

Wide Area Network

a communications network that spans a large geographic area such as across cities, states, or countries

Hardware Requirements

- A connection between various nodes
- A data service unit at each end which will connect to telecommunications lines, if that solution is used
- A router at each end to connect to the local area network

Software Requirements

- Server software is required to facilitate communication over the WAN
 - Some examples include Windows Server and Mac OS X Server

Pros	Cons
Allow for larger scale of communication, spanning or cities and countries	Slower data transfer speeds when compared to LAN
Allows for remote access of network resources	Can become costly to implement due to infrastructure need to run it
	May cross regional and international boundaries, which

When to use a WAN?

A WAN would primarily be used in a situation where there are multiple nodes which span across radius of a half a mile (0.8 km) or more.

When is a WAN unsuitable?

The use of WAN would not be suitable in a situation where the various nodes are in close proximity to each other, where they could be connected directly to one and other or wirelessly over Wi-Fi. Using a WAN in such a situation would be inefficient and very costly.

References

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