Virtual Private Networks

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Chapter 1

A Brief Introduction to Networking

1.1 About Networking

1.1.1 What Is Networking?

In this day and age, networks are everywhere. Whenever we quickly search for something on the Internet, stream our favorite song on our phone or use an ATM, we rely on some kind of network. We can even turn off the lights or unlock our door with a simple voice command while comfortably sitting in our bed thanks to the IoT. Given the fact that the first message transmitted between two computers happened in 1959, it is astonishing how fast networking evolved - but what really is a network?

A *network*, quite simply put, is a set of hardware devices connected together, either physically or logically, with the purpose of exchanging information. *Networking* is the term that describes the processes involved in designing, implementing, managing, and otherwise working with networks.