

The Edge of The Internet: End Systems

Here's an introduction to the important physical components of the Internet that make it tick!

We'll cover the following ^

- End Systems
- The Network Edge
- Quick Quiz!

So far, we know that the Internet is a network of networks. Each network is made up of devices, called **end systems**, connected to each other with **communication links**. Let's look at each in more detail.

End Systems

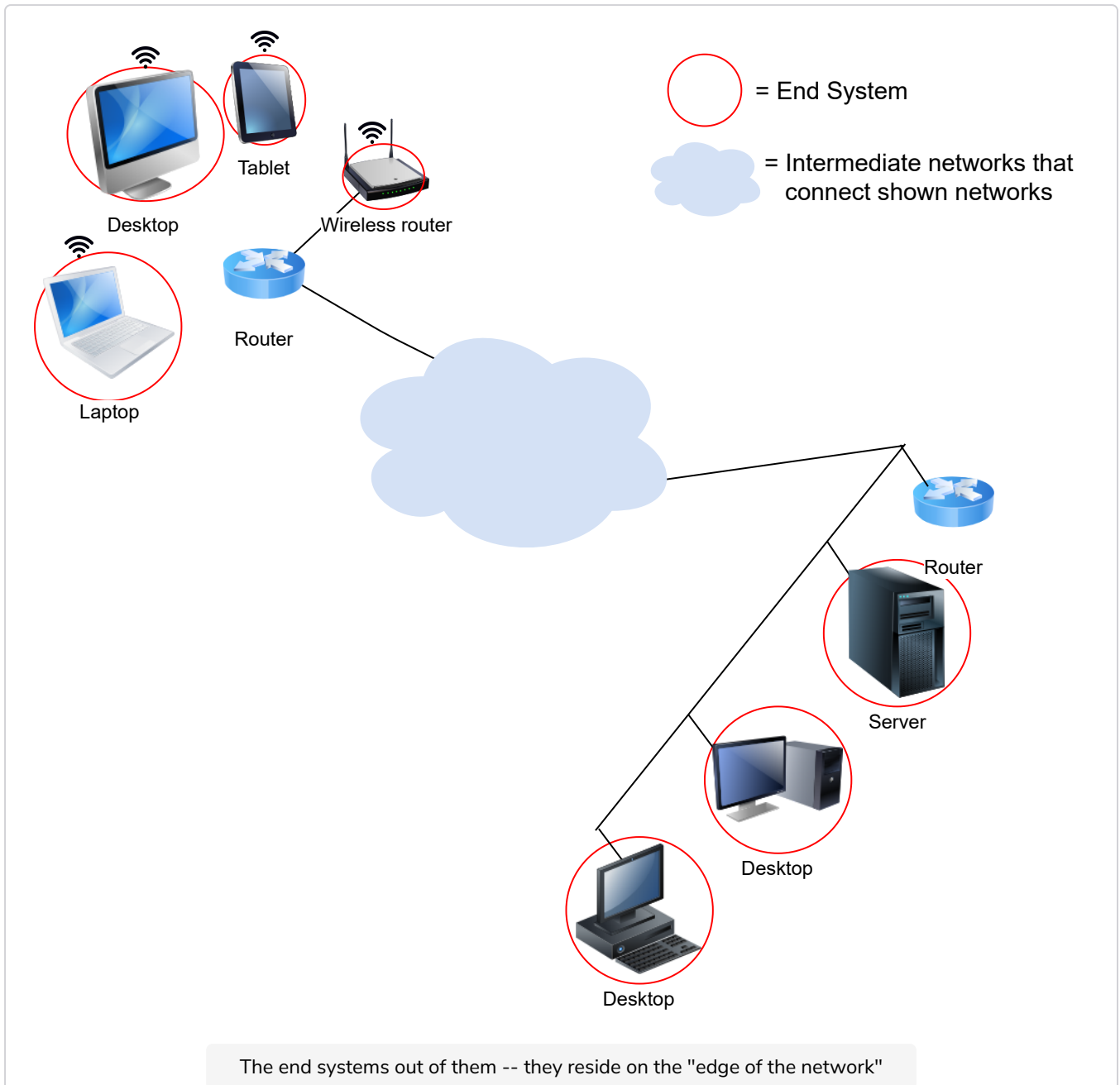
End systems are devices that are connected to the Internet. They include:

- Desktop computers
- Servers
- Mobile devices
- IoT devices.

So, an end system can be anything from a rack server to an Internet-enabled toaster. These devices are **often also called edge systems** in networking jargon because they are technically situated at the 'edge' of the Internet since **they don't relay data from one device to another**.

The Network Edge

The **network edge** is simply the collection of end-systems that we use every day: smartphones, laptops, tablets, etc. However, note that **devices that relay messages (such as routers) are not part of the edge of the Internet**.



Note that the two networks shown **could be connected through any number of intermediate networks** such as those for their Internet Service Providers. Since the actual path doesn't matter, **we obfuscate** the interconnectivity by using the **cloud symbol**.

Quick Quiz!

1

Which of the following is NOT an end system?

- ☐ A) The mobile connection system

☐ B) A digital door bell

☐ C) A web server

☐ D) A router

COMPLETED 0%



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Now that we understand the basic structure of the Internet, let's look into how end systems access the Internet in the next lesson!