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## STUDENT CENTER

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- Reading Handbook
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- New Features in Office 2007
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### Textbook Resources

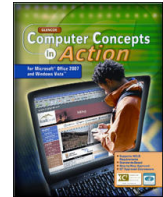
- Student Data Files
- e-Quizzes–Pre-Quizzes
- e-Quizzes–Tech Talk Quizzes
- e-Review Quizzes
- Tech Talk Activities
- Enrichment Activities
- Rubrics
- Worksheets
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### Unit Resources

#### Unit 2

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- e-Quizzes–Pre-Quizzes
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## Computer Concepts in Action ©2009

### Unit 2: Computer Hardware and Software

#### Networks

##### Introduction:

Explore how computer networks work.

##### Directions:

Read the information below and apply what you learn to answer the questions. Check your work carefully, and click **Submit**.

##### Networks

A computer network is a group of connected computers. Networks allow the sharing of information and resources such as files and folders, printers, and Internet access. Organizations develop network requirements that specify hardware and software; these requirements affect what organizations will buy. For example, some companies require everyone to use the same software programs. Companies usually get discounts if they buy multiple copies (or user licenses) of software. Fewer types of software also reduce the time it takes to maintain it. Networks can save organizations money.

##### Servers and Clients

A network is composed of *servers* and *clients*. The server is a computer that works behind-the-scenes to perform jobs such as providing central storage of files and managing the flow of information. A variety of computers can be used as servers, including mainframe, minicomputers, and powerful PC, Macintosh, or UNIX workstations.

The client is a network user (or computer) that connects to the server. Normally, clients connect to a network through a physical connection such as the Ethernet. However, client computers can connect by other methods such as a modem. Infrared or wireless connections are used as well. A variety of computers can also be used as clients on a network, including PCs, Macintosh, and handheld devices.

The server makes it possible for these smaller computers to access or store a great deal more information than they could as an individual unit.

##### Networking Vocabulary

Review the following terms relating to networks and technology. See if you can locate equipment like hubs and routers in your classroom.

**bridge** – A device used to connect two larger elements of a network together.

**broadband** – An Internet connection that supports a wide range of frequencies and multiple signals.

**fiber optics** – A type of cable made up of extremely thin tubes of glass or plastic that transmit data via pulses of light.

**hub** – A hardware device that connects nodes.

**node** – Each piece of hardware connected to a network.

**router** – A network device that determines the best route to deliver data.

**switch** – A bridge with several ports that allows network components to communicate.

#### Assessment Questions

- 1 The \_\_\_\_ is a network user (or computer) that connects into the network to request or order information from the server.

2 The \_\_\_\_ is a computer that works behind-the-scenes in a network to provide shared resources to network users.

3 Name two ways a client computer can connect to the network.

4 An Internet connection that supports a wide range of frequencies and multiple signals is known as \_\_\_\_.

Submit Answers



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