

Network types

To understand a network, you need to know the components of a network. When examining a network, you must first determine the size of the network.

You will then need to familiarize yourself with the basic connection components, such as the cables and communication programs used to create the network.

You must be able to distinguish between multiple **network topologies** and then determine which network technology is appropriate for each network design.

You must select specific network components that will enable future expansion of the network.

- The size of a network refers to its geographical dimensions.
- The size of a network can range from a few computers in an office to thousands of computers connected over greater distances.
- The size of a network is determined by the size of the organization or the distance between users on the network. The size of the network determines the network design and the physical components used.
- There are two general types of network sizes:
 - **LAN**
 - **WAN**



VLAN

VLANs are used to segment virtual networks, especially in the VoIP environment, but also elsewhere.

Other network types

- **MAN** Often the category city network (**MAN**, metropolitan area network) is used. The worldwide network can be seen as a network of several **WAN**s or as a **GAN** (global area network).
- **PAN** (personal area network) or Piconetz for networking a workplace.
- **SAN** (storage / system area network) for networking a room - typically in a data center

SAN (storage / system area network) for networking a room - typically a data center intranet: a network based on the same technology as the Internet, but accessible only to a closed user group (e.g. employees of a company, members of a university) Extranet: an intranet that allows access to selected external users (e.g. customers).



Further Information

- [VoIP Essentials](#)
- [Visit the Snom Forum](#)
- [Open a support ticket](#)
- [Find a local partner](#)

Related articles

- [LAN - Local Area Network](#) (Snom Service Hub)
- [Network types](#) (Snom Service Hub)
- [VLAN - Virtual Local Area Network](#) (Snom Service Hub)
- [WAN - Wide Area Network](#) (Snom Service Hub)