

Local Area Network (LAN) - What it is and simple ways to secure it

Gridinsoft Help Center

What it is

A Local Area Network (LAN) connects computers and devices in a small area like a home, office, or school. Devices talk to each other through ethernet cables or Wi-Fi, sharing files, printers, and internet access.

Why it matters

A good LAN makes everything feel fast and seamless - shared drives open quickly, printers are available to everyone, and one secure internet connection serves the whole space.

How it works - quick tour

- Router or gateway connects your LAN to the internet.
- Switches link wired devices and manage traffic inside the LAN.
- Access points provide Wi-Fi for laptops, phones, and IoT.
- IP addressing and DHCP give each device an address so it can communicate.

Good practices

- Use WPA2/WPA3 Wi-Fi with a strong passphrase.
- Keep the router and firmware updated and change default passwords.
- Create a guest network or separate VLAN for visitors and IoT.
- Turn off UPnP and unused port forwarding.
- Back up router configs and document key settings.