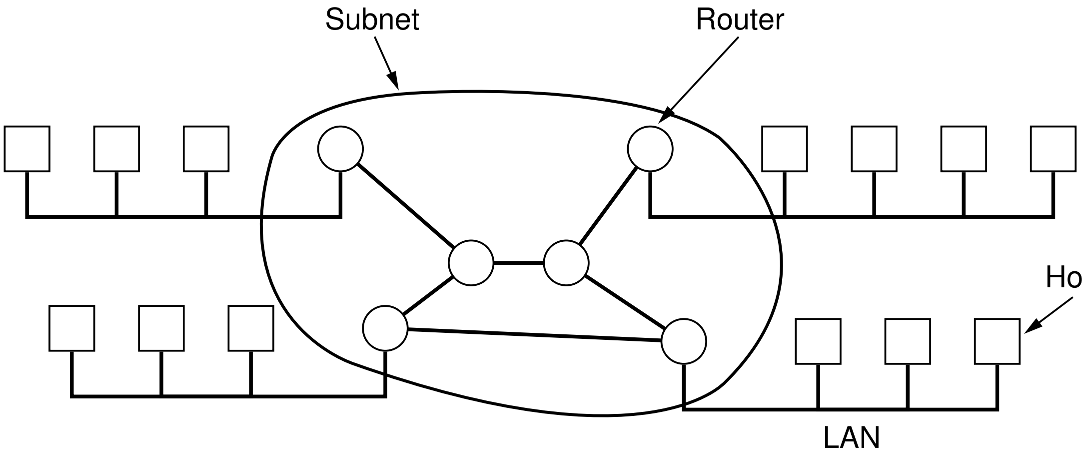
Wide Area Networks

Note: LANs and MANs generally don't have any switching elements: the wire does all the work. This makes them extremely efficient, although harder to scale. Here's where WANs come in.



In a WAN, **hosts** are connected to a **subnet**, which in turn consists of **routers** (switching elements) and **trunks**.

Routers generally adhere to a **store-and-forward** principle: incoming packets are first buffered (stored), the router takes a decision on where the packet has to go, and forwards the packet across the selected output line.