Apart from the basic distinction between peer-to-peer and client-server computer networks can also be classified according to their size. They identified by acronyms and the most common types are LAN and WAN

PAN Personal Area For data transmission among devices such as computers, tablets, smartphones, etc. belonging to the same person, at an average range of about 10 metres. The connection can be wireless.

HAN Home Area Network To link home devices, with cables or wireless.

LAN Local Area Network To operate within a limited geographical area, usually the same building, with cables, wireless infrared or microwave links. It is controlled privately by a local administrator. It provides full time connectivity to local services and allows multi-access to high-bandwith media.

SAN Storage Area Network A group of storage devices connected to a server.It is a dedicated, high-performance network which avoids any traffic conflict between clients and servers.It guarantees high-speed connectivity between a server and storage resources and vice versa.SANS have disaster tolerance built in, in order to protect data.

CAN Campus Area Network Used to link devices in a limited area, such as a university campus or military base.

MAN Metropolitan Area Network A data network designed for a city or suburban area. It usually consists of two or more LANS in a common geographical area. A service provider is usually needed to connect the LAN sites, using private communication lines, fibre optics or wireless technology.

WAN Wide Area Network It covers a large area, between cities, countries and continents. It connects LANS to each other. Computers are connected by high-speed telephone lines, fibre optical cables, micro-wave and satellite links. The Internet itself is a WAN. It allows real-time communication between users and provides full-time remote resources connected to local services together with file transfer and e-commerce services.

GAN Global Area Network

The Net extends all over the world and includes: the Internet, University and Research networks, and military networks.

A Virtual Private Network (VPN), which is the most cost-effective Method to establish a point-to-point Connection between remote users And a company's network, is a private Network which is set up online using the Internet as a method of connection.

There are three main types of VPNS:

Intranet VPNS: to link subsidiaries Or branches to the company's Internal network through a dedicated connection And with limited access to the company's employees.

Extranet VPNS: to link business partners, external To the company and to whom access is granted, to The company's internal network through a dedicated Connection.

Access VPNS: to provide remote access to the company's Intranet or Extranet, from home or from A small office.