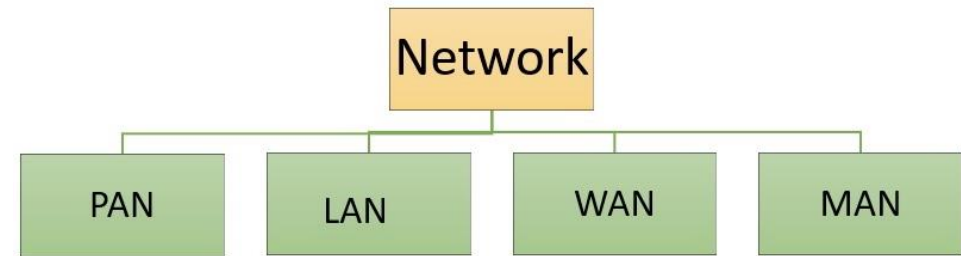


# Types of Computer Networks

- There are different types of computer networks, the categorization has been done on the basis of usage, area over which the network operates, number of users, transmission technology etc.
  - Personal Area Network(PAN).
  - Storage Area Network(SAN).
  - Local Area Network(LAN).
  - Metropolitan Area Network(MAN).
  - Wide Area Network(WAN).



# Local area network (LAN)

- LAN or Local Area Network connects network devices in such a way that personal computer and workstations can share data, tools and programs.
- The group of computers and devices are connected together by a switch, or stack of switches, using a private addressing scheme as defined by the TCP/IP protocol.
- Private addresses are unique in relation to other computers on the local network. Routers are found at the boundary of a LAN, connecting them to the larger WAN.

# **Metropolitan area network (MAN)**

- MAN or Metropolitan area Network covers a larger area than that of a LAN and smaller area as compared to WAN.
- It connects two or more computers that are apart but resides in the same or different cities.
- It covers a large geographical area and may serve as an ISP (Internet Service Provider). MAN is designed for customers who need a high-speed connectivity. Speeds of MAN ranges in terms of Mbps.
- It's hard to design and maintain a Metropolitan Area Network

# Wide area network (WAN)

- WAN or Wide Area Network is a computer network that extends over a large geographical area, although it might be confined within the bounds of a state or country.
- A WAN could be a connection of LAN connecting to other LAN's via telephone lines and radio waves and may be limited to an enterprise (a corporation or an organization) or accessible to the public.
- The technology is high speed and relatively expensive.