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Computers linked around the world, collectively make up the internet. It is a network of thousands of individual computers loosely connected through copper cables, fiber-optic cables, wireless radio connections, and satellite links. It is an ever-evolving network that began with phone lines and now includes wireless connection methods. However, the basic underpinnings of the internet communications remain the same. For example, it continues to use standard protocols called the "TCP/IP." This standards gives individual devices connected on the internet a unique address for communication. Data is transferred mostly through packet switching, which is broken pieces of data sent in packets, sent to the same location where they are reassembled. This makes the communication quicker.

The World Wide Web is composed of various technologies that make the communication between computers possible. In addition to personal computer devices, the WWW also has machines that serve as storage space called servers. There are millions of servers serving unique filing tasks, such as storing email, documents, web pages, and others. Within a common space, a Local Area Network (LAN) allows the connection of computers to share resources, such as often needed in an office or school. A router connects multiple computers and devices to an internet connection, wirelessly or through an ethernet wired connection. A Wide Area Network (WAN) allows a broader connection of computers that span outside a local area and includes the use of the internet.

A client computer is a device that is receiving information from a server. The WWW is a constant, back and forth communication between server and client. Personal computers can act as servers and client depending on how the computer is communicating with other computers.

Currently, the internet allows us to connect with others across the world in new ways. We can interact with people using email, blogs, streaming, wikis, social networking, online chats, and voice over IP. Most of these tools are accessed through the World Wide Web and are mostly made up of HTML files. It is a common language used to create web pages that can contain text, images, and other media. A web page may also include other common technologies such as Cascading Style Sheets (CCS), Adobe Flash, and JavaScript. Web pages can be accessed by typing the Uniform Resource Locator (URL) into a web browser, which gives the browser the web address of where to find the web page.

References

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