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Task 2 Read the following passage and choose the best answer from the four choices marked A B C and D. LAN is a group of computers and associated devices that share a common communications line or wireless link. Typically these connected devices share the resources of a single processor or server within a small geographic area for example within an office building. Usually the server has applications and data storage that are shared in common by multiple computer users. A LAN may serve as few as two or three users for example several family members or as many as thousands of users for example in a large company.

Today the major LAN technologies include Ethernet Token Ring FDDI and ARCNET. Ethernet is by far the most commonly used LAN technology. However a number of corporations use the Token Ring technology. FDDI is sometimes used as a backbone LAN interconnecting Ethernet or Token Ring LANs. ARCNET once the most commonly installed LAN technology is still used in the industrial automation industry. Typically a suite of application programs can be kept on the LAN server. If users need an application frequently they can download it from the server and then run it from their local hard disk. Users can also order printing and other services as needed through applications run on the LAN server. Files can be shared with others via LAN with read and write access maintained by a LAN administrator. LAN servers may be used as a web server as well if safeguards are taken to secure internal applications and data from outside access. In some situations a wireless LAN is preferable to a wired LAN because it is cheaper and easier to install and maintain.

11. A group of computers and associated devices that share a common communications line or wireless link is called ____ A. Ethernet B. Token Ring C. LAN D. WAN 12. Which is the most commonly-used LAN technology according to the passage A. Ethernet. B. Token Ring. C. FDDI. D. ARCNET. 13. Which LAN technology is still in use in the industrial automation industry A. Ethernet. B. Token Ring. C. FDDI. D. ARCNET. 14. Where can the LAN users download an application program when they need it A. From the LAN server. B. From other users. C. From the hard disk. D. From a LAN administrator. 15. What services can the LAN server provide A. Downloading application programs. B. Ordering printing. C. Sharing files. D. All of the above.

Task 3 Read the following passage and complete the sentences below with the information given in the passage. Wireless connections can extend or replace a wired infrastructure in situations where it is costly inconvenient or impossible to lay cables. To connect the network in two buildings you can either use a link provided by a telecommunications vendor or create a point-to-point wireless link using wireless LAN technology. The former charges a fixed installation cost and ongoing recurring costs while the latter eliminates recurring costs which provide significant cost savings to organizations. Wireless technology is perfect for meeting temporary needs. For example at a convention or a trade fair the network is needed for only a specific amount of time. In this situation setting up wireless LAN is a much better choice than deploying the physical cables required for the traditional network. Some types of buildings such as historical buildings might be governed by building codes that prohibit the use of wiring. Setting up wireless networks is an important alternative.

The wiring-free aspect of wireless LAN is also very attractive to homeowners who want to connect the various computers in their home without having to drill holes and pull network cables through walls and ceilings.

Wireless network is also a perfect technology for environments where movement is required. For example in a large company employees take their laptops to a conference room or in retail shops the sales people need walk around to talk with visiting customers and enter inventory information directly into the database. In this case wireless network that covers the whole area is much more convenient. ……

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