Mankato Computer Technology University

USING YOUR COMPUTER TO STAY IN TOUCH

Types of Computer Communication

Email

SMS, IRC and Video Chat

VOIP Phones

Discussion Forums

Newsgroups

Types of Computer Communication

There are many methods of communication available to those on modern computers, given a connection to the Internet.

Most common is email, short for "electronic mail," but there are also SMS chat, IRC chat, video chat, VoIP phones, social networks, discussion forums and newsgroups.

All are ways people communicate with one another using a computer.

Email

The most common method of communication via the computer is email.

Email is simple; you write a letter in a text editor provided by the email service, type in the email address of the recipient and click "Send."

The letter is delivered almost instantaneously to the digital mailbox of the recipient, and you have saved the postage you would have had to use to send it via "snail mail."

The most popular email providers, according to compete.com, are Yahoo!, Hotmail and Gmail.

SMS, IRC and Video Chat

SMS (Short Messaging Service) chat is the kind of chat often sent from cellphones.

It is also very commonly used in chat software like Instant Messenger, Yahoo Messenger or Google Talk.

IRC (Internet Relay Chat) is quite different.

You have to use an IRC "client" like mIRC, Chatzilla or XChat to access an IRC channel, and what you will find is an IRC channel is much like a chat room.

Group chat is the default in IRC, whereas one-to-one conversations dominate SMS.

Video chat is a mixture of SMS thinking and VoIP technology.

Using software like Skype, Oovoo or Google Talk, you can actually see the person via webcam so you can actually talk face to face.

With a good high-speed connection and a quality webcam, video chat brings an element of nearness to the traditional phone conversation.

VoIP Phones

VoIP (Voice over Internet Protocol) phones are those that utilize the Internet to transmit phone calls.

Instead of the traditional phone that plugs into the wall, a VoIP phone plugs into the computer and uses software to use the networks worldwide that we call the "Internet."

Because of the cost savings, VoIP has become quite popular.

Companies like Vonage, InTalk, MagicJack and NetTalk have all offered VoIP service to residential and business customers for a fraction of the traditional cost, as much as 50 percent lower in some cases, according to ChamberofCommerce.com.

Discussion Forums

- Discussion forums are places where you can go to find answers.

- Usually, there are "moderators" for these forums, and you can find them for almost any topic, from troubleshooting car problems to seeking answers to common ailments.

- You register a new account at the forum, create a new "thread" or topic and wait for a response.

- If it is an active forum, you will sometimes receive a response (or responses) within minutes.

Newsgroups

Newsgroups are a mixture of forum and chat room.

People access newsgroups to post information, pictures, files and discussion topics.

Others just skim to keep current, to search for information, such as job opportunities, and to connect with friends.

You can use Outlook to access newsgroup servers, or you can use a newsgroup client.

Newsgroups are not as popular as they once were, but they are still available.

What are some advantages and disadvantages of communicating via computer?

- "Communicating via computer" can mean many things, and the advantages/disadvantages are different for each.

- In general, communication via computer provides people who are not able to be with each other the opportunity to stay in touch through the exchange of written words, live written conversation, live visual conversation, and many other options.

- For people who are separated from loved ones and cannot afford or are unable to travel, computer communication is a wonderful and useful tool in both personal and business settings.

- It is not, however, an equal substitute for face-to-face conversation in all circumstances.

Main Advantages and Disadvantages of Computer Networking

Computer networking has become one of the most successful ways of sharing information, where all computers are wirelessly linked together by a common network.

Now, businesses and organizations heavily rely on it to get messages and information across to essential channels.
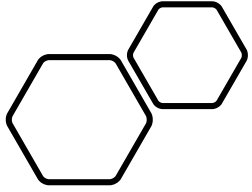
Not only has that it benefited establishments, but also individuals, as they also need to share important information every day.
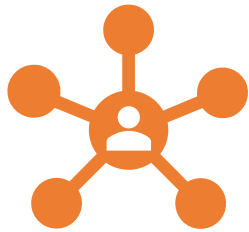
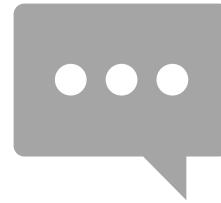But no matter how useful computer networking is, it does not come without drawbacks.

Here are its advantages and disadvantages:

# It enhances communication and availability of information.

Networking, especially with full access to the web, allows ways of communication that would simply be impossible before it was developed.

Instant messaging can now allow users to talk in real time and send files to other people wherever they are in the world, which is a huge boon for businesses.
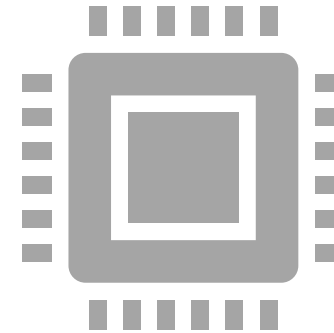
Also, it allows access to a vast amount of useful information, including traditional reference materials and timely facts, such as news and current events.
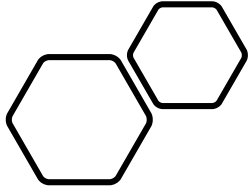
It allows for more convenient resource sharing.

This benefit is very important, particularly for larger companies that really need to produce huge numbers of resources to be shared to all the people.
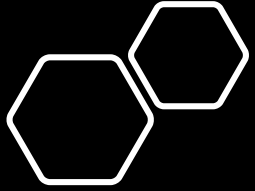
Since the technology involves computer-based work, it is assured that the resources they wanted to get across would be completely shared by connecting to a computer network which their audience is also using.
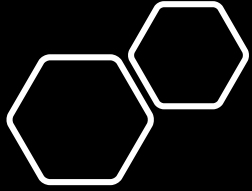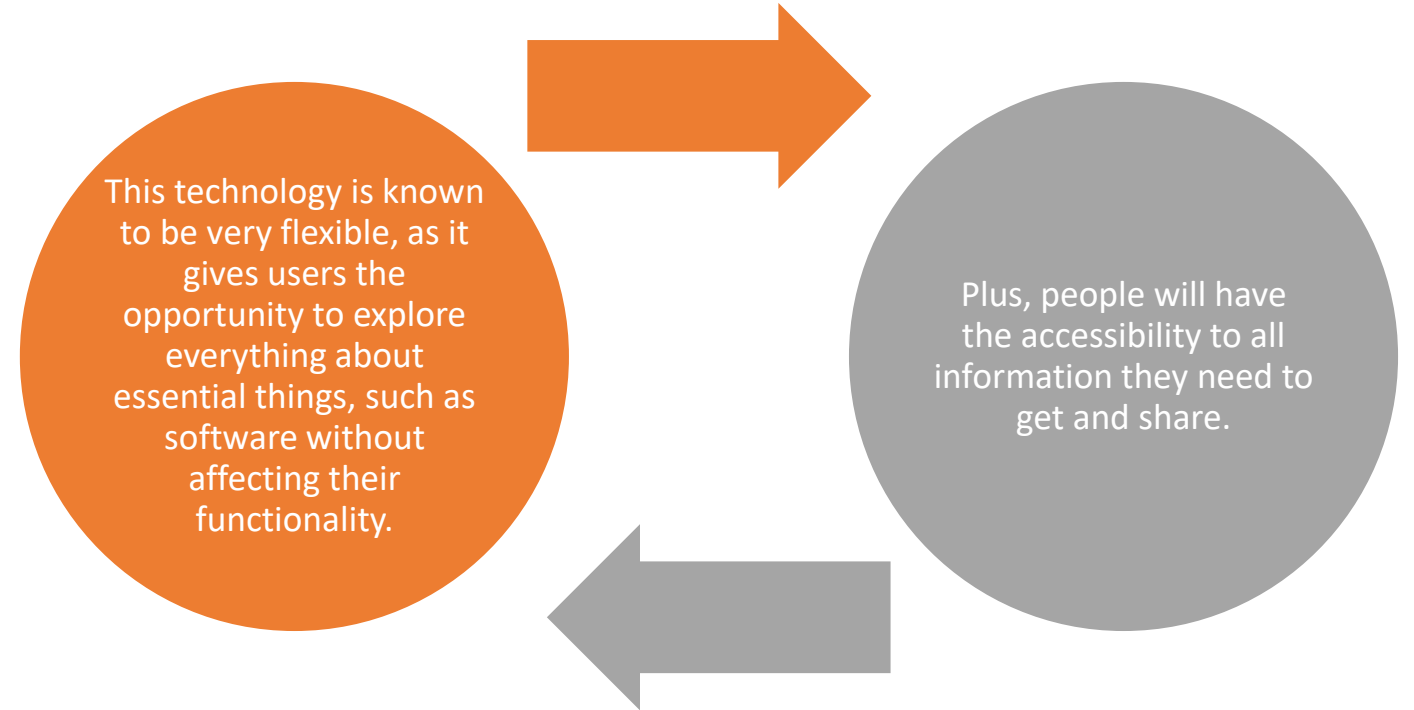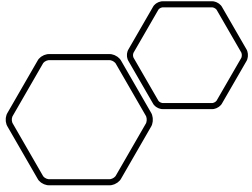
It makes file sharing easier.

- Computer networking allows easier accessibility for people to share their files, which greatly helps them with saving more time and effort, since they could do file sharing more accordingly and effectively.
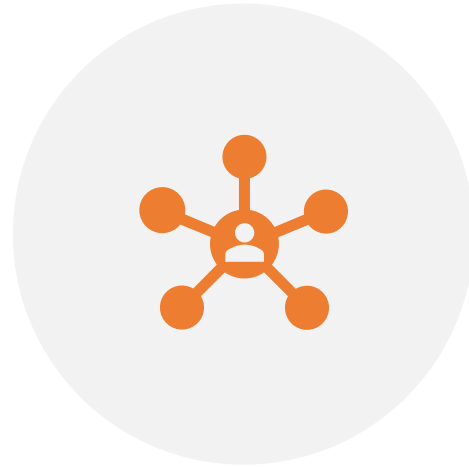
It is highly flexible.

This technology is known to be very flexible, as it gives users the opportunity to explore everything about essential things, such as software without affecting their functionality.

Plus, people will have the accessibility to all information they need to get and share.
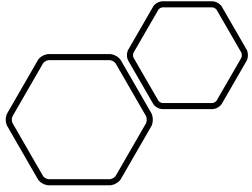
It is an inexpensive system.

INSTALLING NETWORKING SOFTWARE ON YOUR DEVICE WOULD NOT COST TOO MUCH, AS YOU ARE ASSURED THAT IT LASTS AND CAN EFFECTIVELY SHARE INFORMATION TO YOUR PEERS.

ALSO, THERE IS NO NEED TO CHANGE THE SOFTWARE REGULARLY, AS MOSTLY IT IS NOT REQUIRED TO DO SO.

# List of Disadvantages of Computer Networking

1. IT LACKS INDEPENDENCE.
COMPUTER NETWORKING INVOLVES A PROCESS THAT IS OPERATED USING COMPUTERS, SO PEOPLE WILL BE RELYING MORE OF COMPUTER WORK, INSTEAD OF EXERTING AN EFFORT FOR THEIR TASKS AT HAND.

ASIDE FROM THIS, THEY WILL BE DEPENDENT ON THE MAIN FILE SERVER, WHICH MEANS THAT, IF IT BREAKS DOWN, THE SYSTEM WOULD BECOME USELESS, MAKING USERS IDLE.
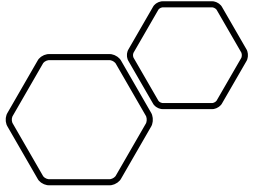
It poses security difficulties.
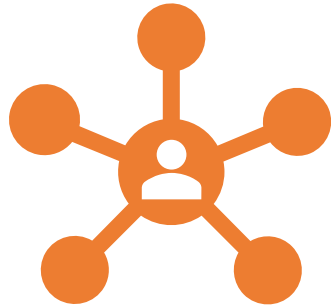
Because there would be a huge number of people who would be using a computer network to get and share some of their files and resources, a certain user's security would be always at risk.
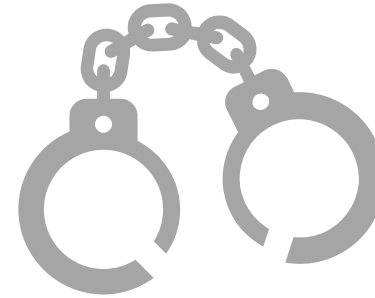
There might even be illegal activities that would occur, which you need to be careful about and aware of.

It lacks robustness.

As previously stated, if a computer network's main server breaks down, the entire system would become useless.

Also, if it has a bridging device or a central linking server that fails, the entire network would also come to a standstill.

To deal with these problems, huge networks should have a powerful computer to serve as file server to make setting up and maintaining the network easier.

It allows for more presence of computer viruses and malware.

- There would be instances that stored files are corrupt due to computer viruses.

Its light policing usage promotes negative acts.

- It has been observed that providing users with internet connectivity has fostered undesirable behavior among them.

- Considering that the web is a minefield of distractions—online games, humor sites and even porn sites—workers could be tempted during their work hours.

- The huge network of machines could also encourage them to engage in illicit practices, such as instant messaging and file sharing, instead of working on work-related matters.

- While many organizations draw up certain policies on this, they have proven difficult to enforce and even engendered resentment from employees.

What are some advantages and disadvantages of communicating via computer?

When on-line communication is used instead of "real" communication, the speaker is not developing the social skills which are so necessary in the workplace as well as in successful relationships.

Communication on line does not have to be based in truth and there is no certain way to know that, at least without doing some research; many people have been duped--or worse--by this kind of deceptive communication.

What are some advantages and disadvantages of communicating via computer?

- The most effective form of personal communication is two-way communication, in which both parties are able to express themselves and get feedback from the other party in as many ways as possible, including tone of voice, inflection, body language, among other things.

- Any computer communication which can do that is much more effective, and the same is true in face-to-face communication.

What are some advantages and disadvantages of communicating via computer?

- In the broadest terms, unless there are extenuating circumstances which make in-person communication impossible, communicating only over the computer is not ideal; however, it is a useful tool for businesses and individuals who cannot meet in person.

Conclusion

- Computer networking will always be a fast and convenient means of transferring and sharing information, but people should be aware of its consequences as well.

- They should remember that often relying on this system can put them at certain risks that can be caused by its flaws and other malfunctions.

- I have included a link, below, which claims that "in a few years, men will be able to communicate more effectively through a machine than face to face." That may be true, but it seems it will not be a better world.
- FURTHER READING:
- https://www.kurzweilai.net/the-computer-as-a-communicatio...