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Types of Computer Network:

A computer network can be categorized by their size. A **computer network** is mainly of **three types**:

1. LAN(Local Area Network)
2. MAN(Metropolitan Area Network)
3. WAN(Wide Area Network)

LAN(Local Area Network):

Local Area Network is a group of computers connected to each other in a small area such as building, office, college campus etc.

LAN is used for connecting two or more personal computers through a communication medium such as twisted pair, coaxial cable, etc.

It is less costly as it is built with inexpensive hardwares.

The data is transferred at an extremely faster rate in Local Area Network.

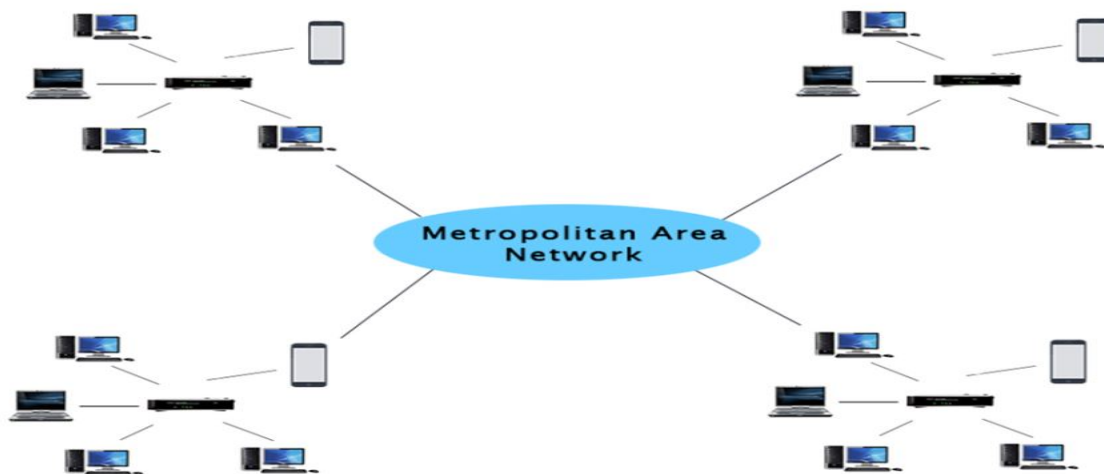Local Area Network provides higher security.

MAN(Metropolitan Area Network):

A metropolitan area network is a network that covers a larger geographic area by interconnecting a different LAN to form a larger network such as a city.

Government agencies use MAN to connect to the citizens and private industries.

In MAN, various LANs are connected to each other through a telephone exchange line.

It has a higher range than Local Area Network(LAN).
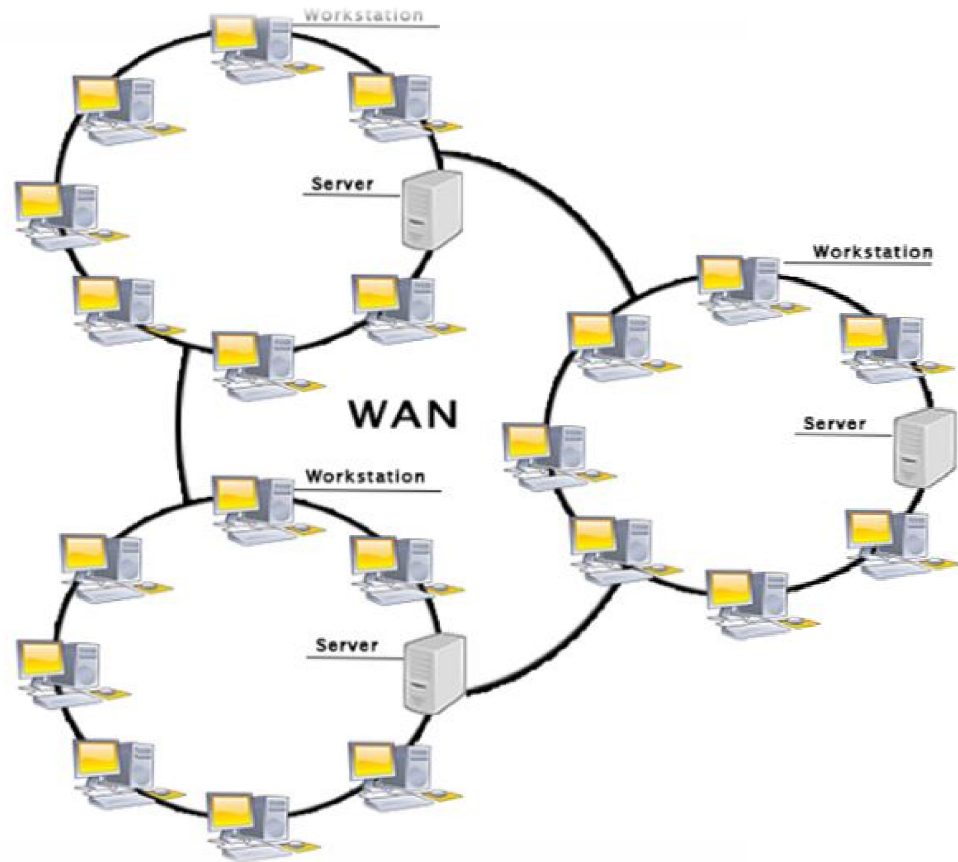

WAN(Wide Area Network):

A Wide Area Network is a network that extends over a large geographical area such as states or countries.

A Wide Area Network is quite bigger network than the LAN.

A Wide Area Network is not limited to a single location, but it spans over a large geographical area through a telephone line, fibre optic cable or satellite links.

The Internet is one of the biggest WAN in the world.

A Wide Area Network is widely used in the field of Business, government, and education.

Exercise:
1. Differentiate between LAN, MAN and WAN.
2. What is the use of different types of network?