**Servers**

**What is Server?**

Servers are computers that provide data to other computers. It may serve data to systems on a Local Area Network (LAN) or a Wide Area Network (WAN) over the Internet. Most servers are accessed remotely using **remote access** software.

Many types of servers exist, including **web servers**, **mail servers**, and **file servers**. Each type runs different software, specific to the purpose of the server. While server software is specific to the type of server, the hardware is not as important. In fact, a regular desktop computer can be turned into a server by adding the appropriate software. For example, a computer connected to a home network can be designated as a file server, print server, or both. While any computer can be configured as a server, most large businesses use rack-mountable hardware designed specifically for server functionality.

**Web Server**

Every web site work on servers. These servers are web servers. A web server is a computer system that hosts websites. Web sites run web server software, such as Apache or Microsoft IIS (Internet Information Services), which provides access to hosted web pages over the Internet.

Web servers can take thousands of requests in a second, they should respond to these requests in less than seconds. Therefore most web servers are connected to the Internet via a high-speed connection.

Web servers generally host multiple websites. Some of them only host a few, while others host several hundred. For this reason, we can say that there are two types of web servers. Web servers that host websites for multiple users are called **shared hosts**. This is the most common type of hosting solution and is used for personal sites, small business sites, and websites run by small organizations. Web servers that only host websites for a single person or company are called **dedicated hosts**. These types of servers are appropriate for high-traffic websites and sites that require custom server modifications.

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| *Dedicated and shared web hosting* |

**Q: Explain Web Server.**  
A: A Web server is a server on the Internet that holds Web documents and makes them available for viewing by remote browsers..

**Mail Server**

A mail server is a server that handles and delivers e-mails over a network, usually over the Internet. A mail server can receive e-mails from client computers and delivers them to other mail servers. A mail server can also deliver e-mails to client computers. A client is normally a computer or phone where you read and/or send your e-mails.

**SMTP, POP3, and IMAP**

When you press the "Send" button in your e-mail application (e-mail client) the program will connect to a server on the network / Internet that is called an **SMTP** (Simple Mail Transfer Protocol) server. SMTP is a protocol that is used when e-mails are delivered from clients to servers and from servers to other servers.

When you download e-mails to your mail program the program will connect to a server on the network / Internet that is known as a **POP3** (Post Office Protocol version 3) server.

**IMAP** (Internet Message Access Protocol) is a method of accessing and storing mail on a mail server. IMAP allows you to access your email wherever you are, from any device. When you read an email message using IMAP, you aren't actually downloading or storing it on your computer; instead, you're reading it from the email service.

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| *IMAP, SMTP and POP3* |

**File Server**

A file server (or fileserver) is a computer attached to a network that provides a location for shared disk access, i.e. storage of computer [files](https://lms.clarusway.com/mod/lesson/view.php?id=1052" \o "Files) (such as text, image, sound, video) that can be accessed by the workstations that are able to reach the computer that shares the access through a computer network.

A file server generally does not perform any calculations, and not run any programs on behalf of clients. It is designed primarily to enable the storage and fast retrieval of data where the heavy computation is provided by the workstations.