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With modern technology, comes modern terminology, which one has to keep up with in order to be up-to-date. Today, with the internet as a tool, nothing is out of ones reach, especially any kind of information and explanation. Speaking of internet, there are various ways of â€˜going onlineâ€™, e.g. Ethernet connection, Wi-Fi, USB Modems, etcâ€¦ We will be talking about Ethernet connection and what goes with it. As most of us know that we connect a cable from our modem to our computer for us to be able to connect to the internet, very few know what that cable is. Itâ€™s called cat5 network cables; cat5 means itâ€™s a category 5 or 5th generation twisted pair cable that carries signals or data. These cables can also carry telephony and video signals. There are 4 pairs of copper wire, but it usually utilizes only 2 pairs. It supports fast internet as it has a fast Ethernet speed up to 100Mbps. But they are only effective for a length of 100m or 328ft. Most cat5 cables depend on the twisted pair design and differential signaling (sending 2 signals on 2 separate wires) for rejection of noise.

There is a newer specification, cat5e, which is now out in the market and supports speeds up to 1000Mbps by utilizing all the 4 pairs of copper wire. This is also compatible with the cat5 network cables.

People who are into multi-player gaming are mostly connected in a LAN (Local Area Network), which is supported by these cat5 cables, these cables are usually connected by using punch down blocks or modular connectors. Mostly these cables are used in homes, offices, cyber cafes, multi-player gaming zones, etcâ€¦. as they offer good connectivity and speed.

There are new technologies always in the making, why should this cable be any different. With the advancement in computers, we need advanced wiring too. Cat6 & cat7 cables are also available in the markets, but due to popular demand and general & mass usage, cat5 cables are mostly used. One other reason is easy availability. Cat5 cables are available at any appropriate store; all you need to do is ask. We should try to imagine, what would the internet be like, or what would be computers be like today if it were not for these cat5 cables. After all, these cables have been aiding computing since 1985.

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