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Techi-Network Talk

It seems that technologists cannot resist the urge to create new acronyms and use them frequently in their conversation. It was bad enough before schools became dependent on networks, but the Internet has created a new generation of acronyms. We have compiled eleven of the most common along with what they stand for and a brief definition.

- ◆ **IP (Internet Protocol)** refers to the standards that make communication over the Internet possible. Each computer on the Internet has a unique IP number which serves as its address.
- ◆ **DNS (Domain Name System)** translates domain names (computer hostnames found in URLs) to IP addresses.
- ◆ **LAN (Local Area Network)** is probably the computer network in your building.
- ◆ **WAN (Wide Area Network)** is, just like it says, a computer network that covers a wide area. The most well-known is the Internet.
- ◆ **WLAN (Wireless Local Area Network)** See Wi-Fi.
- ◆ **Wi-Fi (Not a literal acronym)** is a wireless connection~a way to access the network using radio signals instead of a wired physical connection.
- ◆ **SAN (Storage Area Network)** is a network of storage devices to connect multiple computing information storage sites.
- ◆ **VPN (Virtual Private Network)** is a way of creating secure communication for a limited group over what might otherwise be a public network.
- ◆ **VoIP (Voice over IP)** is a way of using the network like a telephone system to carry voice conversation.
- ◆ **HTTP (Hypertext Transfer Protocol)** is the computer language web pages are programmed in.
- ◆ **ISP (Internet Service Provider)** is the firm or organization that provides access to the Internet. This can be the school or commercial firms that charge a fee for access from home.