* + 6
  + 0
  + 0
  + 0

Bus

In a computer or on a network, a bus is a transmission path on which [signal](http://searchnetworking.techtarget.com/definition/signal)s are dropped off or picked up at every device attached to the line. Only devices addressed by the signals pay attention to them; the others discard the signals. The name probably comes from the similarity to buses following a set route, picking up and dropping off passengers at the correct destination.

In general, the term is used in two somewhat different contexts:

Bottom of Form

1. A bus is a network topology or circuit arrangement in which all devices are attached to a line directly and all signals pass through each of the devices. Each device has a unique identity and can recognize those signals intended for it.
2. In a computer, a bus is the data path on the computer's [motherboard](http://searchcio-midmarket.techtarget.com/definition/motherboard) that interconnects the microprocessor with attachments to the motherboard in expansion slots (such as hard disk drives, CD-ROM drives, and graphics adapters).