

VPNs 101

Virtual Private Networks, or VPNs, are important online safety tools that help protect your private data and secure your internet connection. Using a VPN is a simple and effective way to stay safe online.

How does a VPN work?

1

Encryption

A VPN mixes up your internet data so others can't read it.

2

Routing

The encrypted information is sent through a safe path ("tunnel") to a VPN server in another location.

3

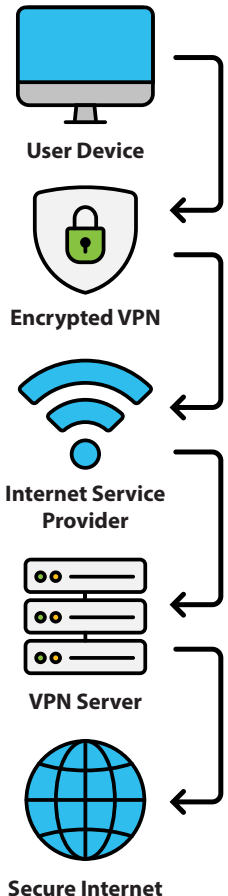
Masking (Hiding) IP Address

Websites see the VPN's location, not yours—keeping your real location hidden.

4

Safe Path

The VPN protects your information and prevents anyone from spying on your online activities.



How to use a VPN?

There are many providers that offer VPNs as a subscription service at varying price points.* Always make sure that the provider is valid to avoid scams—going with one of the big names is a good way to start. Once you're subscribed, follow the instructions to set up and use the VPN on your devices.

* see CNET's review of top providers at www.cnet.com/tech/services-and-software/best-vpn



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