



IT Fundamentals

Unit - Hardware

Lesson 2.5.2 - Network Storage Devices

IT Fundamentals Objectives (FC0-U61)

Objective 2.5 - Compare and contrast storage types.

- Local network storage types
 - NAS
 - File server
- Cloud storage service

Grade Level(s)

8, 9

Cyber Connections

- Hardware & Software

This content is based upon work supported by the US Department of Homeland Security's Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency under the Cybersecurity Education Training and Assistance Program (CETAP).

Network Storage Devices

Partly Cloudy or Sunny Skies

Whether it be for personal or business use, *network storage* or *hosted storage* can be accessed over a *local area network* (LAN), a *wide area network* (WAN) with computers in different countries, or something in between. The term server refers to a networked computer dedicated to full-time assistance of other computers. There are numerous kinds of servers: email servers, authentication servers, and web servers just to name a few.

A *file server* has fast, high-capacity storage disks (HDD or SSD) for storing files that multiple users can access, with both read and write privileges if they have the proper permissions. In line with file servers is *network-attached storage* (NAS). NAS usually refers to a stand-alone device that has a network connection, a file server, and one or more hard drive slots. There is no keyboard, mouse, or monitor.

For individuals or businesses looking for off-site storage options, *cloud storage* is available. Cloud computing is using applications or data storage via the Internet. This is very useful for commercial businesses with employees across the globe so everyone has standardized applications and file storage regardless of their location.