Types of Satellites



Weather Satellites

Owned by governments
Take pictures of Earth from Space
Detect clouds, dust, hot vs. cold air, storms, and much more

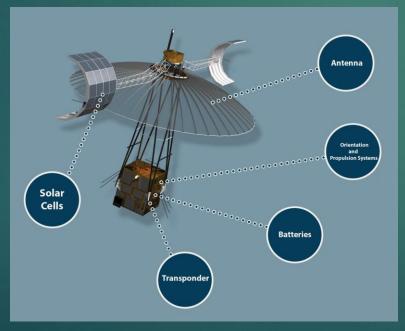


GOES 16, photo courtesy of NOAA



Communication satellite

Satellites are privately owned TV, radio, telephone, internet signals can be sent





SpaceX train of satellites



Image courtesy of the SA&S museum

Spy satellites

Used by countries to collect data on other countries

- Very large, ~ the size of a school bus
- Detailed images that can identify a single person





Earth Observation Satellites

Used for a variety of purposes: tracking wildfires, identifying illegal fishing, monitoring ice pack, and more





Satellite navigation

Used to determine location and get directions
GPS



Image courtesy of Wikipedia



Satellite Communication



How Satellites communicate with Earth

- The group that controls the satellite has a ground station
- The ground station is able to send and receive information from the satellite
- This communication occurs via radio waves



One of NASA's Deep Space Network base stations. Photo courtesy of NASA.



How Satellites communicate with Earth

- When a satellite sends information to the base station it is called a downlink
- When a base station sends information to the satellite it is called an uplink
- Satellites must stay in orbit or they may move out of the range of the base station



One of NASA's Deep Space Network base stations. Photo courtesy of NASA.



How Satellites communicate with Earth

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6WFj-CKIdv4&t=147s

