

## Local Area Network (LAN)

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A **local area network (LAN)** is a [computer network](#) covering a small local area, like a home, office, or small group of buildings such as a home, office, or college. Current LANs are most likely to be based on switched [Ethernet](#) or [Wi-Fi](#) technology running at 10, 100 or 1,000 [Mbit/s](#).

The defining characteristics of LANs in contrast to [WANs](#) (wide area networks) are: their much higher data rates; smaller geographic range; and that they do not require leased telecommunication lines.

source - Local area network. (2006, August 26). In *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. Retrieved August 31, 2006, from [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Local\\_area\\_network](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Local_area_network)

In a typical Hautspot design, the [WLAN](#) (Wireless LAN, or [hotspot](#) or [hotzone](#)) runs in parallel with any existing LAN. Sputnik's [firewalling technology](#) keeps public [WLAN](#) traffic walled off from the private network (LAN), while enabling the sharing of a single [broadband internet connection](#). In addition, [SSID Client Isolation technology](#) keeps individual [WLAN](#) clients separate from one another, as an added security feature.

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