Internetworks

The assumption so far is that a network is **homogeneous**: there is hardly any variation in hardware and software. In practice, large networks can only be constructed by **interconnecting** different kinds of networks ⇒ **internet(work)**.

Examples:

- Connecting a collection of different kinds of LANs (bus-based to token-based) within a department.
- Connecting LANs to each other through a WAN (think of enterprise networks for multinationals). The WAN acts as a subnet.
- Connecting WANs to each other (the Internet).

By the way: Don't let the term **intranet** confuse you: it's just applying Internet services *within* a company. No big deal!