| **Client-Server** | **Peer-Peer** |
| --- | --- |
| **Complex to set up** | **Simple to set up** |
| **Requires technical expertise to set up and maintain** | **Needs basic technical skills** |
| **Server present** | **No server present, each computer is a 'peer' of the others** |
| **Centralised data and application management** | **Each computer has its own data and applications loaded** |
| **Uses a dedicated network operating system** | **Uses standard operating system with network capabilities** |
| **Security is managed centrally and server can be in a locked room** | **Only as secure are the most vulnerable computer in the network e.g. a wireless laptop is not physically secure** |
| **User access and authentication is managed centrally** | **Fairly basic login authentication for each user** |
| **Peripherals are managed centrally and available to client computers** | **Peripherals can be shared but the computer it is attached to must be powered on as well** |
| **Users can roam from machine to machine and still have access to their applications, data and desktop setup** | **User data is on one of the networked machines which must be on for access. User data must be in a 'share' folder if it is to be visible on the other machines** |