Lab 5.1.7 Hub and NIC Purchase

Objective

- Introduce the variety and prices of network components in the market
- Gather pricing information for hubs and Ethernet NICs for a small network

Background / Preparation

A friend has asked for help putting together a price list for a small LAN to be set up in a very small business. Rapid growth is not really a concern. The business has computers, but it has not networked the computers together. They are getting a DSL connection, so that they can access the Internet. They have been told that all they need is a small hub and connections to each computer to complete the project. Each machine is running a version of Windows that will work on a peer-to-peer network. The lab will use the Web site www.cdw.com, but any local source, catalog, or Web site can be used. The requirements include the following:

1 – Ethernet Hub

2 – Ethernet NICs for existing laptop PCs

3 – Ethernet NICs for existing desktop PCs

4 – Ethernet Cat 5e jumper cables – length 6.1 meters (20 feet)

Step 1 Research equipment pricing

Use at least three other sources for technologies and pricing. For Web searches, try www.cdw.com, www.google.com, or any other search engines that are preferred. Look at the prices for small hubs and how much more would it cost to use a small switch. Compare the cost to a wireless implementation.

Step 2 Compile one page summary of the results

Use Microsoft Excel, Word, or any comparable products to compile a one page summary of the results. A comparison table should show the choices and the features or factors that were compared, such as number of ports, features, price, performance, and so on.