsson (AXE).

5.3.1.3.2 Tandem Switches Tandem switches are network switches that serve in partnership with lesser switches, linking them together. In other words, tandem switches serve no end users directly; rather, they serve to interconnect lesser switches. At the lowest level, tandem switches serve to link together CO switches over dedicated interoffice trunks. This approach can be used to form a fully interconnected and toll-free metropolitan calling area, for example. There are a number of basic network topologies, including full mesh, full tandem, and a combination tandem and direct trunk plan.

 Full Mesh: If all COs are interconnected through direct trunking in a full-mesh network topology, a large number of trunks and trunk groups are required, as calculated by the formula

$$\chi - \frac{n(n-1)}{2}$$

where n is the number of nodes to be interconnected. If there are eight nodes as illustrated in Figure 5.1, the number of trunks required is calculated as

$$28 = \frac{8(8-1)}{2}$$