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| St. Mary's University of San Antonio |
| An Expert System for Network Router Configuration |
| Vision Document |
|  |
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| **4/1/2013** |

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| This document defines the vision and scope of this Master's project. High level requirements such as goals, needs, and product features are described. The project will implement an Expert System using a user-defined knowledge base and an inference engine to automate the configuration of a small home/small office computer network. |

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# Introduction

## Purpose

This document is the first in a collection of software engineering documents on the proposed software system, an Expert System for Network Router Configuration. In this Vision document we present the system at a high level of description with the intent that this should be used as a guide throughout the system development life-cycle to keep the project within scope, warding off feature creep. A discussion of the problem to be solved will be given first, leading to targeted user needs and goals. From these needs and goals, we will propose a solution and capture major features using standard software engineering tools called Use-Case diagrams. From these Use-Cases we will derive informal requirements called Software Product Features. Requirements will be formalized in the next document of the collection to be called the System Requirements Specification (SRS) document.

## Problem Description

According to a published solicitation by the United States' Department of Defense Advanced Research and Projects Agency (DARPA) in 2006, incorrectly configured network devices are a common cause of insecure computer networks Error: Reference source not found. In the enterprise world, flawed configurations might result from fat-fingered input, poor quality network analysis, or distributed network devices with mismatched or uncomplimentary configurations. However, in the context of a 1st world residence, typical of a small office/home office (SOHO), a single wireless router is solely responsible for implementing network configuration and policy. While an enterprise network is carefully designed using some engineering process, a SOHO network can be characterized as ad-hoc in terms of design. Most SOHO router manufacturers understand this and provide "quick setup" firmware pre-installed. The default settings on these routers are acceptable for typical SOHO use cases but the typical SOHO user is ignorant of most of these settings. And, in indeed, the default administrative password is rarely changed leaving many SOHO routers vulnerable to attack as described in Error: Reference source not found. However, for the power SOHO user, there are 3rd party firmwares available, for example, Linux-based OpenWRT, DD-WRT, and Tomato. These firmwares are designed to replace a SOHO wireless router's pre-existing firmware from the manufacturer and provide new or improved features for the router that otherwise would only be available on more expensive routers as described in Error: Reference source not found and Error: Reference source not found. As open-source software supported by an active community, an added feature of these firmwares is support for older, inexpensive hardware and turnarounds for security fixes that are quicker than one could expect from an original manufacturer who has dropped support or has become defunct such as the case described in Error: Reference source not found. Among the three firmwares mentioned, OpenWRT is currently the only one fully open-source and free providing the lowest barrier to full access. Configuring OpenWRT, on the other hand, is a manual and knowledge intensive process requiring a domain expert in order to get the most benefit from the features provided by OpenWRT.

A solution may include an Expert System, a system that emulates the decision-making ability of a human subject matter expert (SME) by reasoning about collected facts to infer knowledge. Expert systems should not be confused with cognitive modeling programs, which attempt to simulate human mental architecture in detail. Instead, expert systems are practical programs that use heuristic strategies developed to solve specific classes of problems such the software program TurboTax by Intuit.

## Statement of Scope

The goal of this project is a small step towards bringing down the accessibility barrier to using 3rd party firmware on consumer-grade, network routing devices, specifically OpenWRT version 10.03.1. Applications of conversational-mode expert systems such as TurboTax have proved successful at empowering the common people in doing for themselves that which they otherwise would need an expert. To achieve the stated goal, we will apply the conversation-mode of an expert system to gather information about a SOHO network from a user. The Expert system will read in production rules from a knowledge base along with the user's responses and infer a new status message to display to the user, a new question to ask of the user, and /or a new UCI command to append to a growing configuration script. After the conversational information gathering is complete, the system will allow the user to review, edit, save, and apply the generated configuration file. The configuration script will be applied remotely via SSH. At this stage of the system development, no 3rd party firmware installation help with be provided nor will every possible configuration scenario be accounted for. This project will start off small by getting the user up and running with typical 3rd party firmware usage scenarios:

1. multi-family dwellings where the various wireless routers in close proximity may interfere with each other,
2. a repeater network,
3. a client-bridge network,
4. VPN,
5. and port forwarding.

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# User Description

To justify the system's existence, market demographics, the user's environment, the user's goal and needs, and competition are all described in this section.

## User/Market Demographics

Users of the system are ISP home customers and are either tech-savvy or not. The intended goal of the system is to make accessible the configuration of the OpenWRT firmware for users who 1) have never been exposed to 3rd party firmware for their SOHO routers, 2) are not familiar with Linux, and 3) are not familiar with network configurations.

## User Environment

The system is meant to be used in a residential ISP network. In such a network, a single router, typically supplied by the ISP to the customer, sits between the ISP network and the customer's home network. A home network consists of laptops, desktops and related computing devices such as wireless printers and network-accessible storage. It would also include network-enabled consumer devices such as gaming consoles like the Microsoft XBOX, and network-enabled mobile devices such as smartphones and tablets. Sometimes the ISP supplied router provides wired access only and the customer may use their own personal wireless router, sitting in-line with the ISP-supplied router, to supply wireless access to the home network. This end-user supplied router is the target router to be configured by the system. Admittedly, targeting this device may not be effective at port forwarding if the ISP-supplied router has port-forwarding settings of its own. Configuration takes place rarely, such as when the user replaces the router device or when the user self-troubleshoots network connections. Currently, end-users use the factory installed web-based front-end to configure the device's port forwarding, SSID, access permissions, security, DHCP, and other network settings. This may take 5 minutes to an hour, depending on the settings to be changed, skill level of the user, and familiarity with the configuration tool.

## Key User/Market Goals and Needs

### GN01: Manage configuration of a user-owned router device

This project focuses on the wireless network router owned and supplied by the residential ISP customer and assumes that the customer's network does not connect directly with the ISP supplied modem. There may be one or more of these wireless network routers extending the wireless network range or creating a wireless bridge to non-wireless devices. However, we will focus on the configuration of the wireless router providing access to the external internet via the ISP modem.

### GN02: Knowledge-base to specify a SOHO network's configuration

Knowledge-base to specify a SOHO network's configuration.

### GN03: Simplify interaction with wireless router and abstract configuration of SOHO network

Simplify interaction with wireless router and abstract configuration of SOHO network

### GN04: Report the configuration to be applied and the current configuration

Report the configuration to be applied and the current configuration.

## Alternatives and Competition

Previous works, Error: Reference source not found and Error: Reference source not found, have formally verified configurations of networks at the Autonomous System node level within the BGP protocol space which implements the inter-networking across ISPs. Requiring the system user to use formal logic to define their network configuration is tantamount to requiring the user be a good low-level programmer. Our project instead will be accessible to the typical residential ISP costumer.

There exist many freely available and high quality software tools to monitor traffic. However, they require the training and expertise of a network administrative professional.

Truly there is nothing on the markey today that does what we aim to do here

*PIKT* is a complex tool used for many administrator functions including automated network configuration of a single server host by copying files in place from a repository. This may complement this system well in the future but we will not focus on version control for this project.

The TCS Security Blanket product offers automated hardening, or lockdowns, of Linux and Solaris operating systems, specifically, Solaris 10 and Red Hat Enterprise Linux 5 and its derivatives. The enterprise edition allows central control over several hosts. It performs the hardening according to profiles which may be based on industry standards (e.g. DCID 6/3) typically developed by authoritative agencies or they may be custom profiles developed in-house. This product offers high-level policy specifications, verification of policy compliance, and automatic configuration. However, like PIKT, it offers these features for the host computers on the network not the router. Each device coming onto the network will need to be locked down individually and with consumers going through networked devices at least every two years this may not be desirable. Also, Security Blanket is targeted at the enterprise and not the home market. The stand-alone version would be a great substitute to this project for home users with only secure lockdowns of their networks in mind but it will put a great burden on the user to understand network, computer security terminology.

# Product Overview

An overview of the system is given here in the context of a product perspective, market position, a summary of capabilities, assumptions and dependencies, and a preliminary project plan to include tasks/milestones, schedule, and budget.

## Product Perspective

The product is a a freely available, open-sourced system for the general public. It uses the CLIPS inference engine developed by NASA at its core. The CLIPS inference engine accepts a flat file as a knowledge-base. It is important to note that this initial development of the system focuses on the OpenWRT firmware but only the knowledge-base is tied to this firmware, generating Unified Configuration Interface (UCI) commands. Other firmware, based on OpenWRT or not, may be targeted by user-defined knowledge-base flat files.

## Summary of Capabilities

The product will determine a set of commands to configure OpenWRT firmware running on a SOHO router. Determination will be based solely on a user interview given by the system. User-defined knowledge-bases, in flat files, may be substituted as a video game cartridge can be swapped out of a Nintendo video game console.

## Assumptions and Dependencies

The product will depend on the host platform's connection to router and the version and support for UCI of the OpenWRT firmware installed

## Preliminary Development Plan

[See Software Development Plan for full schedule of tasks to be completed.]

In an effort to minimize cost, the system will utilize and incorporate technology and software for which new or additional licensing is kept to a minimum. The software engineering strategy devised for this project should be driven by the methods and tools used, and the nature of the project [PRESSMAN5thEd.]. Methods include maintaining a single vision though out the project lifecycle, a software development plan consisting of an enumeration of tasks to be completed, a process model defining how the tasks will be completed, and a schedule defining when they will be completed. Other methods include documenting a Test plan as requirements and software are developed, developing a hierarchy of requirements from customer goals/needs to product features to software specifications. Tools used will be fairly generic and will include Gantt charts or PERT analysis, UML modeling tools, and general office productivity software. The project's high-level requirements can be grouped into standalone components indicating a modular nature of the project.

Based on these observations an incremental development process model will be used in developing a software development plan to build modules of the system and integrate them together, adding functionality as the project progresses. Certain modules provide base functionality while others provide advanced or added functionality. This will be considered when scheduling tasks. In addition, the V-model for development will be used in creating test plans as the project produces artifacts from high level to low level.

Major milestones and deliverables are listed below:

1. Proposal (This Vision Document)
2. Define Acceptance tests for each Goal/Need and Product Feature.
3. Committee Accepts Proposal
4. Stable Product Features
5. User Manual (derived from UseCase Workflow/Alt. Flow/Exceptions)
6. Stable Analysis Document (UML Analysis Diagrams)
7. Preliminary System Design Document (UML Design Diagrams)
   1. Design System Test Cases (black-box tests)
8. System Analysis Presentation to Committee
9. Design and Implement Each Module
   1. Detailed Module Design
   2. Update Detailed System Design
   3. Implement and test module for stability
      1. Design/Implement Unit test cases (white-box tests)
   4. Integrate with existing modules
   5. Repeat for next module
10. Fully Detailed System Design Document
11. Final Report and Presentation

# Key Use Cases



Figure 0: Key Use-cases

## UC01: Run Wizard

Run Wizard

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Brief Description | The Wizard takes the interviewee step by step through the interview process to define the user's home network and determine how it should be configured. |
| References | GN02, GN03 |
| Preconditions | Wizard is not currently running.  A knowledge base is selected. |
| Normal Flow | 1. The user starts the wizard. 2. The wizard prompts the user with a yes/no or multiple choice question. 3. The user answers the question or cancels the wizard. 4. If the wizard needs more information to determine a configuration for a SOHO router, it repeats from step 2 5. If the user canceled the wizard, nothing will be saved. The wizard will start from the beginning if the user starts it again |
| Alt. Flow |  |
| Post Conditions | A set of shell script commands are generated to configure the target router unless the wizard was canceled. |
| Primary Actors | Interviewee |

## UC02: Review Configuration

Review Configuration

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Brief Description | Though the user is not expected to understand any of it, the set of shell script configuration commands to be run on the target router will be presented for the user's review. |
| References | GN04 |
| Preconditions | Wizard has completed to the end OR the user has loaded a previously saved configuration |
| Normal Flow | The system prompts the user with the configuration commands that will be applied to the target SOHO router. The user may review all the commands before applying them against the target SOHO router. |
| Alt. Flow | none |
| Post Conditions | The user may edit the commands, save the configuration to the file system, and apply the configuration to the target SOHO router. |
| Primary Actors | Admin |

## UC03: Apply Configuration

Apply Configuration

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Brief Description | Using SSH, remotely apply the configuration commands to the target SOHO router in the same LAN segment. |
| References | GN01 |
| Preconditions | Target router is installed with OpenWRT with SSH server enabled.  System and target router are on the same LAN segment.  User has SSH login credentials to the target router.  A configuration file is already loaded here after the wizard has run or because the user has loaded a previously saved configuration. |
| Normal Flow | The user opts to apply the configuration currently being reviewed. The system prompts the user for the IP address of the target router. By default, the IP address of the network gateway is used. The user accepts the default or enters in a new IP address. The user is then prompted for the SSH username and password of the remote target SOHO router. Alternately, a public/private key pair may be used instead of a username and password credentials. Using SSH, the system remotely logs into the target router and runs the configuration script. |
| Alt. Flow |  |
| Post Conditions | The SSH connection is closed. The target router is configured according to the configuration commands run by the script. The user's network connection may be interrupted. |
| Exception |  |

## UC04: Save Configuration

Save Configuration

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Brief Description |  |
| References | GN01 |
| Preconditions |  |
| Normal Flow |  |
| Alt. Flow |  |
| Post Conditions |  |
| Exception |  |

## UC05: Load Configuration

Load Configuration

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Brief Description | Load a previously saved configuration. |
| References | GN01, GN03 |
| Preconditions | Wizard is not running |
| Normal Flow | User loads a previously saved configuration file from disk |
| Alt. Flow |  |
| Post Conditions |  |
| Exception |  |

## UC06: Load User-defined Knowledge-base

Load User-defined Knowledge-base

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Brief Description | This project will produce a single knowledge-base flat file to be used in the system. The system will accept user-defined knowledge bases that are compatible with the CLIPS inference engine. |
| References | GN02 |
| Preconditions | none |
| Normal Flow | The user starts the system. From a menu of options, the user chooses a user-defined knowledge base. If the user does not choose a knowledge base, then the knowledge base produced from this project is used. |
| Alt. Flow |  |
| Post Conditions | If the user chooses to run the wizard, the user-defined knowledge base will be used instead of the default knowledge base. |
| Exception |  |

# Feature Attributes

These attributes characterize all product features. Their values should be adjusted to reflect their current state as the project progresses.

## Status

is one of: Proposed, Rejected, Adopted, Implemented

The Status attribute tracks progress during definition of the project baseline and subsequent development.

## Priority

is one of: Critical, Useful, Enhancement

The Priority attribute ranks features by relative benefit to the end user and satisfaction of business goals and needs.

## Effort

is one of: Low, Medium, High

The Effort attribute estimates the amount of time, lines of code, function points, or just general level of effort.

## Risk

is one of: Low, Medium, High

The Risk attribute measures the probability that a feature will cause undesirable events such as cost overruns, schedule delays, or even cancellation.

## Stability

is one of: Low, Medium, High

The Stability attribute measures the level of understanding of a feature.

## Release

is one of: Proposal, Plan, Module1, Module2, Module3, Module4, Module5, …, Final

The Release attribute indicates the intended product version in which the feature will be introduced.

## Assigned-To

The Assigned-To attribute indicates the role or team that is responsible for further elicitation, software requirements, or implementation. Unless otherwise noted, the value for this attribute will be the author.

## Reason

The Reason attribute tracks the source of the requested feature, e.g., one or more goals and needs (NG01-NG05) from section 2 or a Use Case (UC01 - UC-5) from section 4.

# Software Product Features

The following software product features support the realization of one or more of the previously defined use cases.

## SPF01: Prompt user with yes/no question

Prompt user with yes/no question

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Attribute** | **Value** | **Notes** |
| Status |  |  |
| Priority |  |  |
| Effort |  |  |
| Risk |  |  |
| Stability |  |  |
| Release |  |  |
| Assigned-To |  |  |
| Reason | UC01 |  |

## SPF02: Prompt user with multiple choice question

Prompt user with multiple choice question

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Attribute** | **Value** | **Notes** |
| Status |  |  |
| Priority |  |  |
| Effort |  |  |
| Risk |  |  |
| Stability |  |  |
| Release |  |  |
| Assigned-To |  |  |
| Reason | UC01 |  |

## SPF03: Start wizard

Start wizard

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Attribute** | **Value** | **Notes** |
| Status |  |  |
| Priority |  |  |
| Effort |  |  |
| Risk |  |  |
| Stability |  |  |
| Release |  |  |
| Assigned-To |  |  |
| Reason | UC01 |  |

## SPF04: Cancel wizard

Cancel wizard

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Attribute** | **Value** | **Notes** |
| Status |  |  |
| Priority |  |  |
| Effort |  |  |
| Risk |  |  |
| Stability |  |  |
| Release |  |  |
| Assigned-To |  |  |
| Reason | UC01 |  |

## SPF05: Determine if enough information from user has been collected

Determine if enough information from user has been collected

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Attribute** | **Value** | **Notes** |
| Status |  |  |
| Priority |  |  |
| Effort |  |  |
| Risk |  |  |
| Stability |  |  |
| Release |  |  |
| Assigned-To |  |  |
| Reason | UC01 |  |

## SPF06: Package configuration as repeatable script

Package configuration as repeatable script

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Attribute** | **Value** | **Notes** |
| Status |  |  |
| Priority |  |  |
| Effort |  |  |
| Risk |  |  |
| Stability |  |  |
| Release |  |  |
| Assigned-To |  |  |
| Reason | UC01 |  |

## SPF07: Configuration script view

Configuration script view

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Attribute** | **Value** | **Notes** |
| Status |  |  |
| Priority |  |  |
| Effort |  |  |
| Risk |  |  |
| Stability |  |  |
| Release |  |  |
| Assigned-To |  |  |
| Reason | UC02 |  |

## SPF08: Load configuration file from disk

Load configuration file from disk

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Attribute** | **Value** | **Notes** |
| Status |  |  |
| Priority |  |  |
| Effort |  |  |
| Risk |  |  |
| Stability |  |  |
| Release |  |  |
| Assigned-To |  |  |
| Reason | UC02, UC05 |  |

## SPF09: Configuration script editor

Configuration script editor.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Attribute** | **Value** | **Notes** |
| Status |  |  |
| Priority |  |  |
| Effort |  |  |
| Risk |  |  |
| Stability |  |  |
| Release |  |  |
| Assigned-To |  |  |
| Reason | UC02 |  |

## SPF10: Save edits to configuration script

Save edits to configuration script.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Attribute** | **Value** | **Notes** |
| Status |  |  |
| Priority |  |  |
| Effort |  |  |
| Risk |  |  |
| Stability | LOW |  |
| Release |  |  |
| Assigned-To |  |  |
| Reason | UC02 |  |

## SPF11: Remotely apply configuration script via SSH to the target SOHO router (TSR) that resides in the local LAN segment.

Remotely apply configuration script via SSH.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Attribute** | **Value** | **Notes** |
| Status |  |  |
| Priority |  |  |
| Effort |  |  |
| Risk | LOW |  |
| Stability | HIGH |  |
| Release |  |  |
| Assigned-To |  |  |
| Reason | UC03 |  |

## SPF12: Determine gateway IP address of current LAN segment

Determine gateway IP address of current LAN segment.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Attribute** | **Value** | **Notes** |
| Status |  |  |
| Priority |  |  |
| Effort |  |  |
| Risk | LOW |  |
| Stability | LOW |  |
| Release |  |  |
| Assigned-To |  |  |
| Reason | UC03 |  |

## SPF13: Select IP address of target router

Select IP address of target router.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Attribute** | **Value** | **Notes** |
| Status |  |  |
| Priority |  |  |
| Effort |  |  |
| Risk | LOW |  |
| Stability | HIGH |  |
| Release |  |  |
| Assigned-To |  |  |
| Reason | UC03 |  |

## SPF14: SSH login with username/password credentials

SSH login with username/password credentials.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Attribute** | **Value** | **Notes** |
| Status |  |  |
| Priority |  |  |
| Effort |  |  |
| Risk | LOW |  |
| Stability | HIGH |  |
| Release |  |  |
| Assigned-To |  |  |
| Reason | UC03 |  |

## SPF15: SSH login with public/private key pair credentials

SSH login with public/private key pair credentials.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Attribute** | **Value** | **Notes** |
| Status |  |  |
| Priority |  |  |
| Effort |  |  |
| Risk | LOW |  |
| Stability | HIGH |  |
| Release |  |  |
| Assigned-To |  |  |
| Reason | UC03 |  |

## SPF16: Generate Public/Private key pair

Generate Public/Private key pair.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Attribute** | **Value** | **Notes** |
| Status |  |  |
| Priority |  |  |
| Effort |  |  |
| Risk | LOW |  |
| Stability | HIGH |  |
| Release |  |  |
| Assigned-To |  |  |
| Reason | UC05 |  |

## SPF17: Select Knowledge-base to use for wizard

Select Knowledge-base to use for wizard.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Attribute** | **Value** | **Notes** |
| Status |  |  |
| Priority |  |  |
| Effort |  |  |
| Risk | LOW |  |
| Stability | HIGH |  |
| Release |  |  |
| Assigned-To |  |  |
| Reason | UC06 |  |

## SPF18: Load default knowledge-base

Load default knowledge-base.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Attribute** | **Value** | **Notes** |
| Status |  |  |
| Priority |  |  |
| Effort |  |  |
| Risk | LOW |  |
| Stability | HIGH |  |
| Release |  |  |
| Assigned-To |  |  |
| Reason | UC06 |  |

# Other Product Requirements

Non-functional requirements and their priorities are described here at a high-level. Applicable standards, hardware, or platform requirements; performance requirements; and environmental requirements. The quality ranges for performance, robustness, fault tolerance, usability, and similar characteristics that are not captured in the Feature Set are defined here. If useful, attributes such as priority, stability, effort, and risk are described.

## Applicable Standards

Whenever possible, encryption will be used when sending or receiving configuration data from the network. Consideration for a high Shannon Entropy will guide selection for keys, passwords, and/or algorithms. Follow procedures to ensure configurations are applied only by authorized users.

## Constraints and Dependencies

The system requires TCP/IP network compatible devices.

There is some method available to remotely configure the router.

The system is cross-platform, able to run on Microsoft Windows, Mac OS X, and Linux with X Windows.

## Performance Requirements

The system shall have a peak load of 1 active users.

The system shall have a maximum response time of 60 seconds for target router ping query before timing out.

## Documentation Requirements

Define any specific documentation requirements, including user manuals, online help, installation, labeling, and packaging requirements.

### User Manual

As defined in section 1, a key feature of this system is the accessibility to novice users. Therefore, a user manual will be provided. The Normal and Alternative flows from the Use Cases will guide the creation of the user manual.

### Installation Guide

A guide will be written in which the installation will outlined.

## Labeling and Packaging

The system is developed and packaged as a single unit. Any ancillary systems (i.e. database, server software, etc.) are not provided.

## Licensing Installation

N/A

# Glossary And Acronyms

* AS - see Autonomous System
* Autonomous System - Originally, the definition required control by a single entity, typically an Internet service provider or a very large organization with independent connections to multiple networks, that adhere to a single and clearly defined routing policy, as originally defined in RFC 1771.The newer definition in RFC 1930 came into use because multiple organizations can run BGP using private AS numbers to an ISP that connects all those organizations to the Internet. Even though there are multiple Autonomous Systems supported by the ISP, the Internet only sees the routing policy of the ISP. That ISP must have an officially registered Autonomous System Number (ASN).
* BGP or BGP4 - Border Gateway Protocol (version 4 is the current version)
* Border Gateway Protocol - Core routing protocol of the Internet. It maintains a table of IP networks or 'prefixes' which designate network reachability among autonomous systems (AS). It is described as a path vector protocol. BGP does not use traditional Interior Gateway Protocol (IGP) metrics, but makes routing decisions based on path, network policies and/or rulesets.
* DHCP - Dynamic Host Control Protocol
* Gateway -
* IP - Internet Protocol (version 4 is common, version 6 is reluctantly being adopted)
* ISP - Internet Service Provider
* LAN - Local Area Network
* Local Area Network - The defining characteristics of LANs, in contrast to wide-area networks (WANs), include their usually higher data-transfer rates, smaller geographic place, and lack of a need for leased telecommunication lines. ARCNET, Token Ring, and many other technologies have been used in the past, and G.hn may be used in the future, but Ethernet over twisted pair cabling, and Wi-Fi are the two most common technologies currently in use.
* Router -
* Shannon Entropy - A quantification of the information contained in a message usually in units such as bits. Equivalently, the Shannon entropy is a measure of the average information content one is missing when one does not know the value of the random variable. Shannon's entropy represents an absolute limit on the best possible lossless compression of any communication, under certain constraints: treating messages to be encoded as a sequence of independent and identically-distributed random variables, Shannon's source coding theorem shows that, in the limit, the average length of the shortest possible representation to encode the messages in a given alphabet is their entropy divided by the logarithm of the number of symbols in the target alphabet.
* SOHO - Small Office/Small Home. Consumer-grade. Not enterprise level.
* TCP - Transmission Control Protocol
* TCP/IP - Suite of protocols used in computer IP networks
* VPN - Virtual Private Network
* WAN - Wide Area Network
* Wide Area Network - WANs, in contrast with personal area networks (PANs), local area networks(LANs),campus area networks(CANs), or metropolitan area networks (MANs) are not limited to a room, building, campus or specific metropolitan area (e.g., a city) respectively. The largest and most well-known example of a WAN is the Internet. WANs are used to connect LANs and other types of networks together, so that users and computers in one location can communicate with users and computers in other locations. Many WANs are built for one particular organization and are private. Others, built by Internet service providers, provide connections from an organization's LAN to the Internet. WANs are often built using leased lines. At each end of the leased line, a router connects to the LAN on one side and a hub within the WAN on the other.