# 1. What is a Computer Network?

• A **computer network** is a group of computers or devices connected together to share information and resources, like files, printers, or the internet.

## **Types of Computer Networks:**

- LAN (Local Area Network): Small networks like in homes, schools, or offices.
- WAN (Wide Area Network): Large networks, like connecting cities or countries (e.g., the internet).
- MAN (Metropolitan Area Network): Networks that cover a city, like in a university campus.

#### **Network Models:**

- Client-Server: One central computer (server) provides services to other computers (clients).
- Peer-to-Peer: All computers are equal and share resources without a central server

### **Advantages of Networks:**

- Save Money: Share expensive devices like printers.
- Easy Communication: Send messages, emails, or video calls easily.
- Backup: Store important data centrally and securely.

## **Disadvantages of Networks:**

- Security Problems: Hackers or viruses can attack networks.
- Expensive: Setting up and maintaining a network can cost a lot of money.
- Complex to Manage: Large networks need experts to manage