

Computer Bits by Mark Eggert of Raad One Network Solutions, Inc.

Welcome to Computer Bits, a series of articles on computers and network information. This is another article with Questions & Answers. This month's question is: **Can Windows NT be linked to Job Boss or other CAD/CAM software? Or do I have to have separate networks for the shop floor, design, and the office?**

A wide variety of software can be run on a Windows NT network and a Windows NT network will work in both an office and shop environment. The decision for having one or two networks depends on the type of network equipment you have, the shop environment, and your security needs. Most shop environments contain large equipment that electrically interferes with standard network cabling of the type that is used in office environments. Therefore, you will need to use co-axial cable which is insulated and network adapters that connect via co-axial cable. With proper network setup and security you can have one network which covers the complete business. This is the ideal situation as your data can be centrally located for backup. Also, the administration of the network is centralized.

If you are considering a network for your business or are thinking of expanding your current Windows NT network, I would recommend either installing or upgrading to a Windows 2000 network. While Windows NT is still a good operating system and networking system, Microsoft has stopped developing it and is using Windows 2000 as its main network operating system.

If you have a computer or network question you'd like answered and you think others would like to know the answer too, please forward them to me. My email address is [meggert@wi.rr.com](mailto:meggert@wi.rr.com), my phone number is 262-679-7704 and my fax number is 262-679-7664.