

*A **network** is a set of devices (often referred to as **nodes**) connected by communication **links**. A node can be a computer, printer, or any other device capable of sending and/or receiving data generated by other nodes on the network.*

Topics discussed in this section:

Distributed Processing

Network Criteria

Physical Structures

Network Models

Categories of Networks

Interconnection of Networks: Internetwork

1-1 DATA COMMUNICATIONS

*The term **telecommunication** means communication at a distance. The word **data** refers to information presented in whatever form is agreed upon by the parties creating and using the data. **Data communications** are the exchange of data between two devices via some form of transmission medium such as a wire cable.*

Topics discussed in this section:

Components

Data Representation

Figure 1.1 *Five components of data communication*

