Summary of Networking

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Computer networking refers to connected computing devices and an ever-expanding array of IoT devices that communicate with one another. There are many different types of network, which can be used for different purposes and by different types of people and organization. A local area network or LAN is a network that connects computers within a limited area. This might be in a school, an office or even a home. **‍**A wide area network or WAN is a network that covers a larger geographical area, usually with a radius of more than a mile. Computer networks can have different designs, with the two basic forms being client/server and peer-to-peer networks. Client/server networks have centralized servers for storage, which are accessed by client computers and devices. Peer-to-peer networks tend to have devices that support the same functions.

Computer network protocols are formal standards and policies comprised of rules, procedures and formats that define communication between two or more devices over a network. They ensure that computer network devices can transmit and receive data using a common language regardless of their different designs, hardware or infrastructures. For example: the Transmission Control Protocol (TCP), User Datagram Protocol (UDP), Internet Protocol (IP), and Hypertext Transfer Protocol (HTTP) or File Transfer Protocol (FTP). Each one of them allow the transmission of data between devices at the information packet level (mainly TCP, and UDP as well to add an additional layer of stability), Internet address level (IP), and display level (HTTP and FTP).

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