

Week 1-2: Introduction to Computer Networks

- **Lab 1:** Basic Networking Concepts
 - Overview of computer networks, protocols, and topologies.
 - Hands-on activity: Identify different types of network topologies (star, bus, ring) using network simulation tools.
- **Lab 2:** Understanding Network Devices
 - Introduction to routers, switches, hubs, and modems.
 - Hands-on activity: Configure basic settings on a router and switch using network simulation tools.

Week 3-4: IP Addressing and Subnetting

- **Lab 3:** IPv4 Addressing
 - Concepts of IP addresses, subnet masks, and default gateways.
 - Hands-on activity: Assign IP addresses to devices and configure subnet masks.
- **Lab 4:** Subnetting Practice
 - Basics of subnetting and calculating subnet addresses.
 - Hands-on activity: Create subnets for a given network range and assign IP addresses.

Week 5-6: Networking Protocols and Models

- **Lab 5:** OSI Model Layers
 - Overview of OSI model and its layers.
 - Hands-on activity: Map common network protocols to the OSI layers.
- **Lab 6:** TCP/IP Model and Packet Analysis
 - Introduction to TCP/IP model and packet structures.
 - Hands-on activity: Use Wireshark to capture and analyze network packets.

Week 7-8: Network Devices and Configuration

- **Lab 7:** Basic Router and Switch Configuration
 - Configuring IP addresses and basic routing on routers.
 - Hands-on activity: Set up a simple network using routers and switches.
- **Lab 8:** VLANs and Inter-VLAN Routing
 - Understanding Virtual LANs and configuring VLANs on switches.
 - Hands-on activity: Set up VLANs and configure inter-VLAN routing.

Week 9-10: Wireless Networking

- **Lab 9: Wi-Fi Basics**
 - Introduction to wireless networking standards (802.11a/b/g/n/ac/ax).
 - Hands-on activity: Set up and configure a wireless access point.
- **Lab 10: Wireless Security**
 - Understanding security protocols (WEP, WPA, WPA2).
 - Hands-on activity: Configure wireless security settings on an access point.

Week 11-12: Network Security

- **Lab 11: Firewalls and NAT**
 - Basics of network security, firewall configurations, and Network Address Translation (NAT).
 - Hands-on activity: Configure firewall rules and NAT settings.
- **Lab 12: Introduction to VPNs**
 - Basics of Virtual Private Networks (VPNs).
 - Hands-on activity: Set up a simple VPN connection.

Week 13-14: Troubleshooting and Maintenance

- **Lab 13: Network Troubleshooting Tools**
 - Overview of tools like ping, traceroute, and nslookup.
 - Hands-on activity: Use troubleshooting tools to diagnose network issues.
- **Lab 14: Network Monitoring**
 - Introduction to network monitoring and management tools.
 - Hands-on activity: Set up basic network monitoring with a tool like Nagios or Zabbix.

Week 15-16: Advanced Topics and Review

- **Lab 15: Introduction to IPv6**
 - Overview of IPv6 addressing and configuration.
 - Hands-on activity: Configure IPv6 addresses and routing.
- **Lab 16: Review and Final Project**
 - Review of key concepts and lab exercises.
 - Hands-on activity: Implement a network design project incorporating learned concepts.

Additional Tips:

- **Pre-Labs:** Provide pre-lab reading materials and tutorials to help students prepare for each lab session.
- **Post-Labs:** Include reflection questions or mini-quizzes to reinforce learning.
- **Resources:** Utilize network simulation tools like Cisco Packet Tracer or GNS3 for lab activities.

This outline should give beginners a comprehensive introduction to computer networks through hands-on experience. Adjustments can be made based on the specific needs and pace of the learners.