

Small Office Home Office (SOHO) Network Design

Project Overview

This project focuses on the design and implementation of a Small Office Home Office (SOHO) network for XYZ company, which is opening a branch in Bonalbo. The network setup includes four departments: Admin/IT, Finance/HR, Customer Service/Reception, and Logistics. Each department is connected via VLANs and wireless networks. The network has been designed to ensure efficient communication between the departments while adhering to company policies.

Key Requirements:

1. Network Devices:

- Use one router and two switches, both Cisco products.
- Each department is assigned a different VLAN for segregation.
- Wireless access points for each department for wireless connectivity.

2. Addressing:

- Devices need to obtain IPv4 addresses automatically via DHCP.
- The ISP provided the base network 192.168.1.0/24.

3. Inter-department Communication:

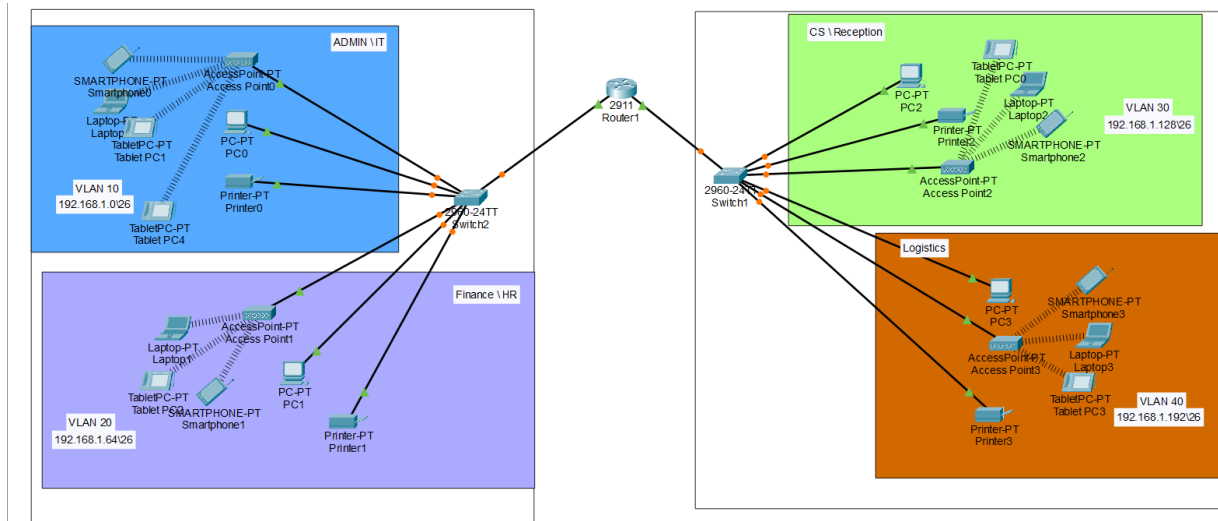
- Even though departments are segregated into different VLANs, they are required to communicate via Inter-VLAN Routing.
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Implementation Details

1. VLAN Configuration VLANs were created to segment the network into four distinct departments:
 - **VLAN 10:** Admin/IT (192.168.1.0/26)
 - **VLAN 20:** Finance/HR (192.168.1.64/26)
 - **VLAN 30:** Customer Service/Reception (192.168.1.128/26)
 - **VLAN 40:** Logistics (192.168.1.192/26)

On the switches, interfaces were assigned to these VLANs, ensuring that each device is part of the appropriate department. The following configurations were made:

- Specified VLANs on a range of ports, ensuring the correct devices (PCs, printers, access points) were assigned to their respective VLANs.
- The switchport mode access command was used to ensure the ports were in access mode, which means each port can only communicate with one VLAN.



2. Inter-VLAN Routing Configuration (Router on a Stick)

To allow devices in different VLANs to communicate, Inter-VLAN Routing was implemented using the router. A single physical interface on the router was configured to handle traffic for multiple VLANs using sub-interfaces:

- Sub-interfaces were created for each VLAN (e.g., gig0/0.10, gig0/0.20, gig0/0.30, gig0/0.40).
- Each sub-interface was assigned an IP address that acts as the default gateway for that VLAN.
- Dot1Q encapsulation was configured to tag VLAN traffic on the router interface, ensuring that the router can properly route traffic between VLANs.

3. DHCP Server Configuration

The router was configured as a DHCP server to assign IP addresses dynamically to devices in each department:

- Four DHCP pools were created, one for each department (Admin/IT, Finance/HR, Customer Service/Reception, and Logistics).
- Each pool was assigned a network range corresponding to the VLAN, a default gateway (router sub-interface), and DNS server details.

After configuring the DHCP server, devices within each VLAN were tested, and they successfully obtained IP addresses dynamically.

4. **Wireless Network Setup**

Each department was provided with its own wireless network. Cisco Access Points were configured to provide wireless connectivity:

- For each access point, the SSID was named according to the department: Admin-WIFI, Finance-WIFI, CS-WIFI, and Logistics-WIFI.
- WPA2-PSK security was enabled on each SSID, and a unique passphrase was assigned (Admin@123, Finance@123, Customer@123, Logistics@123).
- Mobile devices like phones, tablets, and laptops were connected to the respective wireless networks, and their network connection was verified.

5. **Testing and Verification**

After setting up the network, the following tests were performed:

- **IP Address Allocation:** All devices, including PCs, printers, and wireless devices, received IP addresses from the DHCP server, confirming correct DHCP configuration.
 - **Inter-VLAN Communication:** Devices in one department were able to communicate with devices in other departments, confirming that Inter-VLAN Routing was functioning as expected.
 - **Wireless Connectivity:** Mobile devices connected to the wireless networks successfully transferred data to other devices in their department and across VLANs, confirming proper wireless setup.
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