

LANs vs WANs

Introduction to Digital Technology

What is a LAN?

- Local area network
- Relatively limited in size
- Computers connected in small areas
- Same office
- True peer-to-peer
- Can support limited number of nodes

What is a WLAN?

- Wireless local area network
- Uses radio or satellite waves to get signal
- Security a big issue

What is a WAN?

- Wide Area Network
- Uses long-range telecommunication
- Links across country or continent
- Bandwidth – amount of data that can be transmitted in a given amount of time

Media used in WANs

- Wireless
- Satellite uplinks
- Specialized cabling
- T1/T3 telephone lines
- Fiber-optic cables

Types of WANs

- Campus Area Network – limited geographic area
- Metropolitan Area Network – towns and cities
- Home Area Network – home setups
- Global Area Network – uses satellites to link networks
- Storage Area Network – stores large amounts of data