

HOME CYBER DEFENSE

ARE YOU SAFE FROM CYBER CRIME?

WEEKLY

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This is a weekly publication dedicated to your personal cyber security. Our newsletter is designed to help the public recognize and avoid cyber threats while they are online. If you are not a subscriber, please go to HomeCyberDefense.net to sign up.

Shop Safe with a Virtual Private Network



What is a Virtual Private Network?

A VPN or Virtual Private Network is a network connection that enables you to create a secure connection over the public Internet to private networks at a remote location. With a VPN, all network traffic (data, voice, and video) goes through a secure virtual tunnel between the host device (client) and the VPN provider's

servers, and is encrypted. VPN technology uses a combination of features such as encryption, tunneling protocols, data encapsulation, and certified connections to provide you with a secure connection to private networks and to protect your identity. VPN connections technically give you all the benefits of a Local Area Network (LAN), which is similar to that found in many offices but without requiring a hard-wired connection.

Early VPNs were often set up to give individual employees secure remote access to their company networks, hence the name “virtual private network”. By connecting to the company’s network, an individual employee can access all the company’s resources and services as if the employee were inside the company. Since then, VPNs have evolved to provide the same level of secure communication between any device on the internet. Today, using VPN is increasingly popular among consumers as a means to protect their privacy online, secure their browsing sessions, and get unrestricted access to content or websites that are otherwise blocked or censored.

Remote Access VPNs are what an individual would use to connect your computer to a private network. This type of VPN can be divided again into two groups:

Corporate VPNs – Corporate VPNs allow business travelers and telecommuters to connect to their company networks and remotely access resources and services on the networks. When a user connects his/her device to the company’s VPN, the VPN thinks that the user’s computer is on the same local network as the VPN.

Personal VPNs – Personal VPNs provide consumers with the same private and secure connection as the corporate VPNs. However, personal VPNs are not used to connect to private networks to access private resources.

Nowadays, consumers use personal VPN services mainly to browse the web anonymously, secure their web browsing sessions at public WiFi with HTTPs encryption, and bypass internet restrictions to get access to blocked websites and internet services (i.e. Skype, Gmail).

Personal VPN services are especially useful when connecting to a public WiFi network. It is estimated that nearly 90% of public WiFi networks are not secured. By using a VPN service, all your internet communications will be encrypted, making it almost impossible for hackers and snoopers to read and steal your private information.

There are many personal VPN service providers available for consumers to choose from, with many offering VPN services to consumers for free or for a low monthly subscription fee. These services also make it easy and quick for you to install and use a VPN on practically any platform, including mobile and tablet devices.

Benefits of Masking Your IP Address

A VPN masks your IP address, giving you much greater privacy for your online activities. Unshielded, this IP address – the unique address for each device on the internet – can be misused to reveal your identity, location, ISP, and even the specifics of your online activity.

When you use a VPN, your IP address is masked so you can surf the web anonymously. Thus, no one can find out where you connect from or what you do online.

Moreover, by exchanging your IP address with the VPN server's IP address, you can virtually connect from a geographic location that is different from where you are physically located.

For instance, you may be sitting inside a coffee shop in Dubai, but by connecting to a remote VPN server, you can appear to connect to the Internet from another location (i.e. San Francisco or New York) which hosts the VPN server you're connecting to.

This enables you to bypass regional internet restrictions and get access to content (i.e. YouTube, Facebook) or internet services (i.e. Skype, Gmail, Viber) that are otherwise restricted or censored in the location you are staying in.

Finding a VPN Server

There are many VPN Servers and you can easily search the web to find one. You can subscribe to a FREE VPN service, which is best if you are only going to use it for a limited basis, but most free services are slower and may send you ads when connecting. The PAID VPN Services are faster and more secure, but the price will range from \$5.00 to \$10.00 per month. At the present time the most popular service is Express VPN, which is a little over \$8.00 per month. Once you have subscribed to a service you will be provided the information needed to configure your devices to their server.

Get a VPN and use it to shop safe and secure this holiday season.

Thank you for subscribing to our email!



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