

Virtual LAN (VLAN)

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A **Virtual LAN (VLAN)** is a subnetwork which can group together collections of devices on separate physical [Local Area Network \(LAN\)](#). A LAN is a group of computers and devices that share a communications line (i.e., [Wired Network](#)) or [Wireless Fidelity \(Wi-Fi\)](#) link (i.e., [Wireless Network](#)) to a [Server](#) within the same geographical area.

VLANS make it easy for network administrators to partition a single [Switched](#) network to match the functional and security requirements of their systems without having to run new cables or make major changes in their current network infrastructure. **VLANS** are often set up by larger businesses to re-partition devices for better traffic management.

VLANS are also important because they can help improve the overall performance of a network by grouping together devices that communicate most frequently. **VLANS** also provide security on larger networks by allowing a higher degree of control over which devices have access to each other. **VLANS** tend to be flexible because they are based on logical connections, rather than physical.

One or more network switches may support multiple, independent **VLANS**, creating an [Open Systems Interconnection \(OSI\) Model Physical Layer](#) (Layer 2 - data link) implementations of subnets. A VLAN is associated with a broadcast domain. It is usually composed of one or more network switches.

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