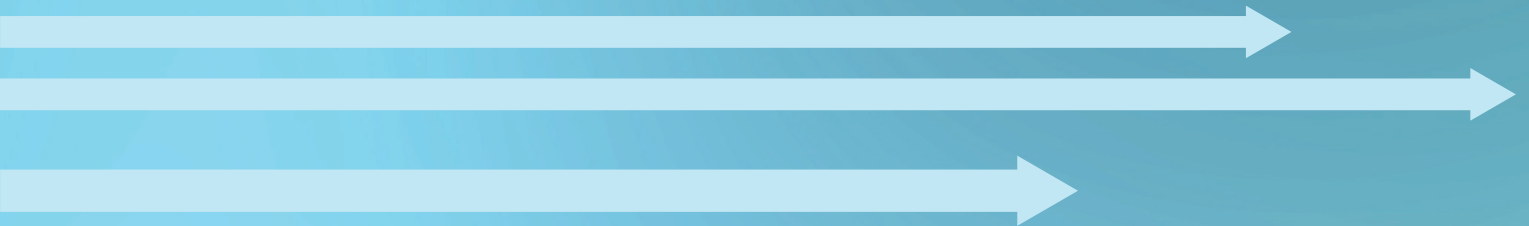# 5
THINGS YOU
NEED TO KNOW

GUIDE TO **568.2-D**
STANDARD

If you're planning on upgrading your structured cabling system, or deploying a new one, talk to us first. We can help you design, deploy, and manage a structured cabling solution that enables your digital transformation.

IN JUNE 2018

The TIA ratified their 568.2-D* standard (Balanced Twisted-Pair Cabling and Components) replacing TIA-568-C.2. There are some big changes included in this standard that set it apart from its predecessors.

1 — ### The Name Change: 568.2-D (not 568-D.2)
The TIA revised its naming convention by swapping the last letters and numbers. 568 is the standard. The numbers indicate the components. 1 defines general requirements; 2 is balanced twisted-pair cable; 3 is for fiber cabling. The D indicates the revision.

2 — ### Slim is In with 28-AWG Cable
28-AWG patch cables, which are becoming much more popular in high-density racks, are now official. There is a caveat—you won't be able to run a standard 100-meter channel. If you use 10 meters of 28-AWG patch cables, your horizontal cable run will be reduced to 82.5 meters instead of 90.

3 — ### Straight to the Point with MPTL
The standard now includes the modular plug terminated link (MPTL). Instead of terminating horizontal cable in an outlet, you can terminate it on one end with an RJ-45 plug that connects directly into a device, such as an access point or security camera.

4 — ### CAT8 Joins the Party
Although Category 8 cabling was ratified in TIA-568-C.2.1 (Nov. 2016), it now has a place at the table alongside CAT6A. Developed to support 25GBASE-T and 40GBASE-T, CAT8 has a maximum channel length of 30 meters with two connectors and is tested from 1 MHz to 2000 MHz as opposed to a 4-connector, 100-meter, 500-MHz channel for CAT6A.

5 — ### Power Up
TIA-568.2-D includes Guidelines for Supporting Power Delivery Over Balanced Twisted-Pair Cabling. This provides recommendations for cables that will support DC power, which is important in terms of 4-pair PoE. DC resistance unbalance testing within and between pairs is also now specified in 568.2-D.

GET WIRED

Smartly planned structured cabling infrastructure is the foundation of your transformation at the intelligent digital edge. It's now more important than ever and you should expect it to support all applications—IoT, APs, PoE lighting, smart building technology, and unknown future applications—for many, many years to come.

Begin with a risk-free assessment by visiting bboxservices.com/structured-cabling.

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* 568.2-D is part of the Telecommunications Industry Association's family of standards that address twisted-pair, fiber optic, and coaxial cabling and components in commercial buildings. 568.2-D specifically addresses Balanced Twisted-Pair Cabling and Components.