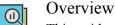# VPN Setup and Configuration Guide

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Overview

This guide provides step-by-step instructions on how to set up and configure a Virtual Private Network (VPN) on Windows and macOS. It also includes troubleshooting tips and best practices for secure remote access.

What is a VPN?

A *Virtual Private Network (VPN)* is a secure tunnel that allows you to access the public internet through a secure and private network connection. A VPN works to secure your device by encrypting your data and hiding your IP address.

Common uses:
- *Secure remote work*
- *Accessing internal company networks*
- *Protecting sensitive data on public Wi-Fi*

VPN Setup on Windows 10/11

Step 1: Open VPN Settings
1. Click the *Start Menu* → select *Settings*
2. Go to *Network & Internet* → *VPN*
3. Click *Add VPN*

Step 2: Enter VPN information

Fill in the following fields:
- *VPN provider:* Windows (built-in)
- *Connection name:* Choose a friendly name (ex, "Work VPN")
- *Server name or address:* Provided by IT Administrator
- *VPN type:* Usually L2TP/IPsec or Automatic

- *Type of sign-in info:* Username and password (or certificate)

Step 3: Save & Connect

- Click *Save*
- Then click the *VPN name* and *select Connect*

 VPN Setup on MacOS

Step 1: Open Network Preferences
- Go to *System Settings → Network*
- Click the + button to add a new service
- Select *VPN* as the interface

Step 2: Enter VPN Information
- *VPN Type:* (ex., L2TP over IPsec)
- *Service name:* Choose a friendly name (ex, "Work VPN")
- Click *Create*
- Enter *Server Address*, *Account Name*, and *Authentication Settings* (password, shared secret)

Step 3: Apply & Connect
- Click *Apply*
- Select the VPN from the left menu and click *Connect*

 Common Troubleshooting Tips

Issue	Troubleshooting Tips
Unable to connect to VPN	Check your internet connection, server address, and login credentials
VPN connects, but no internet	Try switching protocols (ex, L2TP → IKEv2 or IKEv2 → L2TP)
Slow VPN speed	Try reconnecting to a different server location
Access denied errors	Ensure you have the correct user permissions or firewall settings

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Best Practices

- *Always use strong, unique passwords for VPN credentials; Avoid using commonly used passwords*
- *Log out of VPN when not in use*
- *Avoid using free VPNs for sensitive data*
- *Keep your device OS and VPN host up to date*