- A virtual LAN (VLAN) consists in logical grouping of different nodes (network devices) over a given physical topology, in order to create at logical level a new network with all the LAN functionalities. As a consequence a single broadcast domain is segregated into multiple logical broadcast domains.

- Advantages:

(1) It limits the broacast traffic to smaller groups improving the network performance. Each group has its own *spanning tree* and defines a broadcast domain;

(2) It improves the network security and privacy by separating the traffic that belongs to different organizations /departments;

(3) It facilitates the network management by allowing the network administrator to organize the users into groups in order to reflect the structure of organization (departments, buildings, etc.), independently of the physical topology.