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, fiber 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.

Advantages Of Wide Area Network:

Following are the advantages of the Wide Area Network:

- **Geographical area:** A Wide Area Network provides a large geographical area. Suppose if the branch of our office is in a different city then we can connect with them through WAN. The internet provides a leased line through which we can connect with another branch.
- **Centralized data:** In case of WAN network, data is centralized. Therefore, we do not need to buy the emails, files or back up servers.
- **Get updated files:** Software companies work on the live server. Therefore, the programmers get the updated files within seconds.
- **Exchange messages:** In a WAN network, messages are transmitted fast. The web application like Facebook, Whatsapp, Skype allows we to communicate with friends.
- **Sharing of software and resources:** In WAN network, we can share the software and other resources like a hard drive, RAM.
- **Global business:** We can do the business over the internet globally.
- **High bandwidth:** If we use the leased lines for our company then this gives the high bandwidth. The high bandwidth increases the data transfer rate which in turn increases the productivity of our company.

Disadvantages of Wide Area Network:

The following are the disadvantages of the Wide Area Network:

- o **Security issue:** A WAN network has more security issues as compared to LAN and MAN network as all the technologies are combined together that creates the security problem.
- o **Needs Firewall & antivirus software:** The data is transferred on the internet which can be changed or hacked by the hackers, so the firewall needs to be used. Some people can inject the virus in our system so antivirus is needed to protect from such a virus.
- o **High Setup cost:** An installation cost of the WAN network is high as it involves the purchasing of routers, switches.
- o **Troubleshooting problems:** It covers a large area so fixing the problem is difficult.

Internetwork

- o An internetwork is defined as two or more computer network LANs or WAN or computer network segments are connected using devices, and they are configured by a local addressing scheme. This process is known as **internetworking**.
- o An interconnection between public, private, commercial, industrial, or government computer networks can also be defined as **internetworking**.
- o An internetworking uses the **internet protocol**.
- o The reference model used for internetworking is **Open System Interconnection(OSI)**.

Types Of Internetwork:

1. **Extranet:**

An extranet is a communication network based on the internet protocol such as **Transmission Control protocol** and **internet protocol**. It is used for information sharing. The access to the extranet is restricted to only those users who have login credentials. An extranet is the lowest level of internetworking. It can be categorized as **MAN**, **WAN** or other computer networks. An extranet cannot have a single **LAN**, atleast it must have one connection to the external network.

2. **Intranet:**

An intranet is a private network based on the internet protocol such as **Transmission Control protocol** and **internet protocol**. An intranet belongs to an organization which is only accessible by the **organization's employee** or members. The main aim of the intranet is to share the information and resources among the organization employees. An intranet provides the facility to work in groups and for teleconferences.

Exercise:

1. Define WAN.

2. Write difference between Extranet and Intranet.