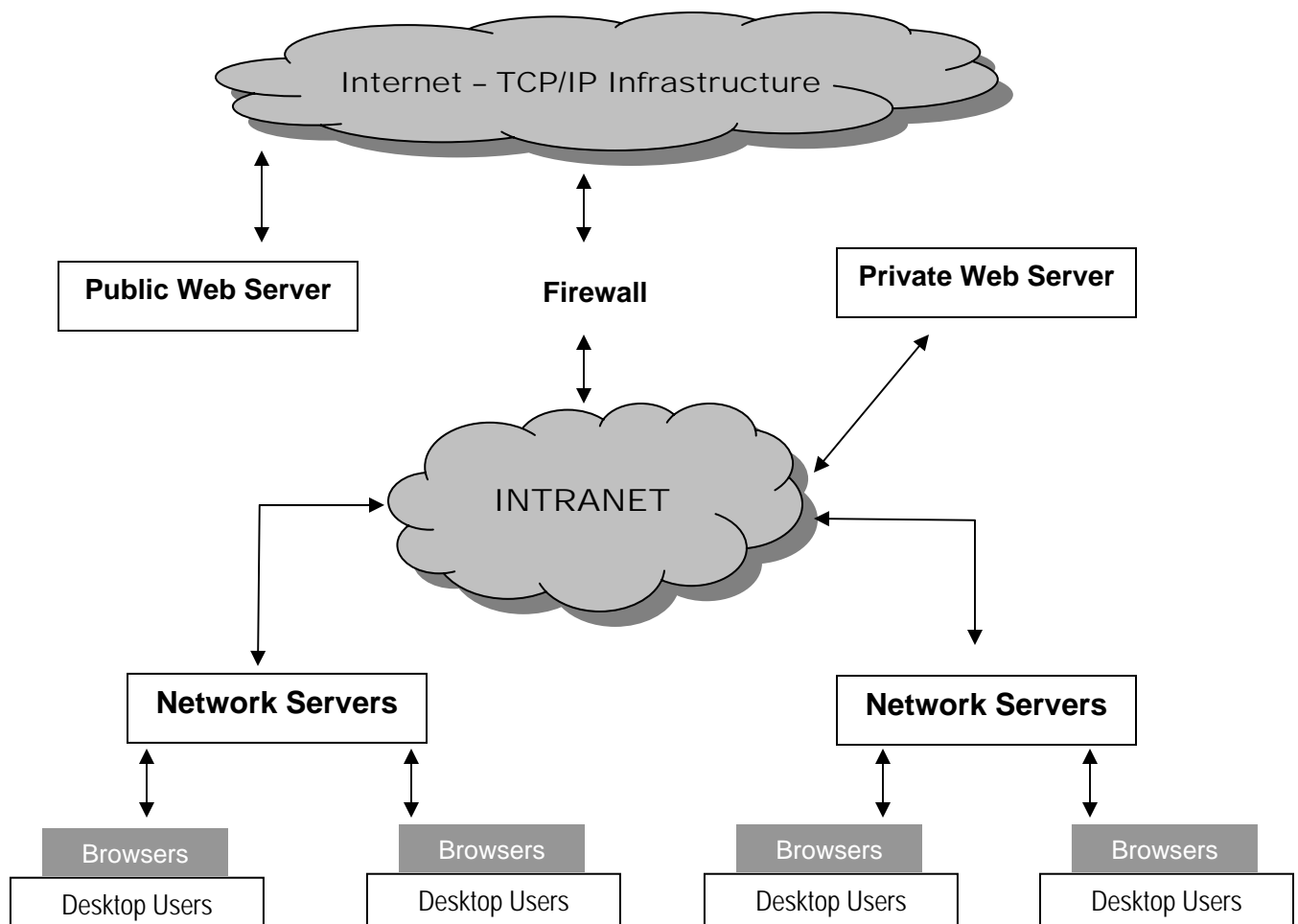


### PRELUDE

- ✓ An intranet is a private computer network that uses Internet technologies to securely share any part of an organization's information or operational systems with its employees.
- ✓ An intranet is built from the same concepts and technologies used for the Internet, such as client-server computing and TCP/IP.
- ✓ Any of the well known Internet protocols may be found in an intranet, such as HTTP (web services), SMTP (e-mail), and FTP (file transfer).
- ✓ An intranet can be understood as a private version of the Internet, or as a private extension of the Internet confined to an organization.
- ✓ An organization's intranet does not necessarily have to provide access to the Internet. When such access is provided it is usually through a network gateway with a firewall, shielding the intranet from unauthorized external access. The gateway often also implements user authentication, encryption of messages, and often virtual private network (VPN) connectivity for off-site employees to access company information, computing resources and internal communications.
- ✓ When part of an intranet is made accessible to customers and others outside the business, that part becomes part of an extranet. Businesses can send private messages through the public network, using special encryption/decryption and other security safeguards to connect one part of their intranet to another.



### CHARACTERISTICS/BENEFITS

- ✓ Workforce productivity: Intranets can also help users to locate and view information faster and use applications relevant to their roles and responsibilities. With the help of a web browser interface, users can access data held in any database the organization wants to make available, anytime and - subject to security provisions - from anywhere within the company workstations, increasing employees' ability to perform their jobs faster, more accurately, and with confidence that they have the right information. It also helps to improve the services provided to the users.
- ✓ Time: With intranets, organizations can make more information available to employees on a "pull" basis (i.e., employees can link to relevant information at a time which suits them) rather than being deluged indiscriminately by emails.
- ✓ Communication: Intranets can serve as powerful tools for communication within an organization. By providing information on the intranet, staffs have the opportunity to keep up-to-date with the strategic focus of the organization.
- ✓ Business operations and management: Intranets are also being used as a platform for developing and deploying applications to support business operations and decisions across the internetworked enterprise.
- ✓ Cost-effective: Users can view information and data via web-browser rather than maintaining physical documents such as procedure manuals, internal phone list and requisition forms.
- ✓ Promote common corporate culture: Every user is viewing the same information within the Intranet.
- ✓ Enhance Collaboration: With information easily accessible by all authorized users, teamwork is enabled.

### DRAWBACKS OF INTRANETS

Management concerns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ Management fears loss of control</li><li>✓ Hidden or unknown complexity and costs</li><li>✓ Potential for chaos</li></ul>
Security concerns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ Unauthorized access</li><li>✓ Abuse of access</li><li>✓ Denial of service</li><li>✓ Packet Sniffing</li></ul>
Productivity concerns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ Overabundance of information</li><li>✓ Information overload lowers productivity</li><li>✓ Users set up own web pages</li></ul>

- ✓ Performance Limitations: Some applications that have been well optimized for conventional systems create a heavy system workload while migrating them to an Internet platform.

- ✓ Software compatibility problems: It is an evolving technology that requires upgrades and could have software incompatibility problems
- ✓ Security features can be inadequate
- ✓ Inadequate system performance management and poor user support
- ✓ May not scale up adequately
- ✓ Maintaining content can be time consuming
- ✓ Some employees may not have PCs at their desks

### DIFFERENCE BETWEEN INTERNET AND INTRANET

Parameter	The Internet	An Intranet
Security	Low (None/Some)	High
Speed	Low/Medium	High
Services	Almost unlimited	Specified by Organization
Access Control	None or limited. Public encouraged to visit.	Account Name and Password. Generally no external (public) access.
Membership	Unlimited. 50 +/- 20 million.	Population of Organization
Reliability	Low	High (Mission Critical)
Control	Low (None)	High

### EXTRANET

- ✓ It is a business-to-business intranet that allows limited, controlled, secure access between a company's intranet and designated, authenticated users from remote locations.
- ✓ It is an intranet that allows controlled access by authenticated parties.
- ✓ An extranet can be viewed as part of a company's intranet that is extended to users outside the company
- ✓ As with intranet, access is granted only where one establishes that it is required.
- ✓ User access is controlled by security technologies to protect sensitive material from intrusion.