

# Overview

## Networking:

The history of networking is almost as old as the history of communication. It would be easy to define “networking” as just another word for “communication.” A better definition for networking is, “sharing information and resources.” For example, if you go to a work event to “network,” you’re not just going to talk to the people. You’re hoping to share information and resources to build a relationship. The best definition of a computer network is, “two or more computers that connected to communicate and share information and resources.”

Computer networking doesn’t just transmit information across distances. It also has two other main advantages.

First, it allows computer operators to reduce the need for redundancy. Redundancy means having more than one of something. Suppose everyone in your home has a computer, and everyone needs to print. You could buy each person a printer. The problem is that this is inefficient. Plus, it can cost a lot! Before computer networking, people with this problem used the first form of networking, “Sneakernet.” Sneakernet means copying the file to a disk and putting on your sneakers. You jog over to the one computer that has a printer, then print the file. Computer networking allows everyone to share one printer, reducing the cost of supplying printing and supporting the printer.

Second, computer networking also allows operators to achieve results that would be beyond the ability of a single machine. For example, major e-commerce sites like Amazon deliver more web pages in seconds than one web server can manage. Having many web servers working together like one big computer allows them to deliver services to more customers than any computer could ever do.

If you like history, check out the history of Networking & The Web. You may find this interesting, but you must not read it.

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[2. Node Functions.docx](#)

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