

commercial (.com or .co), university (.ac or .edu) and other research networks (.org, .net) and military (.mil) networks and span many different physical networks around the world with various protocols including the Internet Protocol.

There are several bodies associated with the running of the Internet, including the Internet Architecture Board, the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority, the Internet Engineering and Planning Group, Internet Engineering Steering Group and the Internet Society.

**Network.** Hardware and software data communication systems linked together are called networks. They are often also classified according to their geographical extent: local area network (LAN), metropolitan area network (MAN), wide area network (WAN) and also according to the protocols used.

**Protocol.** A set of formal rules describing how to transmit data, especially across a network. Low level protocols define the electrical and physical standards to be observed, bit- and byte-ordering and the transmission and error detection and correction of the bit stream. High level protocols deal with the data formatting, including the syntax of messages, character sets, and sequencing of messages.

**Server.** A computer which provides some service for other computers connected to it via a network.

**SGML.** Standard Generalized Markup Language is a generic markup language for representing documents. SGML aims to separate information from its presentation and thus facilitate different presentations of the same information.