

TECH TALK

Knowledge is Power



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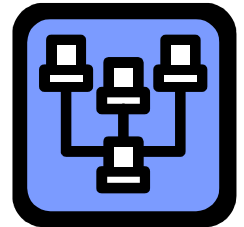
There may be a language barrier when conversation turns to technology. Many of us can become overwhelmed and anxious when discussing topics that we don't understand. I'd like to help by providing an explanation of frequently used terminology or expressions beginning with this and future issues of *Tech Talk*. The goal is to provide an increased understanding of technology and a better awareness of how it works.

- **Network:** A group of two or more computer systems that are linked together. Here's a few examples of networks:

_Local-area networks (LANS) – computers that are geographically close together (such as in the same building).

_Wide-area networks (WANS) – computers that are farther apart and connected by telephone lines or radio waves.

_Home-area networks (HANS) – networks that are contained within a user's home that connects a person's digital devices.

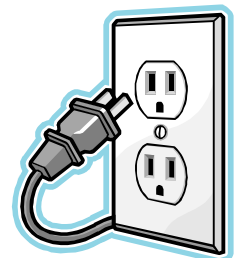


Computer systems that are networked allow for efficient sharing of information among several users such as an office environment.

- **Database:** A database is a collection of records or data that is stored in a computer system. Traditional databases are organized by fields, records and files. A field is a single piece of information; a record is one complete set of fields; and a file is a collection of records. As an example, a telephone book may be analogous to a file. It contains a list of records, each of which consists of three fields: name, address and phone number.
- **Wikipedia** is a multilingual, web based free-content encyclopedia project that is available on the web. The name is a combination of two words: wiki (a type of collaborative website) and encyclopedia. Wikipedia is written collaboratively by volunteers from all around the world.

Tech Tip

Most of us purchase surge protectors for various electronic devices and hopefully our computers. What we may not realize is the need to protect our devices from temporary power outages. A low cost Uninterruptable Power Supply (UPS) device can be purchased at most electronic stores for around \$50.00. This wireless device provides a battery backup to phones, computers and other important electronic devices. It connects to your phone or fax and provides up to 8 hours of run time until power is restored.



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