Link: <http://www.studytonight.com/computer-networks/types-of-networks>

After existing content under WAN, add the following:

Advantages of WAN:

* Covers a large geographical area so long distance business can connect on the one network.
* Shares software and resources with connecting workstations.
* Messages can be sent very quickly to anyone else on the network. These messages can have picture, sounds or data included with them (called attachments).
* Expensive things (such as printers or phone lines to the internet) can be shared by all the computers on the network without having to buy a different peripheral for each computer.
* Everyone on the network can use the same data. This avoids problems where some users may have older information than others.

Disadvantages of WAN:

* Need a good firewall to restrict outsiders from entering and disrupting the network.
* Setting up a network can be an expensive, slow and complicated. The bigger the network the more expensive it is.
* Once set up, maintaining a network is a full-time job which requires network supervisors and technicians to be employed.
* Security is a real issue when many different people have the ability to use information from other computers. Protection against hackers and viruses adds more complexity and expense.