

Networks

Networks are computers that are connected and are able to share data and Internet connections.

Types of networks:

- **LAN — Local Area Network** – computers that are connected in a small area. Examples include a school computer lab, a network at home, or an office network.
- **WAN — Wide Area Network** – computers that are connected in a large or spread out area. Companies that have offices in several cities or a large school system typically use a WAN configuration. While they are all connected in the WAN, the individual sites probably use their own LAN as well.
- **Client/Server** — computers that are configured as either a server (stores all the files) or as a client (uses the files). The server computer is usually the one that connects to the Internet and has the firewall software running on it. You can also save your files on the server and access them from any client computer on the network. Most schools run this type of configuration.
- **Peer-to-Peer** — each computer on the network acts as a client and a server. This is usually when people are doing “file sharing.” This is also referred to as **P2P networking**.
- **Wireless networks** — most are actually LANs. Computers that are connected without wires and receive signals from transceivers or bridges.