

TASK 8: Working with VPNs

Objective: Understand the role of VPNs in protecting privacy and secure communication.

Tools: Free VPN client (ProtonVPN free tier, Windscribe free)

Step 1: Choose a Free VPN Service

- Go to <https://protonvpn.com>.
- Click on "**Get ProtonVPN Free**".
- Create a free account with your email.

◆ Step 2: Download and Install the VPN Client

- After registering, log in and go to the ProtonVPN downloads page.
- Choose the version for your device (e.g., Windows, Android).
- Download and install the client.
- **Login using your ProtonVPN account.**

◆ Step 3: Connect to a VPN Server

- Open the VPN client.
- Select any **free server location** (e.g., Netherlands, Japan).
- Click "**Connect**".
- Wait for the status to change to "**Connected**" (usually turns green).


✓ **Take a Screenshot** of this screen to include in your report.

◆ Step 4: Verify IP Address Change

- Go to: <https://whatismyipaddress.com>.
- Check your **new IP location** (should show the VPN country).
- Confirm your real IP is hidden.

✓ **Take a Screenshot** of this page showing the new VPN IP address.

◆ Step 5: Confirm Traffic is Encrypted

- Visit any **HTTPS website**, like:
 - <https://example.com>
 - <https://google.com>
- Look for the **lock icon**  in the browser address bar.
- This confirms your traffic is encrypted.

◆ **Step 6: Disconnect VPN and Compare**

- Disconnect from the VPN in the ProtonVPN app.
- Check <https://whatismyipaddress.com> again.
- Your IP should return to your real location (India, etc.).
- Test website loading speed with and without VPN (VPN may be slightly slower).

◆ **Step 7: Research VPN Features**

- Learn about ProtonVPN features:
 - AES-256-bit encryption
 - No-log policy
 - Secure Core (for advanced users)
 - DNS leak protection