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Introduction In this reportI will be explaining what peer to peer networks and client server networks areand what advantages and disadvantages they both have.

At the end of this reportit should be clearer as to which one is more advantageous than the other. Peer to peer network A peer to peernetwork is when two or more computers are connected together that can shareinformation. this set up doesn't require a server that both computers need tobe connected to. Instead of files being stored on a central server files arestored on the hard drives of the two computers.

File sharing can happen whenone user is on one computer and the other is on the second one and then oneuser sends the other a file. However, the data on computer one cannot beaccessed on computer two. The computer 2 user has to send the files.   Peer to peer advantages Peer to peer disadvantages ·   An advantage of a peer to peer network is that it doesn't require specialist equipment. This means that you don't need to buy a really capable computer to act a as server. This is good because it means that if two people need to share information they can without spending lots of money. What this means is that this type of network is widely accessible to lots of people such as small offices or start up businesses with few computers.   ·   An advantage of peer to peer is that it is very easy to set up.

All you need is a connection to the internet and an ethernet cable and you can start file sharing. No specialist equipment or software is needed and most importantly no server is required. This is advantageous as anyone can

set the network up you don't need specialist help setting it up which makes it free.   ·   You don't need to rely on a server. If a server that's storing all the data gets too hot and melts, then all the data stored on it will be lost and unrecoverable. The two or more computers will store the information and if one computer breaks and files are unrecoverable it doesn't matter because there will be other peer computers with files on them so all of the files on the network won't be lost. This is good because it means that there is less of a chance of loosing everything file wise as the risk is spread out than client server where all the eggs are in one basket.   ·   An advantage of a peer to peer network is that there are no added expenses such as maintenance.

The computers in the network are normal computers so the users can easily maintain them by using antivirus software and anti-malware software. There are lots of free versions online that can be downloaded which take care of the computer all the user has to do is click on scan and the software will keep the computer clean and safe. ·   A disadvantage of peer to peer network is that there isn't any security. This means that if one computer gets infected with a virus, or gets malware, or has a trojan, or spyware when a file is transported it could contain some of these as the machine was infected. As these files get shared to others the network becomes infected and computers in the network could be damaged or files could be copied and stolen.   ·   A disadvantage of peer to peer networking is that there is no organisation for data storing.

Every user is going to store files differently, this can make finding and sharing information difficult if a user can't find a file on a computer. This is bad because it defeats the purpose of peer to peer networking which is

simple and easy to use.   ·   A disadvantage of peer to peer networking is that each computer within the network will need its own anti-virus protection and malware software. Depending on how many computers there are in the network this can add up to be quite expensive. One year of antivirus for one computer for Kaspersky its £24. 99. if this set up is being used in a small office space with 5 computers that's £124.

95 each year. Over a couple of years, the money spent on protection software could have ben put into one server which pays for it self instead of antivirus which is a constant payment.   ·   A disadvantage of peer to peer is that each computer in the network will need to have a backup schedule. If even one of the computers in the network fails to backup and the computer fails and loses all the files they will be lost and unrecoverable. Client server networkA client server network iswhen there are two or more computers that connect to a server. The data storedon the computers during the day is sent to the server where it is backed up.

Also with client server networks there is server software that is needed inorder for the server to be a server. The server is usually one computer that hasbeen upgraded so that it can handle being a server. Client server advantages Client server disadvantages ·   An advantage of client server networks is that they are very secure as one person is usually in charge of the server. This person would make sure that the server is operating correctly and would manage the temperature of the server room.

This is good because the person in charge of this would be an individual who is familiar or a specialist this gives peace of mind that the files on the server

are safe.   ·   An advantage of a client server network is that backups are done regularly. All the computers in the network are connected and can be controlled. This means that individuals don't have to be responsible for backing up files.

It's also good because it means that if a computer breaks the information stored on it won't be gone it will be on the central server. This also puts people at ease as they don't need to worry about data loss.   ·   An advantage of client server networks is that all the resources available are on the serve.

This is good because all the information you need is one place. Plus, this information can be accessed from anywhere in the world depending on internet access. This is good because it allows people within organisations such as a college to work from home. This is good as more options are made available to students of when are where they can do work.   ·   An advantage of client server networks is that it is easy to add more people or resources to the network. The network is the server, one person can add more people to the network easily. This is good because adding people to their own computer and setting it up can take time, this way all you need to do is give the person a user name and set up a password and they can access the same system as every other user on it. ·   A disadvantage of client server networks is that all the data is stored in one place.

That's like putting all your eggs in one basket. If that one server fails, you're in big trouble because you don't have anywhere else to store files. This means that everything would be lost, important files could be lost such as

coursework for college students. this is bad because it means that the work has to be redone.   ·   A disadvantage of client server networks is that if you want a backup of the server you have to purchase another server, this can be very expensive, and it would have to be better or identical to the server that has all the information on it. this is bad because you're doubling your initial costs and it means more has to be spent on maintenance and cooling the servers because there's two of them.   ·   A disadvantage of client server networks is that they are not easy to set up, you need a specialised room to house the servers and you need to have cooling capabilities for the room to make sure that the servers don't melt.

Also, to connect the servers up and install the software you'll need to hire someone with the proper expertise to set this up correctly. All of this adds to the expenses of this network and if something goes wrong setting up the network i. e. the cooling system isn't installed properly the while room will pretty much set on fire. This means lots of testing will be required before it can be used.   ·   A disadvantage if client server networks is that if the server is faulty and crashes it means that all users are affected. No one would be able to log into the system and access any files.

This is bad because it means that everyone connected to the network will be able to to do nothing at all. In a college this would be bad because it means that course work can't be accessed and completed and then marked. It delays the work schedule.