

A network is when two or more computers are connected together in some way

Network Advantages:

- Save money and time
- Share information and resources

Network Disadvantages:

- More prone to get viruses
- Any broken resource or network device can affect everyone
- Exploitation is easier

Types of Networks:

- PAN (Personal Area Network)
 - Ex. Bluetooth
 - Smallest network
 - Meant to cover small area
 - Commonly used by one user to connect devices in close proximity
- LAN (Local Area Network)
 - Larger than PAN
 - Used to connect devices in usually one building
 - Very common
- WLAN (Wireless Local Area Network)
 - A LAN network that utilizes wireless connections
 - WiFi is WLAN
- MAN (Metropolitan Area Network)
 - Larger than a LAN
 - Smaller LANs connected together in a large area
- WAN (Wide Area Network)
 - Ex. the Internet
 - Larger than MANs
 - Can be kilometers apart
- SAN (Storage Area Network)
 - A type of LAN made to handle large amounts of complex data
- VPN (Virtual Private Network)
 - Masks user's IP address as a different computer's
 - Hides your identity and incoming/outgoing information
 - Limits the risk of being targeted by a hacker