

Basic Networking

Also See: Newsletters / [Why Should You Have a Home or Small Business Network?](#)

Computer Networking is the direction that technology is taking us. Stand alone computers are limited in the benefits they can provide compared to two or more computers that can communicate with each other, shares hardware resources and data. The basic introduction to networking for most users today is through access to the Internet. The Internet is accessed using a modem and a communication network through your telephone line or cable company. It allows a user to see or share data on another computer on the internet. This has evolved from the early days when networks were private with limited access. These local area networks (LAN) are now affordable and easy to install in small businesses and in homes. Networking has come a long way.

A LAN can be installed using you existing telephone wiring or by running separate cables between your computers. By having you computers connected this way you can share data and files, share a common printer or have multiple printers shared by everyone. If you have internet access on one computer you can let other networked computers access the internet through the same modem.

If you have more than one computer in your business or your office you are a candidate to having a private network or virtual private network(VPN) of your own. We can come to your office or home and evaluate your needs and suggest alternative solutions with costs, and then install the network.

Key Benefits

- Shared resources such as printers, directories and files
- Shared internet access through a single modem
- Email for all users

Some Basic Thought on Networking

- Networking may be needed if people at the office, or in the home, need to share data.
- The data may be word documents, spreadsheets, graphics, and other types of information. Without a network it is not possible to quickly share this data with others.
- If you do not have your computers networked, you have to print out the documents so that others can edit them or use them. Or, you give files on CD or floppy disks to others to copy to their computers.
- More than one individual may make changes to a document and there is no way to easily merge the changes. This can be a major problem for people working together
- A network allows everyone to share the one printer, or scanner.
- With a network it is easier for people to find and share data.
- It is easier to copy data.
- Time savings can result - instead of having people swap disks, data can be transferred quickly.
- A network can improve communication around staff and through your company.
- A network will provide management with stronger control over information.
- Management can easily control access to sensitive data.
- Networking allows for centralized backup of all data.
- Networking is a most efficient way to share information - you can even share files between different environments, for example, between a Macintosh user and a PC user.

- Networking allows you share internet access between many computers
- You can even share files or printers over the Internet.
- Local networks may be cable or wireless.

For more details, contact your local Computer Troubleshooter