

04 Task Performance 1 – ARG Online Privacy

1. Choose a product/tool from the list below to evaluate.

Tools for Anonymous Interaction	Tools to Prevent Behavior Tracking	Tools for Both
Mailinator (Disposable email)	Adblock Plus (Cookie blocker)	proXPN (VPN service)
Pastebin (Text publisher)	CCleaner (Cookie destroyer)	Tor (Anonymization proxy)
	DuckDuckGo (Search engine)	

I choose proXPN (VPN service)

2. In your evaluation, use:

- The explanation provided by the producer of the product;
- At least two (2) positive reviews from independent sources; and
- At least two (2) negative reviews from independent sources.

3. After reviewing what these sources say about the product or method, answer the following questions.

- Explain in your own words how the tool works.
 - According to its own site, proXPN promotes “complete privacy and security” by encrypting all internet traffic and hiding your real IP address. Basically, when you connect, your traffic gets tunneled through one of their servers and shows up under that server’s IP instead of your own. TechRadar describes it as simple and user-friendly, which matches how the producer explains it. VPNMentor also points out that this setup lets you get around certain regional restrictions, since you can connect from different server locations.
- Describe at least one (1) strength and one (1) weakness of the tool.
 - One strength is the privacy protection that comes from strong encryption. proXPN prevents casual tracking and makes it harder for outsiders to connect your browsing to your identity. TechRadar’s review supports this, saying it works well for basic privacy needs. VPNMentor adds that it’s reliable when you just want straightforward anonymous browsing. The weakness is speed and limitations. CNET criticized it for being slower than competitors like NordVPN or ExpressVPN. PCWorld also noted that the free version feels restricted, with limited server access and no features like a kill switch. This means that while it does the job, it might not be the best pick for heavy or advanced users.

- c. How is this product supposed to decrease the chances your identity might be exposed if you were trying to interact anonymously online?
 - By encrypting your internet traffic and masking your IP, proXPN makes it harder for advertisers, ISPs, and hackers to see who you are or where you're browsing from. VPNMentor specifically mentioned its usefulness for bypassing geo-blocks and staying anonymous in basic interactions. Since the producer emphasizes that it "hides your IP" and secures your browsing, the idea is to keep your digital footprint minimal and unlinkable to your real identity.
- d. What are some circumstances where you might be identified anyway?
 - Even with encryption, some situations can still reveal you. CNET's review pointed out slow speeds, and if the connection drops, your real IP can leak, especially since PCWorld noted the lack of a kill switch. Also, if you log in to personal accounts like email or social media, you're voluntarily tying your identity to your activity. Finally, advanced techniques like browser fingerprinting can still track you regardless of the VPN.