

NETWORK TYPES (PAN,LAN,CAN,MAN AND WAN)

Types of networks and their key differentiating features

SL. No.	Key differentiating features	Personal Area Network (PAN) or Piconet(Bluetooth PAN)	Local/Campus Network (LAN/CAN)	Metropolitan Area Network (MAN)	Wide Area Network (WAN)
1	Geographical distribution of nodes	Within few meters	Within few kilometer	Within few tens of kilometer	May extend over several thousand kilometer
2	Purpose	To enable communication among computing device within an office room or a house of an individual	To enable communication among computing device a building (LAN) or a campus (CAN)of an organization	To interconnect LANs located in a city or metropolitan area	To interconnect LANs spread across cities or countries
3	Communication channel used commonly	Infrared, radio-wave	Twisted pair, coaxial cable, fiber optics	Fiber optics, telephone lines, microwave links	Fiber optics, telephone line, microwave link, satellite channels
4	Ownership	Personal	Single organization	Interconnected LANs usually belong to a single organization	Interconnected LANs may belong to a single or multiple organization
5	Communication cost	Negligible	Low	Medium	High
6	Communication technologies used commonly	Bluetooth IrDA (Infrared Data Association) UWB (Ultra Wide Band) radio	Ethernet, Token ring	ATM, Frame relay,X.25, and IP	ATM, Frame relay,X.25, and IP