

I Successfully completed a practical exercise on using and evaluating a VPN service.

The steps I followed include:

- 1. Selected and signed up for a reputable free VPN service.*
- 2. Downloaded and installed the VPN client on my device.*
- 3. Connected to a VPN server, selecting a nearby or preferred location.*
- 4. Verified the IP address change using whatismyipaddress.com to confirm VPN routing was active.*
- 5. Browsed websites to confirm traffic was encrypted (checked for HTTPS lock icons and secure connections).*
- 6. Disconnected the VPN to compare browsing speed and IP address changes, observing the differences in speed and location exposure.*
- 7. Researched VPN encryption and privacy features, including protocols like WireGuard, OpenVPN, and their security benefits.*
- 8. Summarized the key benefits and limitations of VPNs:*

Benefits:

Enhances online privacy, hides IP address, secures data transmission, bypasses geo-restrictions.

Limitations:

Potential speed reduction, limited features in free VPNs, some VPN providers may log data, and not all VPNs prevent IP leaks like WebRTC or DNS by default.

