Task 8 — Working with VPNs

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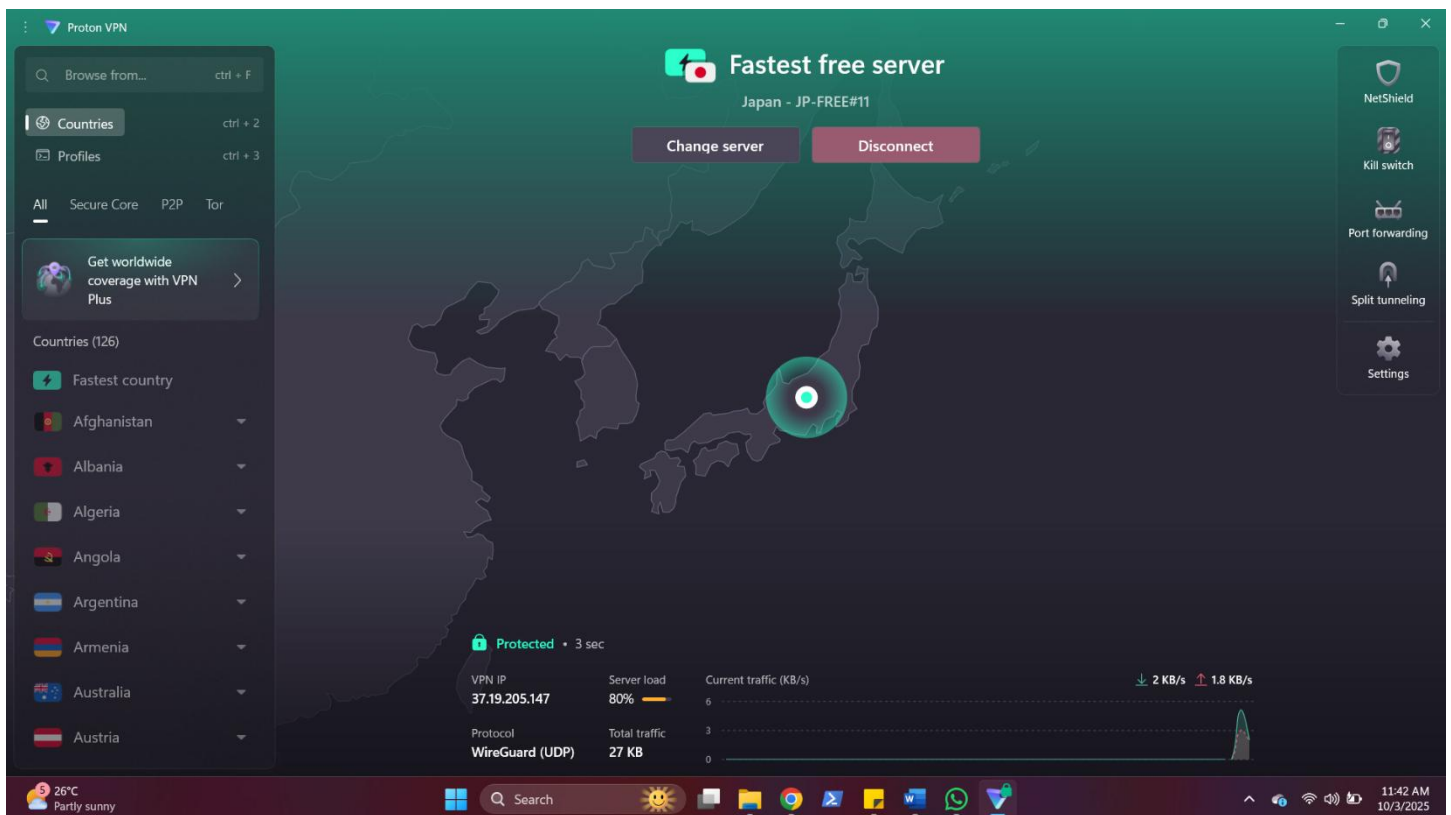
Date: 3 October 2025

Objective

The objective of this task was to gain hands-on experience with a free VPN, understand its role in protecting privacy, encrypting communication, and compare browsing experience with and without a VPN.
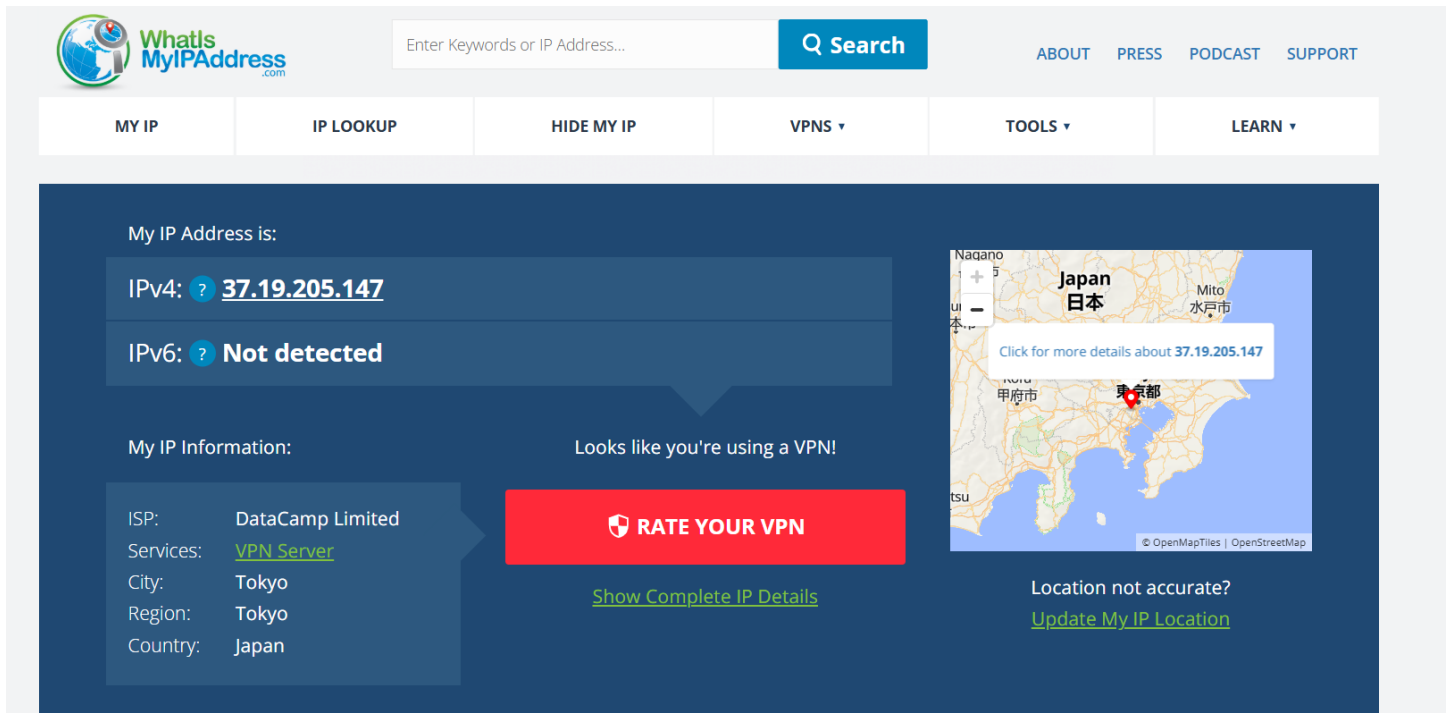
Tools Used

- ProtonVPN (Free Tier) client
- Web browser (Chrome)
- Website for IP verification: https://whatismyipaddress.com
- Optional: speed test website (fast.com or speedtest.net)

VPN Setup Steps

1. Created a free ProtonVPN account.

2. Installed ProtonVPN client on my system.

3. Launched the app and connected to a FREE server (server: Japan).

4. Verified that my public IP changed using whatismyipaddress.com.

5. Browsed HTTPS websites to confirm secure traffic.

6. Disconnected VPN and verified original IP returned.
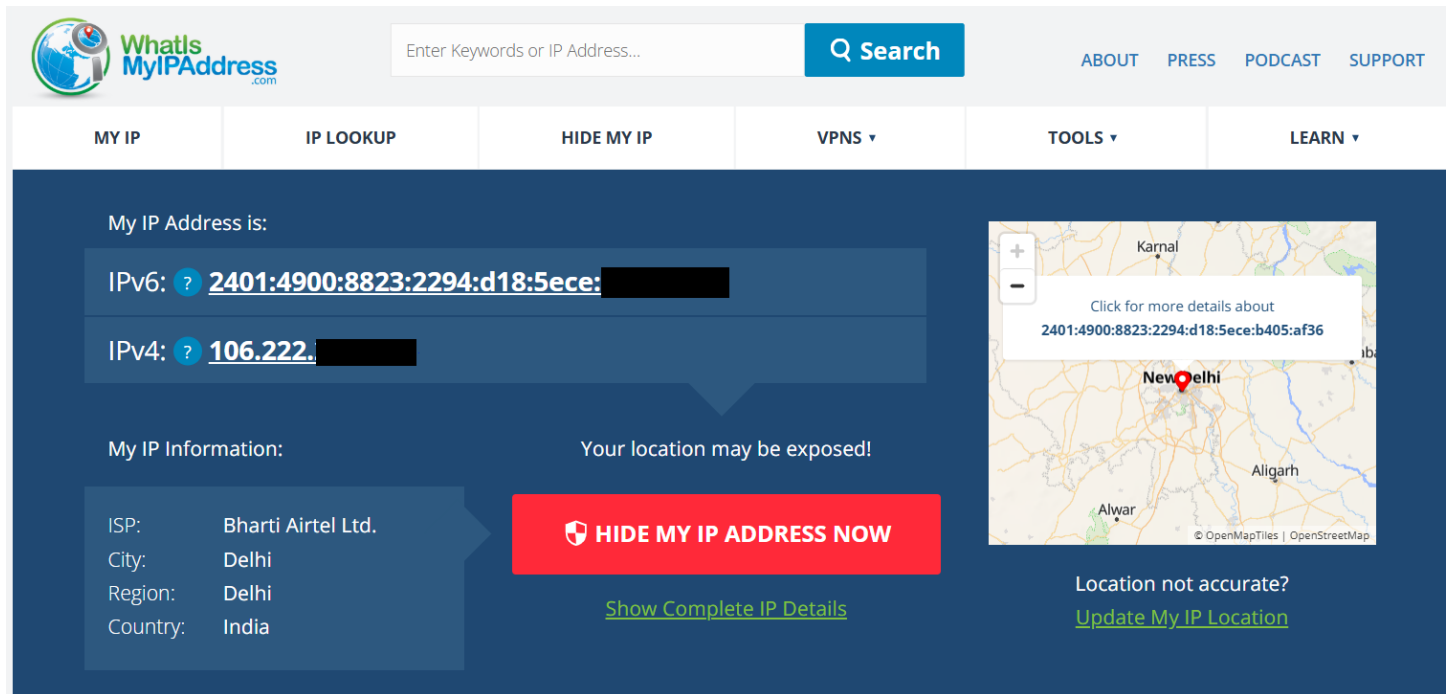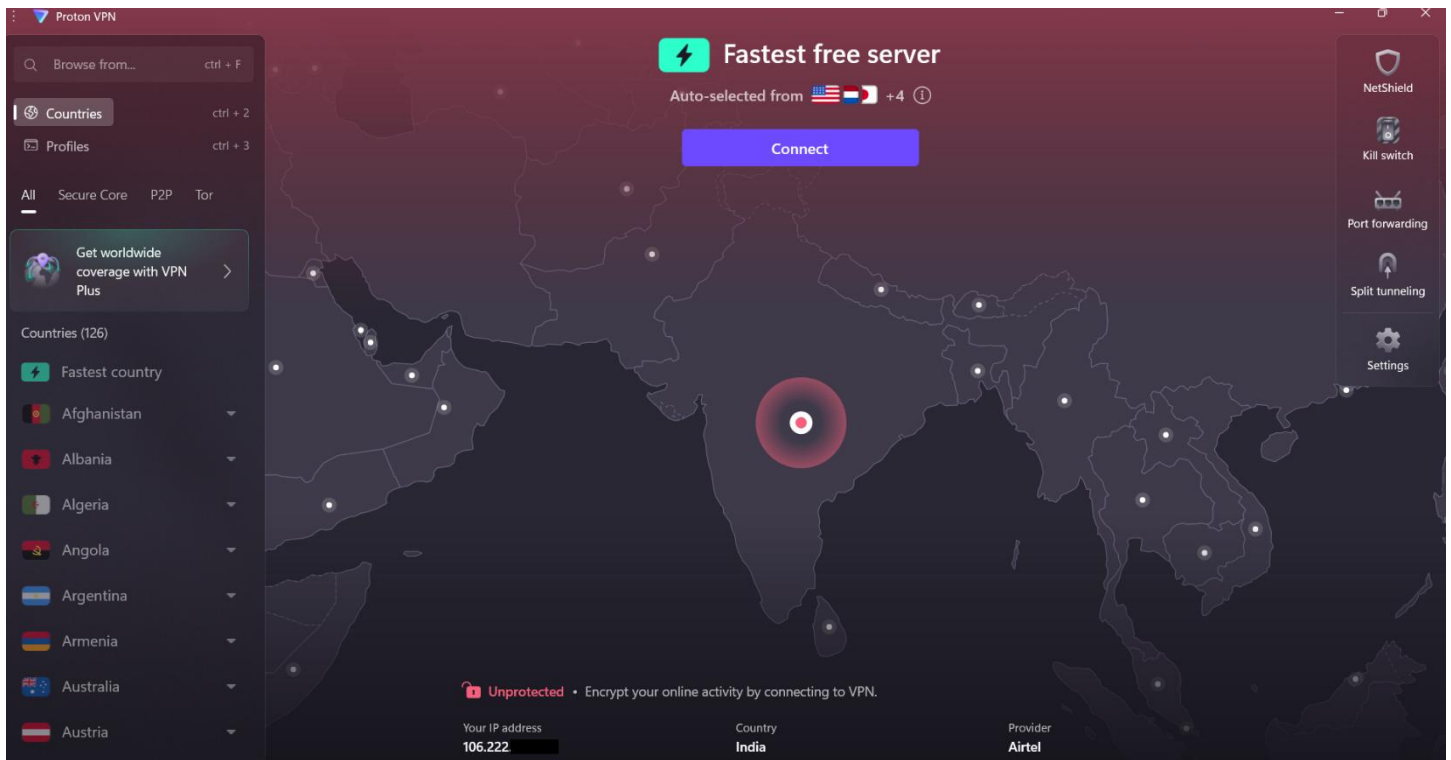
Observations

- VPN successfully masked my real IP while connected.
- Browsing worked normally — secure HTTPS sites loaded fine.
- Disconnecting VPN instantly restored my original IP.
- Slight slowdown in browsing observed when VPN was active.

Benefits of VPN

- Encrypts internet traffic, protecting from ISPs and hackers.
- Masks IP, improving privacy.
- Useful on public WiFi for secure connections.
- Can bypass geo-blocks or censorship.

Limitations of VPN

- Slightly slower speeds due to encryption and routing.
- Free VPNs may have limited server options.
- VPN does not guarantee complete anonymity.
- Dependence on trust in VPN provider.