

Chapter 5 Hands-on Activities

Activity 1

In setting up a communications network, a professional has two basic choices: a local area network (LAN) and a wide area network (WAN). In addition, today wireless LANs (WLAN) and virtual private networks (VPN) extend the potential of LANs.

Read about the companies below and their networking needs. Decide what kind of network is appropriate for each project listed below. You may want to review the description of these systems on pages 185-186.

- Jason Publishing House
A publishing company is moving into a small building in the town centre. They need to establish a computer system that allows them to share files and output devices.
- Kirk Laboratories
An environmental testing company needs a system for its field workers who travel to sites, run tests and then upload the results to a central database.
- Alfred Metcalf Inc.
A paper manufacturing company has opened a new plant in Croatia. It currently owns one plant in Northern Italy. It needs a company-wide network.

Create a table in Microsoft Word listing the network possibilities: WAN, LAN, WLAN and VPN. Place each of the projects in the column that describes the network that should be established for it. Save the file as **ch5actsol1.doc**.

Activity 2

Your small company has been using a dial-up connection to access the Internet. You have decided that you need a faster connection, but you are not sure what you can afford. There are several options including a cable, DSL and leased lines. You are planning to call Internet service providers that can provide you with different types of connections. Create a spreadsheet in Microsoft Excel that lists each type of connection and calculates the total cost over a period of a year based on installation costs and monthly fees.

Start by entering a quote you received for a DSL provider who would charge you €0 for installation and a €9.99 monthly fee. Save the document as **ch5actsol2.xls**.