

LANs and WANs

There are many different types of networks that range in size and proximity. Most can be categorized into one of two basic groups: local area networks (LAN) and wide area networks (WAN).

A local area network (LAN) is a group of networked computers, printers, or other hardware devices that are all connected relatively close to each other like an office, home, or school. It allows connected users to share files, printers, or other applications. Whether as small as two computers or much larger in size, a LAN's major purpose is to allow users to share information quickly and easily.

A wide area network (WAN) is a group of networked computers in a much larger geographical area, such as a state or country. The best example of a WAN is the Internet, which spans the entire world. A router connects your personal LAN to the WAN using a type of networking protocol called TCP/IP



A router connects your personal LAN to the Internet (WAN).