

VPN Setup and Connection Status Report

VPN Setup Steps:

- VPN Provider Selected: ProtonVPN (Free Plan)
- Download & Installation:
 - Downloaded the client from <https://protonvpn.com>
 - Installed the ProtonVPN client on Windows 10
- Account Creation:
 - Registered a free account using email verification
- VPN Connection:
 - Opened the ProtonVPN app
 - Selected the nearest available server (India - Free Server)
 - Clicked Connect
- IP Address Verification:
 - Visited <https://www.whatismyipaddress.com>
 - Observed IP address change from original to VPN server location
- Traffic Encryption Confirmation:
 - Opened <https://www.google.com>
 - Verified secure HTTPS (lock icon) and encrypted tunnel via VPN status
- VPN Disconnection and Comparison:
 - Disconnected from VPN
 - Compared browsing and download speeds before and after VPN use

Connection Status & Observations:

Status	Result
VPN Connected	✔Yes (to ProtonVPN India server)
IP Address Changed	✔Yes (new IP in different region)
Traffic Encrypted	✔Confirmed via HTTPS & VPN app
Speed Comparison	✘VPN speed was slower than normal
DNS Leak Protection	✔Enabled by default in ProtonVPN
Server Latency	Moderate (~100ms ping to VPN server)
Browsing Functionality	✔All websites accessible
Streaming Services Access	✘Some services blocked VPN traffic

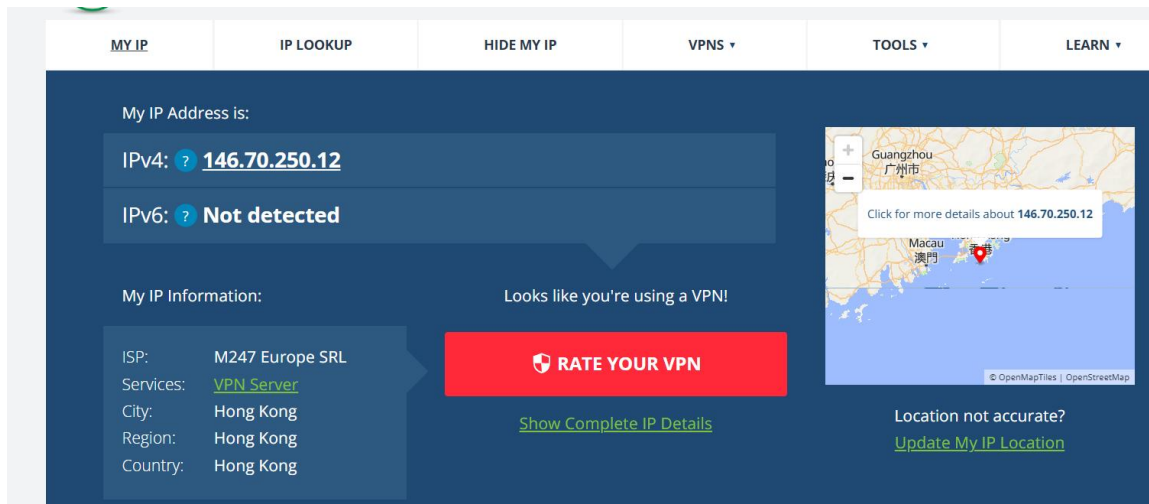
Summary:

Benefits Observed:

- IP address masking
- Encrypted internet traffic
- Protection on public Wi-Fi

Limitations Noted:

- Reduced internet speed
- Limited streaming access
- Occasional latency during browsing



The screenshot displays the MyIP.com website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links: MY IP, IP LOOKUP, HIDE MY IP, VPNS, TOOLS, and LEARN. The main content area has a dark blue background. On the left, under 'My IP Address is:', the IPv4 address is 146.70.250.12 and IPv6 is 'Not detected'. Below this, 'My IP Information:' lists ISP as M247 Europe SRL, Services as VPN Server, City as Hong Kong, Region as Hong Kong, and Country as Hong Kong. In the center, a red button says 'RATE YOUR VPN' with a shield icon, and a message above it says 'Looks like you're using a VPN!'. Below the button is a link 'Show Complete IP Details'. On the right, there is a map showing the location of the IP address in Hong Kong, with labels for Guangzhou and Macau. A tooltip over the map says 'Click for more details about 146.70.250.12'. At the bottom right, there is a link 'Update My IP Location' and a note 'Location not accurate?'. The map is credited to OpenMapTiles and OpenStreetMap.

Conclusion:

Using a free VPN like ProtonVPN provides basic privacy and security benefits, but at the cost of reduced network speed and occasional service limitations. Suitable for secure browsing, but not ideal for high-bandwidth activities.