

MeshCore or Meshtastic - which should I choose?

Both are excellent. Choose based primarily on what your local community already uses. Don't pick a protocol solely on technical merits (routing efficiency, encryption) if it means being alone on the mesh - community presence matters more.

Choose Meshtastic if:

- Your local area already has an active Meshtastic network
- You want the largest app ecosystem and community support
- You want the most beginner-friendly experience with polished apps
- You want the widest hardware compatibility

Choose MeshCore if:

- Your local community uses MeshCore
- You are building dedicated repeater infrastructure
- You prefer MeshCore's selective routing model for direct messages (both MeshCore and current Meshtastic use public-key encryption for direct messages; neither provides Signal-style forward secrecy)
- You are deploying a large network (50+ nodes) where flooding creates congestion

Can they interoperate?

No. Different packet formats and routing protocols. A MeshCore node and a Meshtastic node cannot communicate even on the same frequency. Many operators run both on separate devices for different purposes.

Technical comparison

Feature	Meshtastic	MeshCore
Routing	Flooding	Path-based (path discovery)
Community size	Larger	Smaller, more technical
Hardware support	Very broad	Good (915 MHz boards)
Best for	Personal use, joining existing mesh	Infrastructure, large networks

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