## Virtual Private Networks



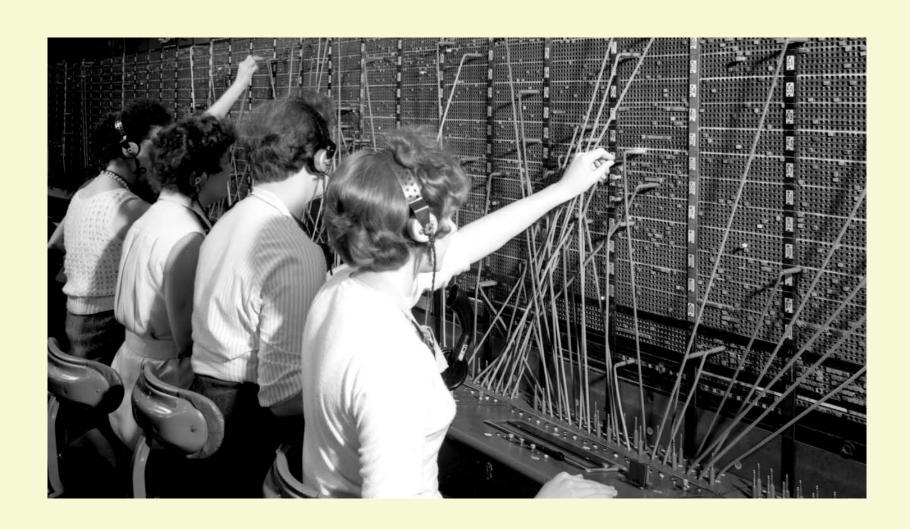
## **Discussion Topics**

- What is a VPN?
- How does a VPN work?
- Advantages of VPNs
- Disadvantages of VPNs
- Do you need a VPN?
- VPN cost free vs. paid
- Selecting a VPN provider
- Some Useful Links
- Final Thoughts

# **VPN**NOUN computing

an arrangement whereby a secure, apparently private network is achieved using encryption over a public network, typically the internet.

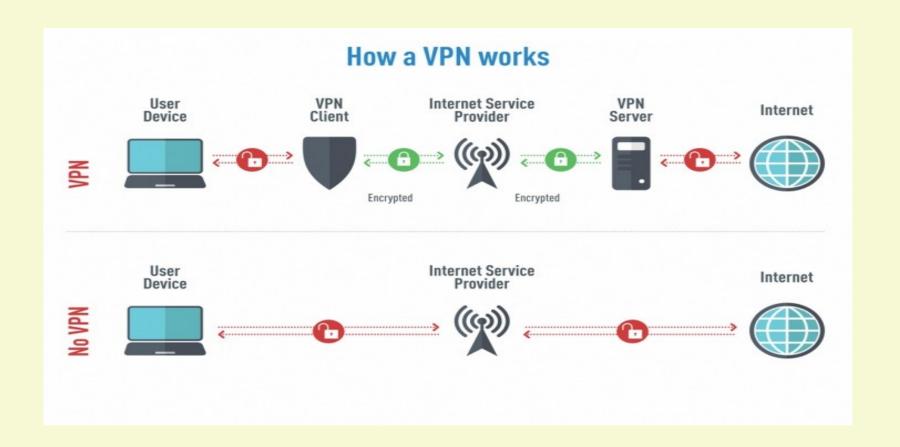
### How a VPN Works



#### Remember Telephone Party Lines?

- 1) You could listen in on your neighbors
- 2) Neighbors could listen to you
- 3) Operator could listen to everything
- 4) Anyone with the right equipment could listen

You cold solve all of those problems by spending money for a private line



Bottom – without VPN anyone can see your internet traffic

Top – with VPN any one can see traffic, but it is encrypted. All they will see is gibberish.

#### **VPN Protocols**

A VPN Protocol determines how your data routes between your computer and the VPN server.

Protocols have different specifications, offering benefits to users in a range of circumstances.

For instance, some prioritize speed, while others focus on privacy and security.

#### Some Common Protocols

- PPTP Point-To-Point Tunneling Protocol
- SSTP Secure Socket Tunneling Protocol
- L2TP/IPSec Layer 2 Tunneling Protocol, combined with Internet Protocol Security
- IKEv2 Internet Key Exchange version 2
- OpenVPN open-source VPN protocol
- There are many others

I'm not going into any details on protocols. They are very technical and confusing.

You will probably never need to adjust, play around with, switch or change them.

Just remember, a VPN protocol is a just a "rule" for the VPN client to connect and encrypt.

## Advantages of using a VPN

- Secure on-line connection data is encrypted
- Hide your on-line identity masks IP address
- Bypass geo-blocks
- Browse the internet and d/l anonymously
- Prevent shopping price discrimination
- Brag to your geeky friends about how smart you are

## Disadvantages of using a VPN

- Might slow your internet speed
- Increased costs
- Some VPNs get blocked mostly popular ones
- Some VPNs are difficult to setup and use
- Often have problems sending e-mail

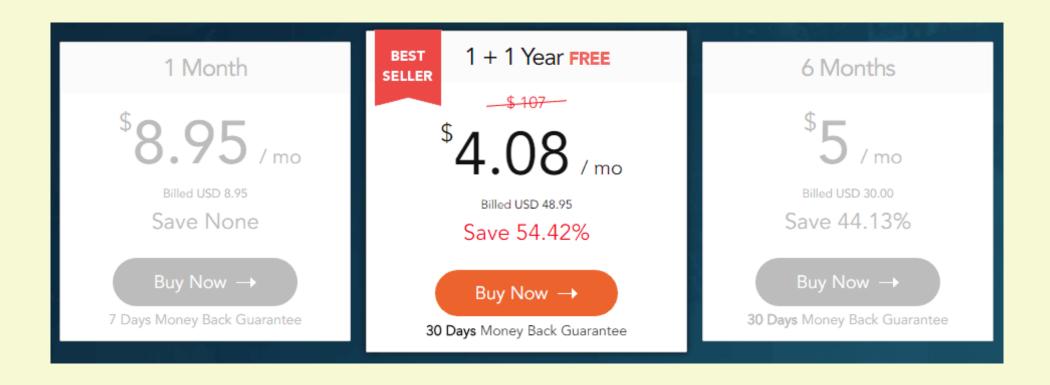
## Do you need a VPN?

- 1) Do you need a car?
- 2) Do you need a desktop computer?
- 3) Do you need Cajun Clickers Workshops?
- 4) Do you need to wear a raincoat when it rains?
- 5) Do you need a pet dog or cat?
- 6) Do you need to hear any more questions?



Like anything else, you have to decide on whether you "need" a VPN. I can only give you information. You'll have to decide for yourself.

#### What Does a VPN Cost?



#### Paid VPN Costs

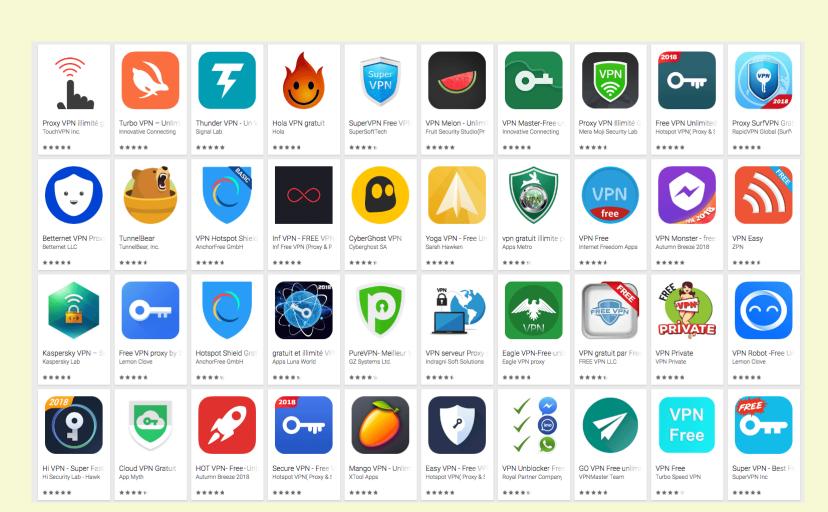
- How much does lunch cost? depends on what you eat.
- 1) Average of \$3 to \$10 a month
- 2) Most VPN offer deals cheaper for long term contracts
- 3) Many VPNs offer discounts and other deals
- You usually get what you pay for
- 1) More servers
- 2) Faster speeds
- 3) Connect with more devices
- 4) Customer support

Research - Research - Research

#### Free VPN Costs

- Free VPNs are like free lunches there is no such thing.
- 1) Almost always restrict bandwidth
- 2) Often sell data
- 3) Often use slower services
- 4) Some interject advertising
- Remember you aren't a customer, you're the product

## Selecting a VPN Provider



### Choosing a VPN is HARD

- There are thousands of them
- It is hard to differentiate good from bad
- Many are resellers
- Reviews are not always true

# Let's move on to some specifics to look for

(in no particular order)

#### Does the Company Log Data?

- 1) Connection dates
- 2) Session times
- 3) Device IDs
- 4) IP addresses visited
- 5) Usage logs
- 6) Files downloaded

How long are logs kept?

#### What Country is the Company Located In?

Can the government monitor VPN traffic? These have International Surveillance Agreements to trade information.

- 5 Eyes US, UK, Canada, New Zealand, Australia
- 9 Eyes US, UK, Canada, Australia, Denmark, New Zealand, France, Netherlands, Norway
- 14 Eyes US, UK, Canada, Australia, Denmark New Zealand, France, Netherlands, Norway, Belgium, Germany, Italy, Spain, Sweden

## Other Things to Check

- 1) Privacy Policy
- 2) How many servers and location(s)
- 3) Protocols used
- 4) Supported platforms
- 5) How long have they been in business
- 6) Is there a kill switch?
- 7) Ease of use

#### Some Useful Links

- The Best VPN
- 1) In depth reviews
- 2) Several cusomer reviews
- 3) Easy to read
- Tech Radar
- 1) Lots of reviews (on lots of tech)
- 2) Use the search function
- VPN Comparison
- 1) Kind of hard to navigate
- 2) Only major VPNs
- 3) Nice side by side comparison

## Some Final Thoughts

- 1) Research-Research-Research
- 2) This was all fairly technical and I'm sure I didn't cover everything about VPNs. (See Number 1)
- 3) Notice I didn't recommend a VPN? Everyone's situation is different. (See Number 1)
- 4) When it comes to selecting a VPN, Google is your friend. (See Number 1)

#### All Presentations Available for Download

PDF Format

toxitman.com

