

What does switch access point mean



Article Overview

An access point (AP) on a switch refers to a port configured to connect end devices or wireless APs to a specific VLAN, providing network access to clients.

Definition and Role

In networking, a switch is a device that connects multiple wired devices within a local area network (LAN) and forwards data based on MAC addresses. Switch ports can be configured as access ports or trunk ports. An access port is assigned to a single VLAN and is typically used to connect end devices like PCs, printers, or a wireless access point (AP) to the network. A wireless access point is a device that allows Wi-Fi-enabled devices to connect to the wired network. When connected to a switch, the AP acts as a bridge, converting wireless signals into wired traffic and forwarding it to the switch, which then directs the data to the appropriate VLAN or destination.

How Access Points Work with Switches

- **VLAN Mapping:** Many APs can broadcast multiple SSIDs, each mapped to a specific VLAN. For example, a corporate SSID might map to VLAN10, while a guest SSID maps to VLAN20. The switch port connecting the AP can be configured as a trunk to carry multiple VLANs or as an access port for a single VLAN.
- **Power over Ethernet (PoE):** Modern switches often provide PoE, allowing APs to receive both power and data over a single Ethernet cable, simplifying deployment.
- **Traffic Handling:** The AP does not route traffic or assign IP addresses (unless in special router mode); it simply passes wireless client traffic to the switch, which then forwards it to the correct network segment

Article Content

Aug 17, 2025

What is an Access Point and What Does It Do?

A wireless access point is a networking device that connects wireless networks to an internet connection. Access points connect to

Oct 18, 2025

Router vs Switch vs Access Point: What You Actually Need?

Router connects your network to the internet. Switch connects more wired devices to your network. Access Point

Dec 07, 2025

How Can I Combine a Switch and Wireless Access Point?

Wondering if you can connect a network switch with a wireless access point (WAP)? Learn step-by-step setup

Oct 12, 2025

What is an Access Point (AP)?

Discover what an access point is, how it works, its types, benefits, and how it compares to routers, modems, and

Dec 18, 2025

Wireless Router vs Access Point Mode Explained

Router vs. access point mode: What's the difference? Learn the core functions of each and how to choose the right setup for your

Jan 27, 2026

Modem, Router, Switch, and Access Point: What's the Difference?

Don't know the difference between a modem and a router? Unsure what an access point does compared to a switch? Here's a quick

Oct 09, 2025

What is a Wireless Access Point? | Definition from TechTarget

What is a wireless access point? A wireless access point (wireless AP) is a network device that transmits and

Jun 17, 2026

Router vs Switch vs Access Point: Key Differences Explained

Access points (APs) serve as a bridge between wired and wireless networks, enabling wireless devices to connect to a

Jun 26, 2026

What is an Access Point?

Learn what is an Access Point (AP), its main components, how they work, and how this technology can help boosting your

Jul 13, 2026

Router vs Switch vs Access Point: What Each Box Actually Does

Routers move traffic between networks, switches connect wired devices on a network, and access points provide Wi-Fi

Jan 05, 2026

What Is an Access Point (AP)? | phoenixNAP IT Glossary

What Is an Access Point? An access point (AP) is a specialized networking device that enables wireless devices to

Oct 18, 2025

What is an Access Point?

An access point or mesh extender can be configured as a standalone repeater to extend the range of your infrastructure or overcome

May 17, 2026

Router vs Switch vs Access Point Guide

Learn the difference between routers, switches, and access points so you can choose the right network setup for your

May 25, 2026

Access Points and Wireless LAN Controllers Explained

Standalone access points function similarly to wired switches, while multifunction access points combine additional

May 24, 2026

Access Point Mode vs Router Mode | TP-Link

The Wireless Access Point component handles wireless connectivity only. When you switch a TP-Link wireless router

Sep 15, 2025

Router vs Switch vs Hub vs Modem vs Access Point vs Gateway

Router vs Switch vs Hub vs Modem vs Access Point vs Gateway Routers, switches, hubs, modems, access points,

Oct 20, 2025

Modem vs router vs switch vs access point | Croma Unboxed

Here are all the differences you should know between a modem, a router, a switch and an access point while setting

Aug 19, 2025

Understanding Access Points, Routers, and Switches

Three core components come up in almost every job we do: access points, routers, and network switches. While they

Jul 03, 2026

What is a wireless access point?

What is a wireless access point? An access point receives data by wired Ethernet, and converts to a 2.4GHz or 5GHz

Jun 12, 2026

Access Point vs Switch: Difference and Comparison

An access point is a wireless device that allows devices to connect to a network wirelessly, providing Wi-Fi access,

Apr 21, 2026

Router vs Gateway vs Switch vs Access Point : r/HomeNetworking

Router vs Gateway vs Switch vs Access Point I know this question is covered so many times. If someone could just direct me to the

Jan 12, 2026

What is an access point? | Glossary | HPE

Access Point What is an access point? A wireless access point is a networking device that provides wireless local

Sep 29, 2025

Modem, Router, Switch and Access Point: What They Are and How

Each device has a clear role: the modem translates the line, the router manages and secures the network, the switch

Aug 15, 2025

Routers vs. Switches vs. Access Points

A router acts as a gateway to the computer network and is placed between a modem and a switch or hub. A switch

Sep 07, 2025

What is an access point? Complete guide to wireless networking

Learn what a wireless access point is, how it works, and how it differs from routers and Wi-Fi extenders to build a faster, more

Sep 29, 2025

difference between router switch and access point

AP and switches are like waiter/resses.. Not quite. Wireless routers may have all the functions of a switch and access

Contact Us

For more information, pricing, or custom solutions, please contact us:

Website: <https://khanimamboguesthouse.co.za>

Email: sales@khanimamboguesthouse.co.za

Phone: +27 64 852 1973

Address: Unit 7, Greenway Business Park, 8 Innovation Drive, Centurion, 0157, South Africa

This document is for informational purposes only. Specifications subject to change without notice.

