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Types of Networks in Use Today

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The smallest and most elementary sort of network, a PAN is formed from a wireless modem, a computer or two, phones, printers, tablets, etc., and revolves around one person in one building. These types of networks are typically found in small offices or residences, and are managed by one person or organization from a single device. We're confident that you've heard of those sorts of networks before – LANs are the foremost frequently discussed networks, one among the foremost common, one among the foremost original and one of the simplest types of networks. LANs connect groups of computers and low-voltage devices together across short distances (within a building or between a gaggle of two or three buildings in close proximity to every other) to share information and resources. Enterprises typically manage and maintain LANs. Functioning like a LAN, WLANs make use of wireless network technology, such as Wi-Fi. Typically seen within the same sorts of applications as LANs, these sorts of networks don't require that devices believe physical cables to attach to the network. Larger than LANs, but smaller than metropolitan area networks (MANs, explained below), these sorts of networks are typically seen in universities, large K-12 school districts or small businesses. They can be spread across several buildings that are fairly on the brink of one another so users can share resources. These sorts of networks are larger than LANs but smaller than WANs – and incorporate elements from both sorts of networks. MANs span a whole geographical area (typically a town or city, but sometimes a campus). Ownership and maintenance is handled by either one person or company (a local council, an outsized company, etc.) Slightly more complex than a LAN, a WAN connects computers together across longer physical distances. This allows computers and low-voltage devices to be remotely connected to every other over one large network to speak even when they're miles apart. As a fanatical high-speed network that connects shared pools of storage devices to many servers, these sorts of networks don't believe a LAN or WAN. Instead, they move storage resources faraway from the network and place them into their own high-performance network. SANs are often accessed within the same fashion as a drive attached to a server. Types of storage-area networks include converged, virtual and unified SANs. This term is fairly new within the past 20 years . It is used to explain a relatively local network that is designed to provide high-speed connection in server-to-server applications (cluster environments), storage area networks (called "SANs" as well) and processor-to-processor applications. The computers connected on a SAN operate as one system at very high speeds. As an alternate to traditional switch-based Ethernet LANs, POLAN technology are often integrated into structured cabling to beat concerns about supporting traditional Ethernet protocols and network applications like PoE (Power over Ethernet). A point-to-multipoint LAN architecture, POLAN uses optical splitters to separate an optical signal from one strand of singlemode glass fiber into multiple signals to serve users and devices. These sorts of networks

are built and owned by businesses that want to securely connect its various locations to share computer resources. By extending a personal network across the web, a VPN lets its users send and receive data as if their devices were connected to the private network – albeit they're not. Through a virtual point-to-point connection, users can access a private network remotely.