

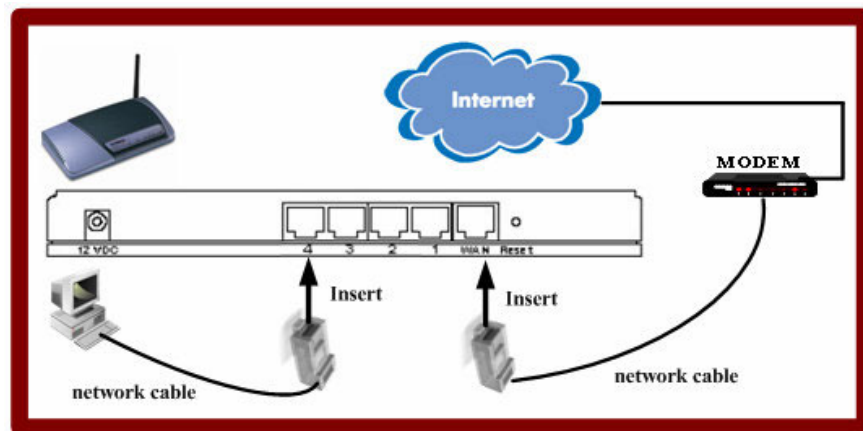
# Is the WAN port of the router connected to the computer?

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The WAN (Wide Area Network) port of the router acts as a gateway to other networks, providing an interface for the router to send traffic. Do not connect the computer to the WAN port of the router, as this will prevent data from entering or exiting the network. Instead, a computer should be connected to the LAN (Local Area Network) port of the router, as these ports are dedicated to handling local network traffic.

## The functions of the router

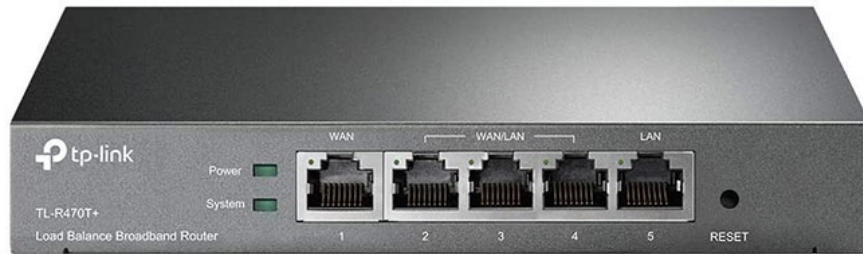
Routers allow clients on the local network to communicate with clients on other networks. When a client wants to send data to another network, it forwards that data to its router. The router checks the destination IP address of the data and forwards it to another router closer to the destination.



Routers allow clients on the local network to communicate with clients on other networks. A data packet may need to be forwarded several times throughout the journey. The data eventually arrives at the destination network router and is forwarded to the correct local client.

## Ports on the router

Router network ports fall into two main categories: WAN and LAN. The WAN port is always used by the router to forward traffic to other routers, while the LAN port is used to communicate with internal clients.



If a computer is connected to the router's external WAN port rather than one of the LAN ports, the router forwards traffic to that computer, thinking that traffic will leave the network. There is no way for computers to forward data, so traffic will never reach the destination.

## Types of WAN ports

The shape of a WAN port and what can be connected to it largely depends on the type of router in question. Some routers require external modems to communicate over public infrastructure, such as telephone lines or cables. In this case, the WAN port will probably use Ethernet cable.

However, some routers have a modem feature that allows them to connect directly to external lines. These routers often have WAN ports of the same size and shape as a telephone jack or a regular cable TV port.



## Many WAN ports

Most routers in the small office or at home only have a single WAN port. However, some router models have 2 or more WAN connections. These WAN connections can be used together to improve network performance or strength.

For example, most 2-WAN routers support failover, where one WAN port is connected to an active external line and the other is linked to another WAN connection as a backup. .

When needed, you can convert the WAN port to LAN on the router.

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