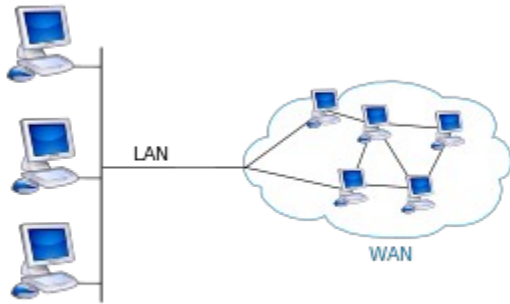


Wide area network

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Computer network types by geographical scope

- [Near field \(NFC\)](#)
- [Body \(BAN\)](#)
- [Personal \(PAN\)](#)
- [Near-me \(NAN\)](#)
- [Local \(LAN\)](#)
 - [Home \(HAN\)](#)
 - [Storage \(SAN\)](#)
- [Campus \(CAN\)](#)
- [Backbone](#)
- [Metropolitan \(MAN\)](#)
- **Wide (WAN)**
- [Internet](#)
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A **Wide Area Network** (WAN) is a network that covers a broad area (i.e., any [telecommunications network](#) that links across metropolitan, regional, or national boundaries) using private or [public](#) network transports. Business

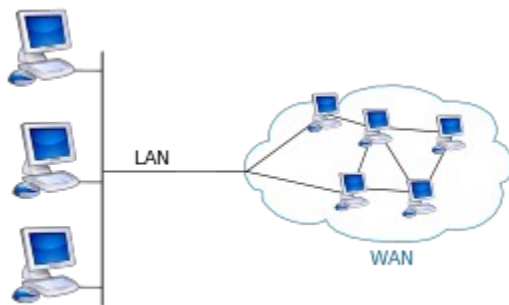
and government entities utilize WANs to relay data among employees, clients, buyers, and suppliers from various geographical locations. In essence, this mode of telecommunication allows a business to effectively carry out its daily function regardless of location. The Internet can be considered a WAN as well, and is used by businesses, governments, organizations, and individuals for almost any purpose imaginable.^[1]

Related terms for other types of networks are [personal area networks](#) (PANs), [local area networks](#) (LANs), [campus area networks](#) (CANs), or [metropolitan area networks](#) (MANs) which are usually limited to a room, building, campus or specific metropolitan area (e.g., a city) respectively

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http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wide_area_network

What is a Local-Area Network (LAN)?

A *local-area network* (LAN) is a [computer network](#) that spans a relatively small area. Most LANs are confined to a single building or group of buildings, however, one LAN can be connected to other LANs over any distance via telephone lines and radio waves. A [system](#) of LANs connected in this way is called a [wide-area network \(WAN\)](#).

Most LANs connect [workstations](#) and [personal computers](#). Each [node](#) (individual computer) in a LAN has its own [CPU](#) with which it [executes programs](#), but it also is able to [access data](#) and [devices](#) anywhere on the LAN. This means that many [users](#) can share expensive devices, such as [laser printers](#), as well as data. Users can also use the LAN to communicate with each other, by sending [e-mail](#) or engaging in [chat](#) sessions.

LANs are capable of transmitting data at very fast rates, much faster than data can be transmitted over a telephone line; but the distances are limited, and there is also a limit on the number of computers that can be attached to a single LAN.

http://www.webopedia.com/TERM/L/local_area_network_LAN.html

Definition - What does Metropolitan Area Network (MAN) mean?

A metropolitan area network (MAN) is similar to a local area network (LAN) but spans an entire city or campus. MANs are formed by connecting multiple LANs. Thus, MANs are larger than LANs but smaller than wide area networks (WAN).

MANs are extremely efficient and provide fast communication via high-speed carriers, such as fiber optic cables.

<http://www.techopedia.com/definition/8238/metropolitan-area-network-man>