

VPN

(Virtual Private Network)

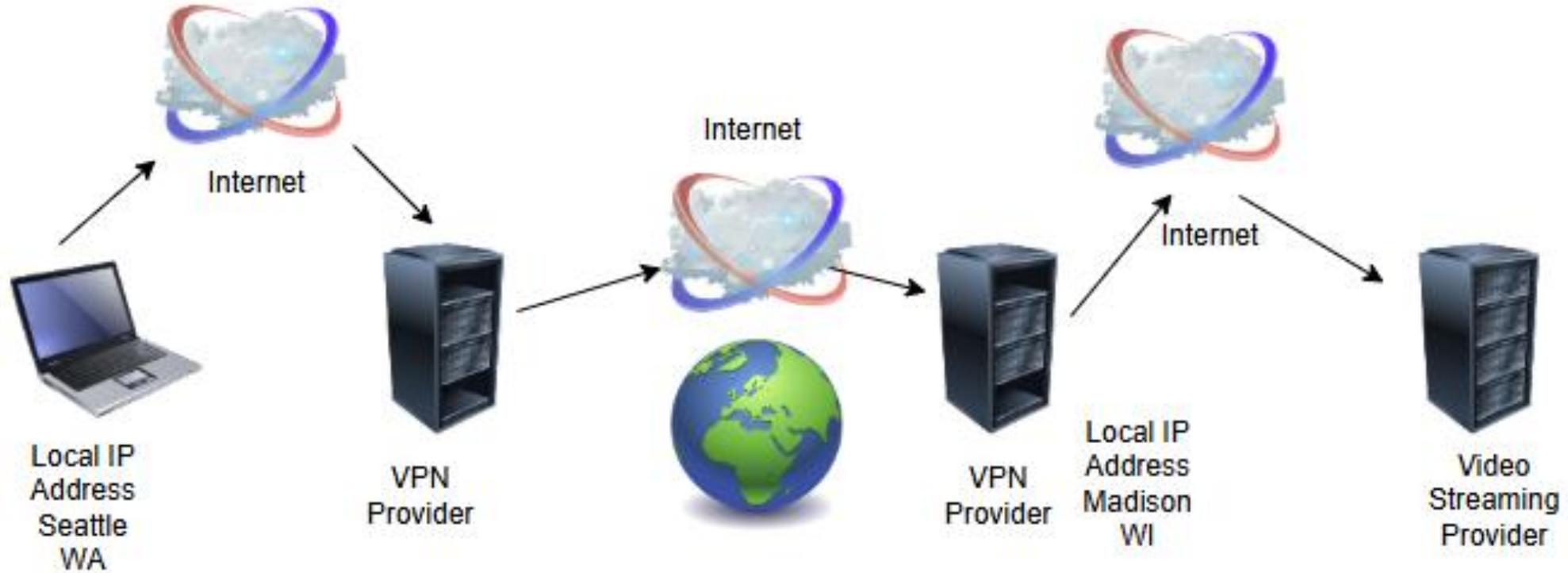
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Agenda

- VPN Overview (50,000 foot view)
- What are some of the benefits of VPN's?
- Is there a cost for VPN services?
- Devices that use VPN Services?
- Do Video Streaming Services block or prohibit use of VPN's?
- Interesting Internet Articles
- Q&A

VPN Overview



The end destination IP is what the website sees, not your local IP address.

What are some of the benefits of VPN?



- **Torrenting** – Peer-to-peer file-sharing
- **Avoiding Geo-Blocking** (restrictions or blocking by geographical location/IP Address)
- **Providing privacy and security on public Wi-Fi** (*Airports, Hotels, Libraries, Coffee Shops, Restaurants, VO Common Areas*)
- **Anonymity and Online freedom** – The ability to surf the Internet without being logged or monitored

Minimal Disadvantages!



- To provide the additional layer of security and privacy, VPN use encrypted tunnels through the Internet. This may cause latency in the communication channel. *(Unless you have a low bandwidth Internet Service, this difference usually won't be noticeable.)*



- The better VPN Services will add an additional monthly or annual fee to your expenses.

Is there a cost for VPN Services?

Although there are a few free VPN services available, the 7, have more servers around the world, and have faster connectivity.

Here are some of the more popular VPN Services and their costs:

VPN feature comparison: See how our top picks stack up

	ExpressVPN	NordVPN	Surfshark	Proton VPN	Mullvad
Best	Overall	For power users	Value	Versatility	Privacy
Price	\$13 per month, \$75 for the first year or \$98 total for the first two years (one- and two-year plans renew at \$100 per year)	\$13 per month, \$60 for a year or \$83 for two years (one- and two-year plans auto-renew at \$140 a year)	\$15 per month, \$48 the first year or \$60 total for the first two years (one- and two-year plans renew at \$79 per year)	\$10 per month, \$60 for a year or \$108 for two years (one- and two-year plans auto-renew at \$80 a year)	5 euro (about \$6) per month
Server network	3,000-plus servers in 105 countries	8,000-plus servers in 126 countries	3,200-plus servers in 100 countries	15,300-plus servers in 126 countries	724 servers in 49 countries

<https://www.cnet.com/tech/services-and-software/best-vpn/>

Is the use of VPN Services illegal?



- Except for a few countries like China, Russia, and North Korea, the use of VPN Services is **not illegal**.
- Illegal activities are illegal no matter how they are executed. *(i.e. hacking, committing fraud, pirating copyrighted material, cyberbullying, etc.)*

Do Video Streaming services block or prohibit the use of VPNs?

- Some video streaming services **monitor the use of VPN's** while using their services and have **blocked certain VPN** service providers.
- Streaming services may have **restrictions in their user agreement that prohibit** the use of VPN services to access their content. *(See the link in the Reference Slide for DirecTV)*
- The **video streaming service may terminate** your account if you are identified as bypassing their controls to limit access to a particular geolocation.



How to use a VPN Service?



On your phone, tablet, or laptop (computer)

- You will install a VPN application on your device.
- To use the VPN, you launch the application and select your destination server. (i.e. Montana)
- You then continue to use your other applications, as normal. (i.e. web browser, email client, video streaming, etc.)

On your TV

- Some newer TV's may have a VPN application available. (Android TV, Google TV or Amazon Fire TV, brands like Sony, TCL, Hisense, and Phillips may support VPN applications.)
- For non-VPN enabled TV's, you can often use your phone, tablet, or laptop to CAST to your TV.

Your whole Network

- Some routers have VPN built-in and when enabled protect all of the devices that connect to the Internet through these routers.
- Some routers have the ability to install VPN services. This can be a bit more challenging unless you are technical.

(See the Reference slide for URL's for reviews of VPN enabled Routers)

How easy is it to setup a VPN Router?

ASUS AX3000S - \$90 on Amazon



Step-by-step VPN setup:

Access Router Settings: Open your web browser and go to 192.168.1.1 (or use the ASUS Router app)

Navigate to VPN: Find "VPN" in the Advanced Settings or Adaptive QoS section

Choose VPN Type: Select either:

VPN Client (to connect your entire network through a VPN service like Surfshark)

VPN Server (to create your own VPN for remote access)

Enter VPN Credentials: Input your Surfshark (or chosen VPN) account details

Apply Settings: Save and restart the router

Router-level VPN benefits:

All devices protected automatically (phones, smart TVs, tablets)

No individual app installations needed

Consistent connection without device-specific setup

Summary

- VPN Services can add **an additional layer of security** to your Internet usage.
- Since VPN Services **encrypt your Internet traffic**, there maybe minimal latency in your Internet connections.
- The **Better VPN Services are not free** but are worth the additional monthly or annual cost. **Be sure and check for sales and incentives.**
- VPN services **maybe used on portable devices** (Phones, tablets, laptops) by downloading and installing the VPN application.
- **Casting from your portable device** to your TV is a way to watch videos on your TV, without installing a VPN application on your TV or installing a VPN Router.
- **VPN applications maybe available** for your **smartTV.**
- **VPN enabled Routers** can provide the whole household with encrypted protection and are the **easiest method for using VPN in your home.**

References

Some articles to assist with simple decision of purchasing a VPN enabled Router

- **The 5 Best VPN Routers in 2026 - Preconfigured VPN routers - Easy set up** <https://proprivacy.com/router/comparison/best-vpn-routers>
- **Best VPN Routers** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DANXN9oTowo&t=377s>

Info about geo-blocking and watching Sports using a VPN

- **What is geo-blocking, and how does it work?** <https://nordvpn.com/blog/what-is-geoblocking/>
- **How to Watch ALL your Favorite LIVE Sports for FREE** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VKJfHhSpVqc>

Technical Articles – These are for those that have or want to gain technical knowledge (Not for most seniors)

- **VPN Trick Works on EVERY Smart TV 2026 -** https://youtu.be/EsNV_PayuXI
- **Best VPN for Streaming in 2026 -** <https://www.cnet.com/tech/services-and-software/best-vpn-for-streaming/>
- **Best VPNs for smart TVs in 2025** <https://www.bleepingcomputer.com/vpn/guides/best-vpn-smart-tv/>
- **How to Install a VPN on your router** <https://www.bleepingcomputer.com/vpn/guides/how-to-install-a-vpn-on-your-router/>

Get to know your End User License for DirecTV Steam

- **DIRECTV STREAM Terms of Service and End User License Agreement -** <https://www.directv.com/legal/directv-stream-tos-eula-policy/>

Questions?



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