Computer Networks: The Hardware

Transmission technology:

- In a **broadcast** network, a single communication channel is shared by all computers ⇒ sending a packet implies that all others receive it.
- In a **point-to-point** network, computers are connected in pairs ⇒ sending a packet goes strictly from the sender to the receiver, possibly having to visit intermediate machines (*routing*).

Scale:

Interprocessor distance	Processors located in same	Example
0.1 m	Circuit board	Data flow machine
1 m	System	Multicomputer
10 m	Room	Local area network
100 m	Building	
1 km	Campus	
10 km	City	Metropolitan area network
100 km	Country	Wide area network
1,000 km	Continent	
10,000 km	Planet	The internet