

Small Business Infrastructure

Small business networks can be peer-to-peer or server-based.

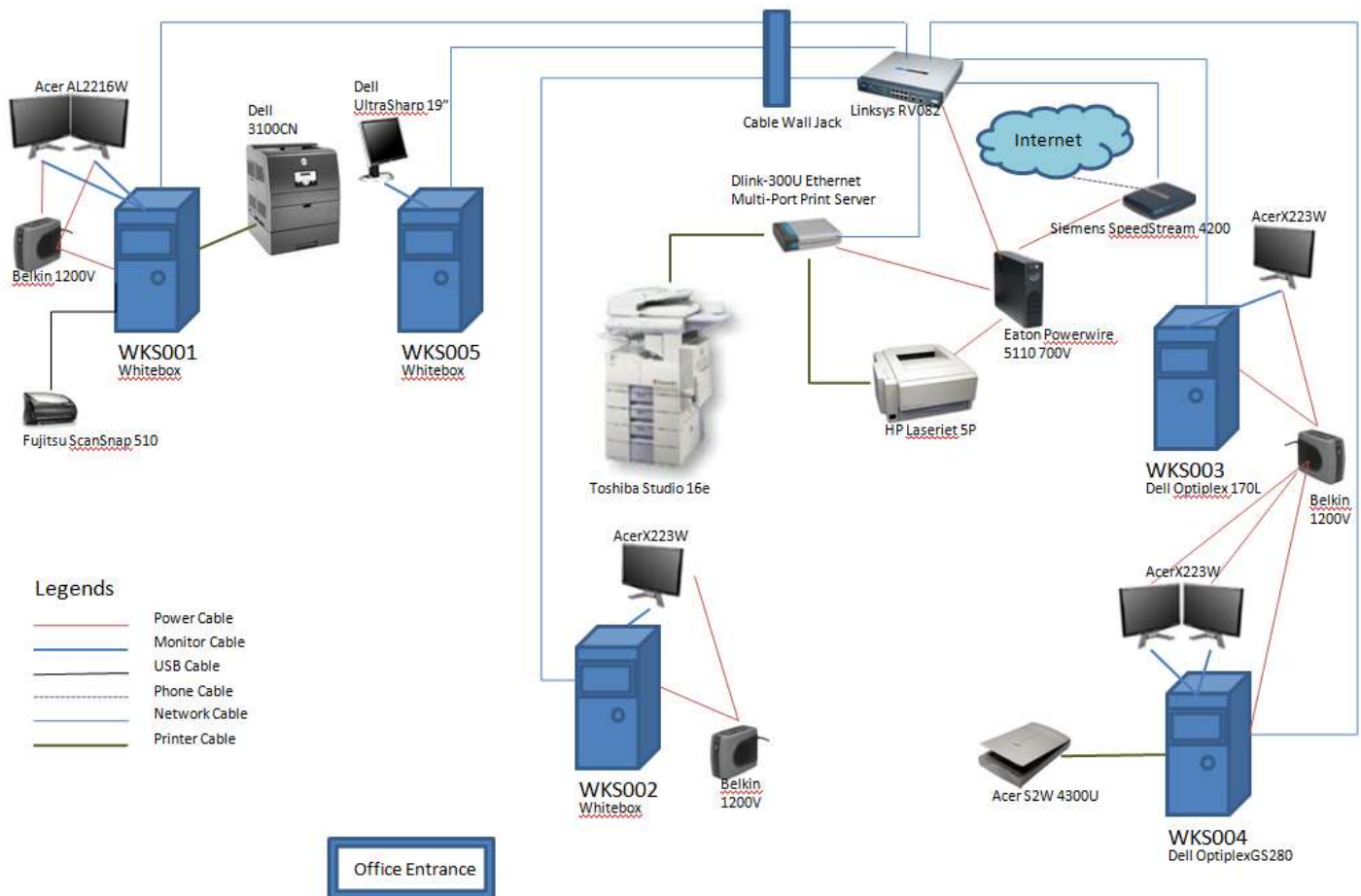
For the offices with fewer than five users, a peer-to-peer network is usually adequate. It is less expensive than a server-based solution: both in initial hardware and software investments and in maintenance costs.

We recommend that any organization have the following in place to facilitate supporting its IT infrastructure:

1. Computer Software
2. Computer Components and Configuration
3. Network Diagram
4. Internet, Web Site and Email Information
5. Backup and Restore Procedures
6. Security and Disaster Recovery

Here is a diagram we developed for one of our customers to depict their network.

Network Diagram



A diagram like this provides a clear picture of the equipment the company has in place while helping to assess considerations to optimize network operation.

Keeping records is important for maintaining your IT infrastructure efficiently.

Do you know what kind of equipment you have got and how old it is? Do the warranties on your hardware still apply? Is your antivirus license current? Is your network firewall configured? Do you have a record of equipment model numbers?

These are just some of the questions you might need to answer to make sure that you have a sound infrastructure in place so that you may recover and get back to business quickly, should something happen.

Regular computer maintenance is crucial in supporting your business:

- Check your hard drive usage so that it has enough free space
- Examine the Event Log for recurring and critical errors
- Make sure all the latest security patches and service packs are applied
- Make sure your antivirus and antimalware programs protect your computers

It is always easier to take action before serious damage is done to your network – be proactive, not reactive.

There are plenty of companies specializing in IT support. If you have Windows-based computers, look for companies who are certified as a [Microsoft Small Business Specialist](#) to ensure proper care. [N-Soft](#) is one of them. Use [Advanced Search](#) to find one in your area.