

Contents at a Glance

<i>Introduction</i>	1
<i>Part I: Network Basics</i>	7
Chapter 1: Planning the Lay of the LAN.....	9
Chapter 2: Installing Network Adapters	27
Chapter 3: Installing Ethernet Cable	35
Chapter 4: Using Wires That Are Already There	53
Chapter 5: Look Ma, No Wires	69
<i>Part II: Configuring Computers for Networking</i>	85
Chapter 6: Putting It All Together.....	87
Chapter 7: Configuring Computer Sharing.....	113
Chapter 8: Setting Up Users	127
<i>Part III: Communicating Across the Network</i>	139
Chapter 9: Printing Across the Network.....	141
Chapter 10: Getting Around the Neighborhood	165
Chapter 11: Using Files from Other Computers.....	183
<i>Part IV: Network Security and Maintenance</i>	203
Chapter 12: Making Your Network Secure.....	205
Chapter 13: Disaster Planning and Recovery	235
Chapter 14: Using Windows Maintenance Tools	257
<i>Part V: The Part of Tens</i>	283
Chapter 15: Ten Clever Things to Do on Your Network	285
Chapter 16: Ten Fun Things to Do on Your Network	301
Chapter 17: Ten Ways to Make the Internet Safe for Children.....	307
<i>Index</i>	321

Table of Contents

***Introduction*..... 1**

About This Book.....	1
Conventions Used in This Book	2
What You Don't Need to Read	2
Foolish Assumptions	2
How This Book Is Organized.....	3
Part I: Network Basics.....	3
Part II: Configuring Computers for Networking.....	3
Part III: Communicating Across the Network.....	4
Part IV: Network Security and Maintenance	4
Part V: The Part of Tens.....	4
Icons Used in This Book.....	5
Where to Go from Here.....	5

***Part 1: Network Basics*..... 7**

Chapter 1: Planning the Lay of the LAN 9

Why Would I Want a Home Network?	10
Network Operating Systems (Nothing to Do with Surgery)	11
Network Types — Just Like Personality Types	12
Client/server networks for control freaks.....	12
Peer-to-peer networks are more relaxed about controls	13
Mixed networks fit all types.....	14
The Nuts and Bolts of Hardware	15
Network connection types	15
Connections: Cables, wires, and thin air	16
Saving Time, Trouble, and Money When You Buy Hardware	23
Doing your homework: Just like being in school	24
Plunking down the money: Tips for buying	25

Chapter 2: Installing Network Adapters 27

It's Okay to Mix and Match NICs	27
Adding USB Connectors — Easy as Pie.....	28
Installing Laptop Adapters.....	29
Troubleshooting Network Adapters	30
No adapter icon on the taskbar	30
Two adapter icons?	31
Cable Unplugged error.....	32
No Signal Can Be Found error.....	33

Chapter 3: Installing Ethernet Cable	35
Ready, Set, Run	35
Ethernet cable has many aliases	35
Concerning the concentrator	37
Deciding Where to Put the Concentrator	38
Concentrators are environmentally fussy	39
Concentrators are innately powerless	39
Distance Depends on What You Choose to Measure	40
Handling Cable Correctly	41
Connecting two patch cables	41
Making your own patch cables	42
The Chase Is On: Running the Cable	43
Cabling within a room	43
Cabling between adjacent rooms	43
Cabling between nonadjacent rooms on the same floor	43
Cabling between Floors	45
Beauty Is in the Eye of the Decorator	47
Adding cable faceplates	47
Using floor cable covers	48
Curing Your Network's Growing Pains	49
Getting into the Zone	51
Chapter 4: Using Wires That Are Already There	53
One Standard, Indivisible, with Liberty and Networking for All	53
Tapping into Phone Lines to Connect a Network	54
Where do I plug in phones?	56
Ganging the network and the telephone	56
Ganging the network, the telephone, and an external modem	57
Ganging the network, the telephone, and an internal modem	58
Too many computers, not enough phone jacks?	60
Phoneline networks and DSL service	60
Sharing an Internet connection on a phoneline network	61
Troubleshooting phoneline networks	62
Powering Up Your Network with the Electric Company	64
Using USB powerline adapters	65
Using your built-in Ethernet adapter	65
Powerline networks and Internet Connection Sharing	66
DSL powerline kits	66
Powerline security	66
Troubleshooting powerline communications	67
Chapter 5: Look Ma, No Wires	69
Translating the Geek-Speak of Wireless Technology	70
Radio frequency: Hello, den? Kitchen here	70
Wireless standards — alphabet soup	70
Positioning Computers	72
How far can you go?	73
Detouring around obstructions	73

Empower Your Network with Hardware Doohickeys74
 Wireless routers.....75
 Access points.....75
 Signal boosters76
 Understanding Wireless Network Security76
 SSIDs.....77
 Broadcasting across the airwaves78
 Data encryption.....79
 Wireless Hotspots for Public Use.....82

Part II: Configuring Computers for Networking85

Chapter 6: Putting It All Together87

Prep Your Network Devices88
 Installing drivers for network adapters.....88
 Preparing other network hardware.....89
 Connecting wireless doohickeys to an Ethernet adapter90
 Configuring routers91
 Configuring access points93
 Manually Setting Up the Network93
 Welcome the computer to your network93
 Sharing a connection with a router.....97
 Sharing a telephone modem97
 Using the Windows Home Networking Wizards98
 Windows XP Network Setup Wizard98
 Windows XP Wireless Network Setup Wizard.....103
 Windows Vista Wireless Network Setup Wizard.....109
 Macintosh Can Join the Family, Too110

Chapter 7: Configuring Computer Sharing113

Understanding Hierarchy: Shares Have Parents and Children114
 Sharing a Hard Drive.....116
 Sharing a hard drive in Windows XP.....116
 Sharing a hard drive in Windows Vista.....117
 Sharing Removable Drives118
 Sharing Folders.....119
 Windows XP Sharing Security — Sorting Out the Confusion120
 Sharing the Pre-shared Documents Folder121
 Sharing the Shared Documents folder in Windows XP.....122
 Sharing the Public Documents folder in Windows Vista.....123
 Using Hidden Shares124
 Creating a hidden share.....125
 Getting to your hidden share from a remote computer125
 Keeping the secret a secret.....125

Chapter 8: Setting Up Users127

Managing Users and Profiles in Windows XP	128
Creating users in Windows XP	128
Changing passwords in Windows XP	130
Managing Windows XP user profiles	132
Managing Users and Profiles in Windows Vista	133
Creating users in Windows Vista	134
Changing passwords in Windows Vista	135
Managing Windows Vista user profiles	135
Duplicating Users on Remote Computers	136

Part III: Communicating Across the Network 139**Chapter 9: Printing Across the Network141**

Setting Up Shared Printers	142
Enabling printer sharing	142
Sharing the printers	144
Providing printer drivers	145
Installing a Remote Printer	146
Choosing an installation method	146
Running the installation procedure	147
Creating a default printer	148
Renaming network printers	148
Using both local and network printers	149
Devising schemes for using multiple printers	150
Managing Network Printing	151
Understanding the spooler	151
Manipulating print jobs	151
Printing Tricks and Tips	153
Using a printer shortcut on the Desktop	153
Using separator pages to identify users	154
Creating printer clones for specific features	155
Other reasons to clone printers	159
Using a Hardware Print Server	160
Attaching a print server	161
Installing a print server	161
Troubleshooting Network Printing	162
Check the print server	162
Check the printer	162
Check the network cable	163
Check the firewall	163

Chapter 10: Getting Around the Neighborhood165

Traveling on the Network	165
Calling on My Network Places in Windows XP	165
Visiting the Network in Windows Vista	168

Managing the icons in the My Network Places window168
 Viewing information about the neighborhood residents170
 Exploring the neighborhood in other Windows windows.....171
 Say UNC-!e: Understanding UNC's.....172
 Naming your computers and shared resources172
 Understanding the UNC format172
 Displaying UNC's173
 Opening a share by typing the UNC174
 Creating UNC shortcuts174
 Mapping Drives175
 Understanding drive letters175
 Mapping a UNC176
 Viewing and using mapped drives178
 Reconnecting mapped drives179
 Connecting when reconnection fails.....179
 Working with mapped drives in the computer folder180
 Working with mapped drives at the command line180

Chapter 11: Using Files from Other Computers183

Working with Remote Files184
 Making Windows Explorer easy to access184
 Make Windows Explorer open with drive C displayed.....185
 Copying files between computers186
 Relocating (moving) files.....189
 Deleting files from remote computers190
 Opening Remote Files in Software Windows190
 Opening distant files191
 Saving remote files192
 Uh oh, two documents with the same name.....194
 Understanding documents in use195
 Files that should never be opened across a network.....198
 Licenses and other complications199
 How About Including My Macintosh?.....199
 Mac, meet Dave200
 From a PC LAN to a PC MACLAN.....201

Part IV: Network Security and Maintenance203

Chapter 12: Making Your Network Secure205

All about Viruses205
 File-infecting viruses206
 System and boot infectors207
 Macro viruses208
 Trojan horses210
 Worms211
 Antivirus Programs: For Prevention and Cure211

Common Sense: Part of Your Arsenal.....	214
Develop e-mail paranoia	214
Develop Internet download paranoia	214
Virus hoaxes.....	215
Firewalls: Defense for Internet Attacks	216
Why do you need a firewall?	217
What a firewall does.....	217
Windows XP firewall.....	219
Troubleshooting the Windows XP firewall.....	224
Windows Vista firewall.....	225
Hardware firewalls in routers	229
Troubleshooting router firewalls	229
Spyware	230
Windows Security Center.....	232
Windows Defender	233

Chapter 13: Disaster Planning and Recovery 235

Avoiding Zapped Computers	235
Protecting against electrical surges	236
Protecting against telephone line surges	237
Protecting against lightning hits.....	237
Protecting against power loss	238
Understanding and fixing low-voltage problems.....	238
Preventing static electricity damage	240
Caring for Network Hardware.....	240
Checking connectors	241
Checking cables	242
Checking NICs	243
Monitoring Monitors.....	243
Protecting Printers.....	244
Establishing a Plan for Backing Up Data	245
Deciding what to back up	245
Back up daily.....	246
Configure computers for efficient backups.....	247
Safeguard software CDs and disks	247
Safeguard backup media	248
Backing Up to Network Computers	248
Copying documents from the computer folder.....	249
Using the Send To feature	249
Using an external hard drive for backups	252
Using Windows Backup Software.....	253
Installing the Backup software	253
Configuring Microsoft Backup	254
Restoring a System after a Disaster.....	255
Using System Restore	256

Chapter 14: Using Windows Maintenance Tools	257
Preparing to Run Maintenance Tools	257
Empty the Recycle Bin.....	258
Removing temporary Internet files	258
Removing temporary Windows files	261
Removing Microsoft Word backup files.....	263
Checking Your Hard Drive for Damage.....	265
Why hard drives develop problems.....	266
Running the error-checking tool	267
Defragging Your Hard Drive	268
Why hard drives get fragged.....	269
How to defrag your drive	270
Managing Devices with the Device Manager	273
Viewing a specific device.....	274
Managing device problems	274
Printing a report about devices.....	275
Determining Who's on Your Computer	276
Cleaning Up Files with Disk Cleanup	277
Working with System Information.....	278
Hardware Resources	279
Components	279
Software Environment	281
Internet Settings	281
Saving system information to a file.....	281
Troubleshooting Serious Disk Errors	281

Part V: The Part of Tens

Chapter 15: Ten Clever Things to Do on Your Network	285
Set Up a Message Center	285
Creating a shared folder for the message center	286
Creating individual message boards.....	287
Testing the message boards.....	287
Tricks and tips for using the message center	288
Keep a Family Shopping List.....	290
Creating the shopping list	290
Using the shopping list	291
Collaborate on Documents	292
Set Up a Family Budget.....	294
Selecting software for your budget	294
Setting up and using the budget center	294
Set Up a Family Document Library.....	295
Set Up a Download Center	295
Family Blogging	296
I'm IMming; Are You There?.....	297
Create a Household Inventory.....	298
Create Video Records of Your House.....	299

Chapter 16: Ten Fun Things to Do on Your Network	301
Play Downloaded Music	301
Create a Network Music Collection	302
Convert Music Files	302
Create a Network Family Picture Album	303
Create Slide Shows of the Family Album.....	303
Watch Television on Your Computer	304
Watch Your Computer on Television	304
Play Games over Windows Live Messenger.....	305
Set Up a Family Web Site	305
Create an Internet Telephone Switchboard	306
Chapter 17: Ten Ways to Make the Internet Safe for Children	307
Talk to Your Children about the Internet	308
Place Your Computers in the Right Locations.....	308
Set Controls on Contents	308
Password protect your settings	309
Use Windows Vista parental controls.....	311
Create Your Own Site Filters	312
Use Software to Filter Sites	314
Use ISP Restrictions	314
AOL parental controls.....	314
MSN parental controls	315
Comcast parental controls	316
ISP E-mail Filtering Features	316
Be Wary of Chat Rooms.....	316
Find Acceptable Sites for Your Children	317
Set Guidelines for the Level of Violence in Computer Games	318
Index	321