

Proxy or Proxy server

Proxy is a bridge between you internet. Normally when you browse in your browser you will directly connect to the website that you're visiting. **Proxies communicate with websites on your behalf.**

When you use proxy, your browser will connect to proxy which in turn connects you with website. This is why it is also known as 'forward proxies'. Proxy will also receive the traffic from the website and returns it to your browser.

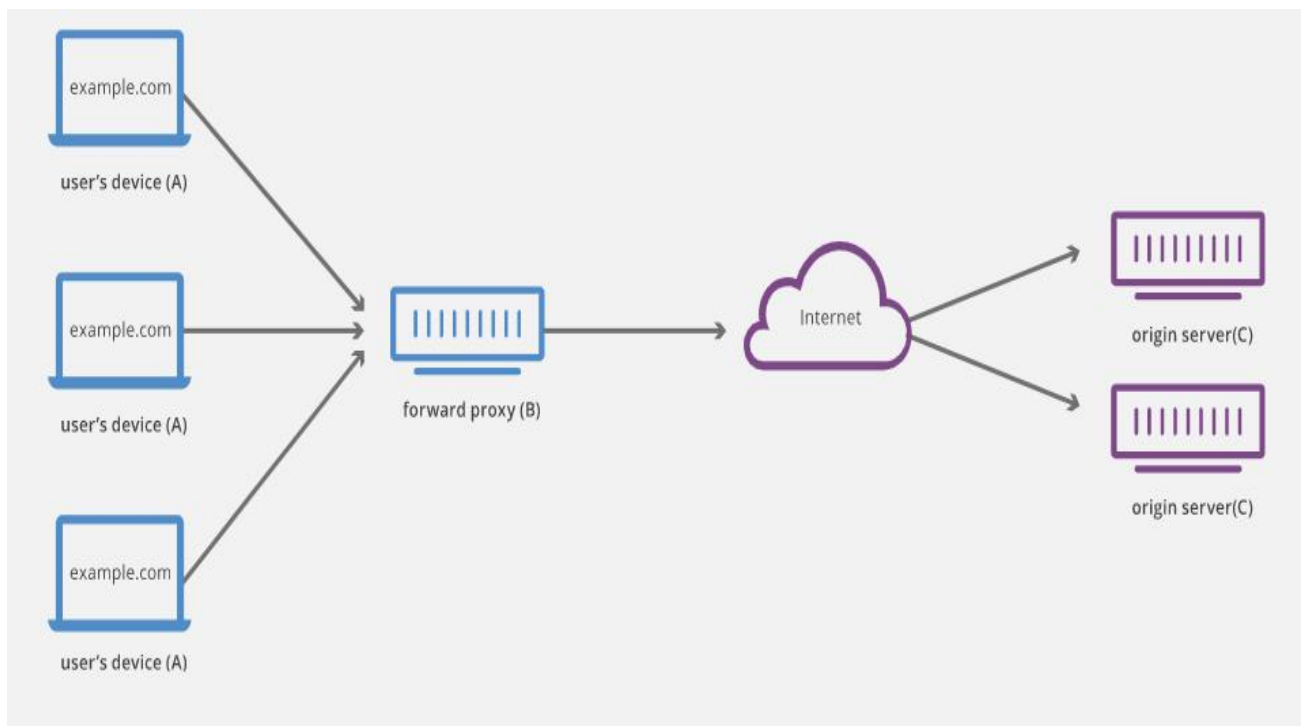
The word proxy in everyday use means, the authority to represent someone else, Like voting instead of you in your absence etc...

Is proxy and VPN same?

Both proxy and VPN acts as an intermediate between you and internet, while proxy only sends and receives traffic and VPN encrypts all the traffic between you and the VPN sever.

Depending on the network setup and configuration involving a proxy, there can be three distinct types of proxy servers out there:

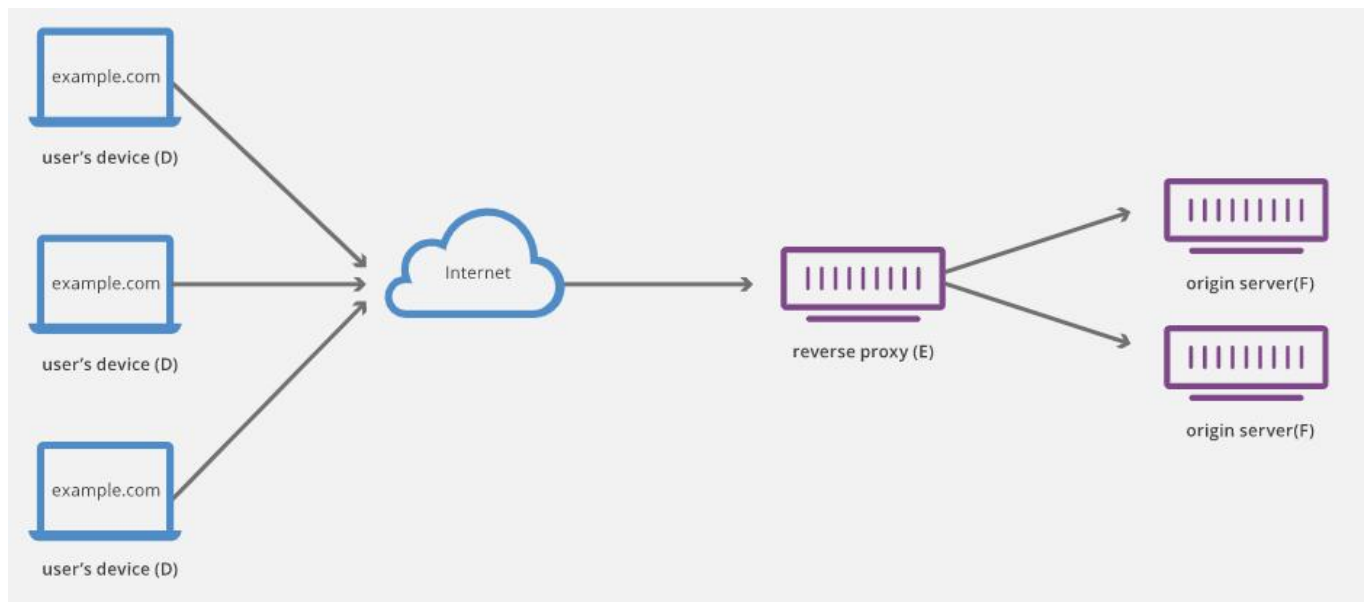
1. Forward proxy



A forward proxy is what most people call ‘a proxy’. You send a connection request, and the forward proxy receives data from the internet. It usually lets clients on an otherwise firewall-restricted network to access the internet.

The best example of how a forward proxy can help you is by **bypassing a network block**. If your network blocks Instagram you can forego the block with a proxy. You will connect to a forward proxy instead of Instagram’s services, and get the information without alerting the firewall.

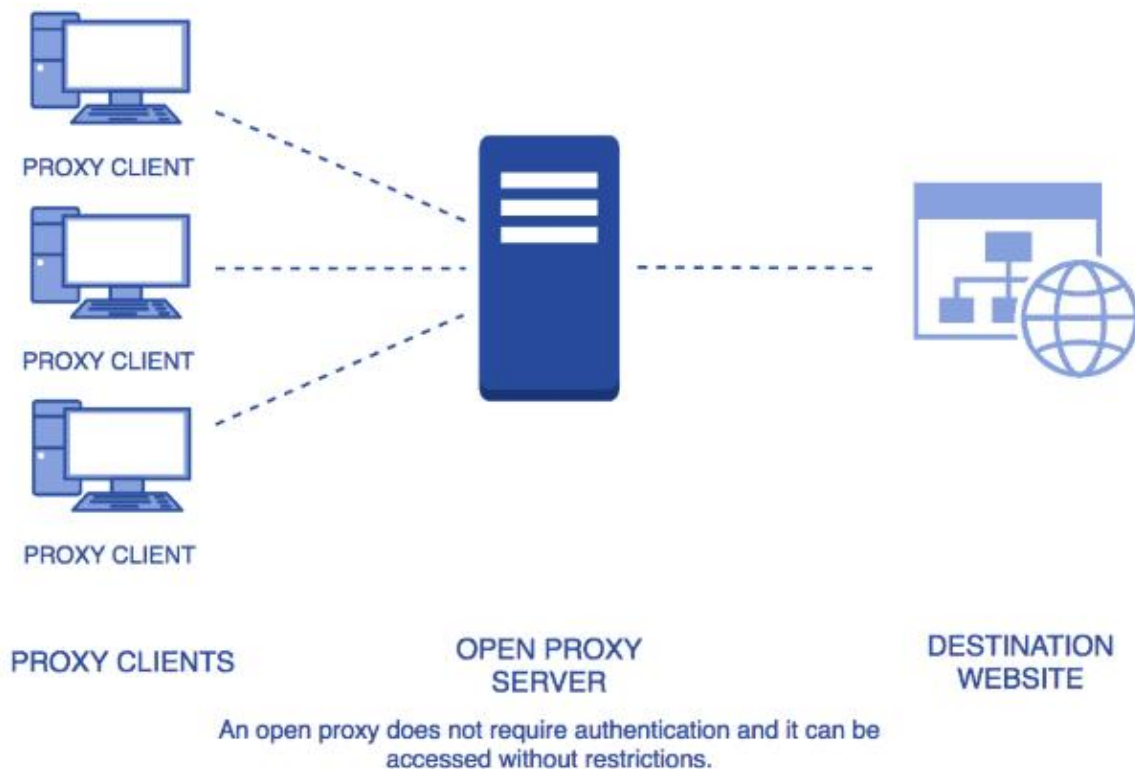
2.Reverse proxy



Reverse proxies provide **anonymity for the back-end servers, not the clients**. They mask the real location of the servers clients are accessing. A reverse proxy is a must-have for sites with millions of visitors, because they use many servers. All of the site's traffic must pass through a reverse proxy and only then access the servers as to not overload them. It also brings two or more servers into the same URL space.

A reverse proxy is useful even if you have only one server. **It can serve as the front-facing part of your service**. It adds security and flexibility to a site. As clients can only access a network through a reverse proxy, it keeps out malicious attacks. It also lets owners change server configurations without any impacting their users.

3.Open proxy



Open Proxy Servers allow both forwarding the requests by internet users and receiving responses from websites. The key feature of this kind of proxy servers is hiding the user's original IP address from the web. Unlike dedicated proxies, open proxy servers do not require authentication on the side of the user and are prone to abuse and malware infections.

Why Should You Use a Proxy Server?

More Privacy

Proxies can encrypt your data, configuring your IP address so that you can hide your real location. This way, the server you are sending your request to won't know your actual IP address

and other personal information. It allows you to avoid risks like hacking attempts and identity thefts.

Access to Any Website

. Imagine you want to visit a website that restricts the contents to be viewed in your country. In this case, you can change your IP address. Due to this, you can gain access to virtually any website on the web that has this kind of limitation.

Higher Security

Since you can keep your data private, your internet connection becomes more secure. You can configure and modify your proxy in order for the web to see only the info you allow it to get access to. Proxies also work as a web firewall that protects your device and filters the web resources that could probably contain malware.

Improved Performance

Proxy servers can also improve your browsing performance. For example, once you visit a website, it gets saved in the cache of your proxy server. Next time you reach for the website, the proxy sends a request to the website server to look for any changes, and if no changes are detected, it will show you the cached version of the website. This way, you can cut down the loading time of websites you've already visited. It is especially beneficial when it comes to companies and organizations.