

## Identify and Remove Suspicious Browser Extensions & VPN Setup Report

Objective: Understand the role of VPNs in protecting privacy and secure communication.

### Tools Used:

- ProtonVPN free tier
- Windscribe free tier
- Web browser (Chrome/Firefox)
- whatismyipaddress.com

### Steps Performed:

1. Chose a reputable free VPN service (ProtonVPN).
2. Signed up for an account.
3. Downloaded and installed the VPN client.
4. Connected to a VPN server (closest location).
5. Verified that my IP address changed using whatismyipaddress.com.
6. Browsed websites to confirm that traffic was encrypted.
7. Disconnected VPN and observed differences in browsing speed and IP.

### VPN Encryption and Privacy Features:

- VPNs encrypt internet traffic, protecting data from eavesdroppers.
- Hide the user's IP address, improving anonymity.
- Provide secure communication on public Wi-Fi.

### Benefits:

- Enhanced privacy and security.
- Ability to bypass geo-restrictions.
- Protection against tracking by ISPs or malicious actors.

### Limitations:

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- Free VPNs may have speed and bandwidth limitations.
- Some free VPNs log user activity.
- Not all VPNs prevent all forms of tracking.

### Screenshots:

- Include VPN connection status screenshot.
- Include pre-VPN and post-VPN IP address comparison.

Summary: Using a VPN improves online privacy and security by encrypting traffic and masking IP addresses. However, free VPNs have limitations such as reduced speed and possible logging of activity. For maximum security, consider using reputable paid VPN services.