

# **Cry for Help**

Computer Tips & Tricks for the novice to the advanced.

## **Connecting Computers**

Connecting different computers is simple, but first you need to understand a few new terms.

A computer NETWORK is what we call it when computers and printers are connected together. The network ARCHITECTURE is HOW all the items in the network are connected together. These days it is almost always done using ETHERNET (CAT5) cables.

So to set up a basic network we simply connect all computers (and printers) to either a SWITCH or ROUTER using Ethernet cables. Once the computers have been configured they will then be able to see each other and exchange files across the network. Modern Laptop computers are also able to talk wirelessly to a wireless router, but desktop computers do not have this ability without an extra device.

Next, we will probably want the computers to have access to the internet. So take one more network cable, connect it from the switch or router to the Broadband modem. The modem may also have wireless ability, and sometimes the router and modem are in the one box. All of these options need to be configured differently, but the end result is the same - multiple computers seeing each other and the internet. And now you understand computer networks. It's not easy, but it is simple.

**Jonathan Harris**  
**JNH Software Pty Ltd**  
**5259 2304**

