

Task 8: Understanding and Setting Up a VPN

VPN Used

For this task, I used **ProtonVPN (Free Version)**.

Step-by-Step Procedure

Step 1: Sign Up for VPN

First, I went to the official website of ProtonVPN.

Then I selected the free plan and created an account using my email address and password.

After signing up, I verified my email.

Step 2: Download and Install

After creating the account, I downloaded the ProtonVPN application for Windows from their website.

I ran the installer and completed the installation process by following the setup instructions.

Step 3: Connect to VPN Server

Once the installation was completed:

- I opened the ProtonVPN application.
- Logged in using my account.
- Clicked on “Quick Connect”.

The VPN connected automatically to the nearest available server.

The status showed **Connected**, which confirmed that the VPN was active.

Step 4: Verify IP Address Change

Before connecting to the VPN:

- I visited the website **whatismyipaddress.com**.
- I noted my original IP address and location.

After connecting to the VPN:

- I refreshed the same website.
- My IP address had changed.
- The location displayed matched the country of the VPN server.

This confirmed that the VPN successfully masked my real IP address.

Step 5: Check Encrypted Connection

After connecting to the VPN, I opened different websites.

All websites showed the **HTTPS lock symbol**, which means the connection was secure.

The VPN encrypts the internet traffic between my device and the VPN server, making it difficult for others to see my online activity.

Step 6: Speed Comparison

I tested my internet speed before and after connecting to the VPN using speedtest.net.

- Without VPN: The speed was higher.
- With VPN: The speed was slightly lower.

This happens because VPN encrypts data and routes it through another server, which can reduce speed.

Step 7: Disconnect VPN

After finishing the test:

- I clicked “Disconnect” in the ProtonVPN app.
- I checked my IP address again.
- My IP returned to the original one.

This confirmed that the VPN connection was successfully disabled.

