LAN Designs

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This past week I've learned more about switches, LAN designs and about SWOT analyses. Switches on LAN networks provides connection points for end users, and are responsible for controlling the information within the network. Most switches are now on converged and hierarchal networks. Converged networks that combine user data and VoIP into the same infrastructure. A hierarchical network topology is used to increase reliability and availability. Switches even use the borderless switched network design to maximize usability across all devices. In the three-tier LAN design, there is the access layer, distribution layer, and core layer. The access layer functions on the network edge and connects users to the network. The distribution layer connects the access layer to the core layer and aggregates layer 3 boundaries. Also sets network access policies and provides redundancy to support the network connection to the core. The core layer functions as a high speed backbone that aggregates all campus blocks and provides fault isolation. I also reviewed how switches handle packets and how they read the source MAC and then the Destination IP to forward the frame on. I looked at the store and forward method and cut through and each of their pros and cons. I also learned about the SWOT analysis, which I plan to use for my final product to analyze not only my product but other software available. SWOT analyses are used to study an organization or item to identify its internal Strengths and Weakness, and also its external Opportunities and Threats. I hope to use the SWOT analysis to get a deeper understanding on the UI of my final product design.