Certification of CAT 5 Cables?

You DON'T want to do it, or have it done, unless your customer insists on it!

If the cable won't certify at 100mbts, it will probably still run at 50 or 80 mbts. Is it worth re-running the cable since the added bandwidth will probably never be used? Probably not, and if the cable is never Certified... *nobody* will ever know.

If the customer does insist on Certification, keep in mind that if you make some mistakes in running the cable, you will probably have to re-run some of them. Not fun, or profitable. What's worse, some customers insist on certifying the cable with a particular brand of \$3,500 to \$8,000 cable scanner - which might be different from what the last customer wanted.

Murphy's Law says that if you do go out and spring for that scanner, they'll come out with CAT 6.5 next week - and your scanner will not be upgradeable!

You might find someone in your area who owns a scanner, and pay him T&M or on a per jack basis to do the Certification. Or, there's a company that RENTS Scanners for about \$400 a month... call RenTelco at 800-233-5807 for more information.

If you make these Mistakes, your nice new CAT 5 cables WON'T certify at 100mbts (but will probably work at slower speeds just fine):

- Make a sharp bend in the cable, use a 6" radius if possible.
- Use Staples NEVER!

These TIPS and the

PINOUT CHART are

available on our

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- Use Tie Wraps other than VERY loosely to hold a bundle in place.
- Leave extra cable coiled up in a loop (like in the ceiling over the jack) it really does slow the data!
- Untwist the wire before you punch it down on the block or terminate it on a jack - the twists should be right up to the termination!
- Strip more jacket off the wire than is needed to terminate it.
- Pull too hard on the cable especially around a corner.
- Pull on a cable to straighten out a kink or loop - always go back and manually untwist it!
- Stuff too many cables in too small a conduit.

