

Computer Networks

Computer networks can be used for various purposes.

For individuals, networks offer access to a variety of information and entertainment resources. For companies, networks provide a powerful communication medium for employees working at different locations. There are several types of networks used for different purposes.

Networks are classified on the basis of transmission and scale. Based on transmission, they are classified into point-to-point networks and broadcast networks.

Based on size/area of networking, networks are mainly classified into:

- Local Area Networks (LANs)
- Metropolitan Area Networks (MANs)
- Wide Area Networks (WANs).

LANs are privately-owned networks which are used in a single building or an office to connect various workstations and share other resources such as printers, files, etc. MANs are a larger version of LANs and use the same technology that LANs do. Typically, they connect users spread over various parts of a city. A WAN connects a large geographical area.

Network Server is a computer in Network that is designated to provide one or more network service. For example file server, database server etc. There are often a server providing more than one service but if there is a server computer that provides one and only one service, it is known as dedicated server.

Now we see that computer network is a collection of distributed intelligent machines that are connected with each other with transmission media for the purpose of data sharing, communication and sharing of computer resources.