Software required: CISCO Packet Tracer (student version)

Objectives:

- Setup a client/server network
- Understand the purpose of client/server networks
- Know the advantages and disadvantages of client/server networks

What is a client server network?

A client server network is a network where the resources are stored on at least one central server. These can then be accessed by the clients of the network. Each device has a dedicated role either as a client or a server. They cannot be both, like in a peer to peer network.
Setup your client server network

Open Packet Tracer and drag four PC’s and a server onto the screen, these are found under end devices. Also drag a switch onto the screen (found under switches).
As this is a local network, we will connect the PC’s to the server through a switch using copper straight-through connections. These will all use the fast Ethernet ports on the devices. The green lights mean the connections are working.
Advantages and disadvantages of client server networks

From your setups can you identify the advantages and disadvantages of using a client server network? Consider the following:

Advantages

- All resources can be found from a central location
- Backups of resources can be done easily
- Devices attached to the network can be managed in one place
- All clients have access to a single version of the resource

Disadvantages

- Requires specialist hardware and software to work
- A network manager or administrator is required for the upkeep of the system
- If the server goes down, this will affect access to resources for the whole network