



944 Market Street, Suite 500
San Francisco, CA 94102
Phone: (800) 778-8330
Fax: (415) 358-4295
www.bayareasystems.com

Computer Network and How It Can Increase Your Productivity

What's a computer network?

Computer network can be defined as "A set of computers that are connected and able to exchange data". In a typical office environment, a local area network (LAN); is usually set up to allow data exchange and resource sharing (such as printers, fax modem, scanner, Internet broadband access) in the office.

What kind of benefit do I get from a computer network?

There are numerous benefits a computer network can bring to your business.

- **File Sharing:** Computer files can be stored centrally, therefore multiple staff members can work on one single copy and responsibility can be delegated (faxing, mailing, printing, etc.). Storing files in a centralized location will also make data backup easier, more reliable and cost efficient.
- **Internet Sharing:** If you have a broadband Internet connection, setting up a LAN will allow the entire office to access the Internet concurrently. Everyone can exchange message, do research, monitor business development, and fully realize the benefit of Internet at any time.
- **Resource Sharing:** Printers, fax modems and scanners (depends on model and other factors) can be shared across the network. For example, a high speed high quality printer can be shared by the entire office, allowing you to reduce cost while increase quality of output (printout, fax result...).
- **Data Sharing:** Certain applications such as accounting, scheduling, contact management and billing management allow users to setup a central data repository for multiple computer access. Once the repository is setup, multiple computers can view and modify the same set of data. Data sharing increases work efficiency, allows faster decision making, and let you have a quicker and better view of the status of your business.

What kind of network do I need?

A wired network requires Network Interface Card (NIC) on each computer. A network cable then connects each computer to a network switch or router. Wire network offers the best reliability and security. Most wired networks have speed of either 10, 100 or 1000 Mbps (mega bits per second). Today's computer networks should operate at a minimum of 100 Mbps. If you experience constant network performance problem, you may have a slow network.

Wireless network is gaining popularity as its speed approaches wired network and the cost of equipment decreases. Wireless network requires a wireless router and wireless NIC on each computer. 802.11b and 802.11g are the most common standards. 802.11b offers speed up to 11Mbps and 802.11g offers speed up to 54Mbps. Most wireless routers allow installation professional to setup encryption key to protect the communication between the router and computers. Wireless network uses radio frequency technology to transmit data and therefore network speed depends on the physical environment and configuration. Wireless network offers the versatility that a wired cannot provide. Wireless network maybe the sensible choice for places that network cables cannot or are hard to reach (due to cost or physical obstacles).

BayArea Systems can help setup or optimize your computer network!

With over 20 years of experience in networking technology, our skilled professional can help you design and install computer network that best suit your business. You are welcome to contact us for potential network problem, simply need more information on computer network or need help in getting the most out of your existing network. **Call us now at (800)778-8330.**

Contact BayArea Systems at (800) 778-8330 or visit us online at www.bayareasystems.com