

## 5.1: Introduction

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How often do you check Snapchat or Instagram? Multiple times an hour? How about streaming music on Spotify or Apple Music? Binge-watching the latest shows on Netflix? Online shopping on Amazon? These are just some of the apps and services or businesses we use daily, and they are all made possible by the power of computer networks.

Without the ability to connect our devices and share data seamlessly worldwide, concepts like social media, on-demand entertainment, e-commerce, and remote work would not exist. Networks touch every facet of a person's life, from staying in touch with family and friends to ordering food delivery with the tap of a button to collaborate with co-workers globally.

In this chapter, we will explore the history of the Internet and its impact on the information systems that form the backbone of our social and commercial connections. We will also discuss the concepts, trends, and security measures that provide the basis for understanding the challenges faced by network professionals in designing, building, and maintaining modern networks.

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