

Unit 13 — Networking

Reading: Basic Networking



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In the simplest explanation, networking is just computers talking to each other. They do this by sending data packets using various protocols and transmission mediums such as ethernet cable or Wi-Fi connections. Computers must also know how to find other computers on the network. To put it briefly, every computer on the network needs a unique address so messages know where to go after they are sent.

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Discussion Questions

Back in the 1980's it was rare for personal computers to perform networking duties. Why? How did computers share data before the rise of the LAN and the Web?

What specific benefits does networking computers give us? What are the risks involved?

Peer-to-peer networking technology scares some companies and governments. Why do you think so? Discuss.