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**Networking Summary**

**Networking** is the practice of transporting and exchanging data between nodes over a shared medium in an information system. Networking enables devices and endpoints to be connected to each other on either a **Local Area Network (LAN**) or a **Wide Area Network (WAN).** Networking facilitates everything from telephone calls to texts messaging to streaming videos to the Internet of Things (IoT). There are two different types of networking: wired networking and wireless networking. Wired networking requires the use of a physical medium like a cable for transport between nodes. The two most common types of cabling used for wired networking are copper-based ethernet cables or fiber optic cables. Fiber Optic cables use light to transport data over greater distances and at faster speeds. Wireless networking uses radio waves to transport data over the air, this enables devices to be connected to a network without the need of cabling. Alternative methods of created a wireless network is by using microwave signals, satellite, cellular or Bluetooth signals. Wired networking tends to offer a greater speed, more reliability, and security. Wireless networking tends to provide mor e flexibility, mobility, and scalability. The basic hardware required for a network to function include **switches, routers,** and **access points.** Lastly, networks also rely on the use of protocols to perform discrete functions or to communicate different types of data no matter what the underlying hardware consists of.

**Works Cited**

Rouse, M. (2018, June 29). What is Networking (computer)? - Definition from WhatIs.com. Retrieved from <https://searchnetworking.techtarget.com/definition/networking>