

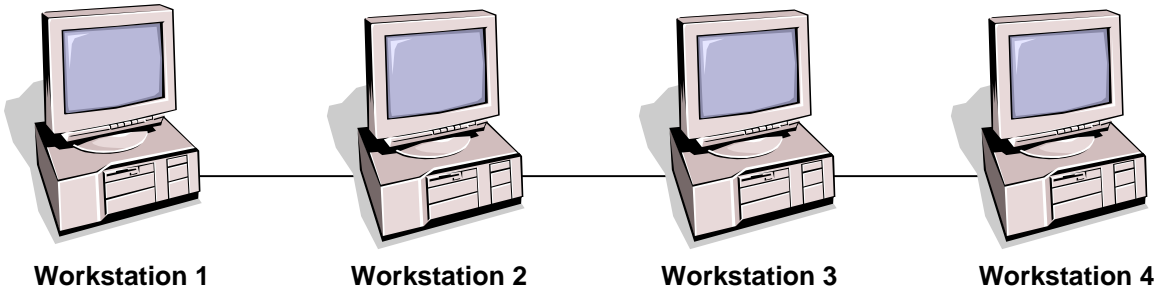
Advantages of a LAN (Local Area Network) in a small business environment.



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Advantages of a Networked Office

Using Microsoft Windows 95/98/ME/2000/XP



Sharing Resources

- **Software**

The ability to share both a software application and the files it creates amongst all of your computers is the primary reason for setting up a network. Not only will you see an increase in your employees' productivity, but an increase in the organization of their computer files as well. No longer will you have to copy files to floppies and carry them from another computer to yours for processing. Opening files on a computer across your office will be as simple if they were stored on your own machine.

- **Printers**

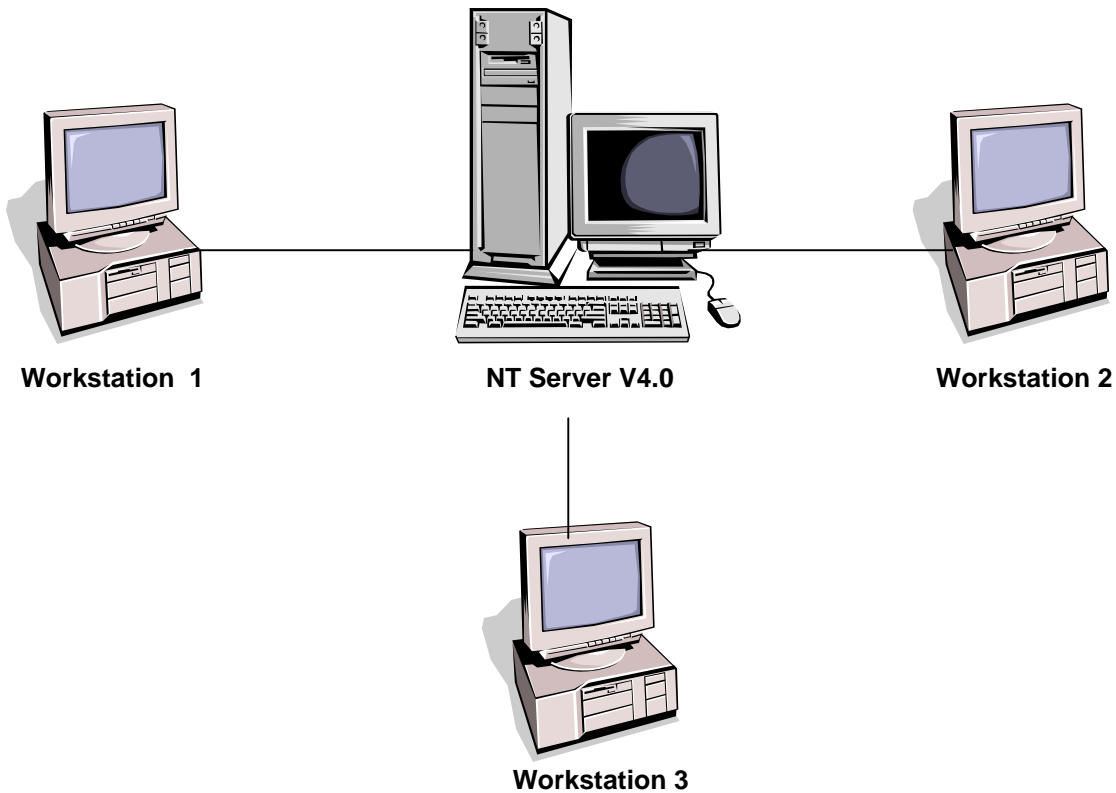
Sometimes the printer connected to your machine doesn't have the capabilities of another printer in your office; i.e. color or laser quality. To print on another printer in a non-networked situation, you have two options. First, you could disconnect your printer and the printer you wish to use and install the new printer to your computer. Second, you could copy the file to a floppy disk, assuming it will fit, and load it into the computer connected to the printer with which you wish to print. It must also be assumed that the computer you are loading the file on has the same software installed to read and print the file with which it was created.

In a networked situation, it is as easy as selecting the printer you wish to use from a drop-down box at the time of printing, and clicking on the print button.

- **Internet**

Most of the employees in your office, including yourself, can increase their productivity with access to the Internet. Using a technology such as Roadrunner™ and a Cable/DSL router combined with a network allows multiple computers to share the same Internet account simultaneously.

Advantages of a Networked Office Using Microsoft Windows NT Server v4.0/2000



Domain Controller

A Net Works, Inc. server is a high performance computer built with state-of-the-art components and designed with one thing in mind, reliability. Twenty-four hours a day, 7 days a week a server performs many important tasks, including:

- **Authentication**
Every person who uses your network via a workstation must login to the server with a username and a password. The server then assigns that person a security access level that permits or denies them to use network resources.
- **Logging**
Every time something happens on your network, an entry to the server's log is added. Some examples include
:
 1. Logging in or logging out of a workstation.
 2. Opening or closing a file.
 3. Creating or deleting a directory.
 4. Copying a file or files.

5. Errors or Problems on the server or network.
6. Files printed and by whom.
7. Viruses scan results.

These log files can then be analyzed to detect and solve problems and weaknesses in your network.

- **Security**

Windows NT uses a file system called NTFS, which has the ability to permit or deny the use of a file, folder, or drive based on a users access level.

Centralization

A server-based design increases the organization of your network in many important ways, including:

- **Dedicated File Server**

Throughout a business day, your employees produce many electronic documents. A server is built with enough storage space to save all of your company's important files at one location. The job of the server is to give or "serve" these files to whatever user, with the proper security, requests them.

- **Redundancy**

All Net Works, Inc servers are built with mirrored storage for increased up time. If there is a problem accessing a drive, the information that is needed will be accessed from the mirrored drive without any interruption to the user.

- **Disaster Recovery**

The server provides a central location for saving files and thus a central location for backing them up. Daily or Weekly backup tapes of the entire server can be produced and placed in a fireproof safe or taken off-site as a precaution for natural disaster or theft. If a user accidentally deletes a file, the file can be replaced using a copy on the latest backup.

- **Virus Scanning**

Every computer should have a virus scanner installed. When dealing with more than one computer in an office environment, the task of stopping viruses and updating virus patterns can waste a lot of both human and computer time. A virus scanner on the server can be set up to scan and repair all the files on the server on a regular basis and watch for new viruses on your network. When a user tries to open any file the server scans the file and can actually restrict access to an infected file and alert the administrator with a pop up message.