**NETWORK**

A network is a collection of computers, servers, mainframes, network devices, peripherals, or other devices connected to one another to allow the sharing of data. An excellent example of a network is the [Internet](https://www.computerhope.com/jargon/i/internet.htm), which connects millions of people all over the world. To the right is an example image of a home network with multiple computers and other network devices all connected The foundation of networking are Switches, Routers and Wireless Access points.

Switches, routers, and wireless access points are the essential networking basics. Through them, devices connected to your network can communicate with one another and with other networks, like the Internet. Switches, routers, and wireless access points perform very different functions in a network.

**SWITCHES**

Switches are the foundation of most business networks. A switch acts as a controller, connecting computers, printers, and servers to a network in a building or a campus.

**ROUTERS**

Routers connect multiple networks together. They also connect computers on those networks to the Internet. Routers enable all networked computers to share a single Internet connection, which saves money.

### **ACCESS POINTS**

An access point allows devices to connect to the wireless network without cables. A wireless network makes it easy to bring new devices online and provides flexible support to mobile workers.