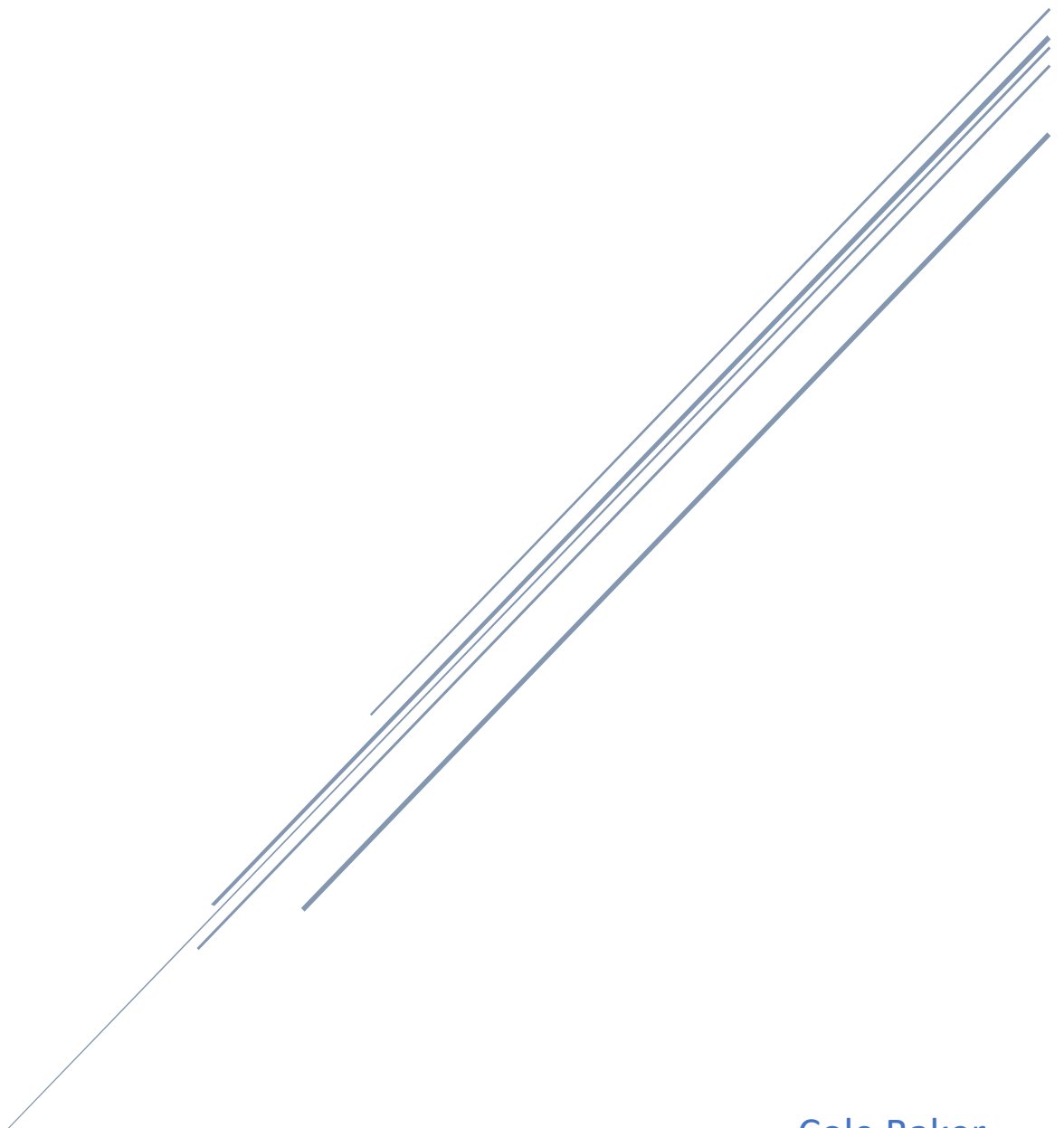


COMPARING VPN SYSTEMS AND RECOMMENDATION



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Windscribe VPN

1. A) During my download and install of the Windscribe VPN, I found it to be very easy to install and setup. In addition to installing the Windows version of Windscribe, I also installed the Firefox extension to compare the experience of both. The install for the extension was just as simple as the Windows version, I did find the extension to be kind of hard to start up for the first time. After the install however, they do push to create an account, you can get around that but it does take a few times of saying no to create an account.
B) I did find that each step of the install, setup and operation of Windscribe VPN was as described in Windscribes documentation. The website has a brief description of how the VPN works but it is enough to get through the basic operations of the VPN.
C) If I could rewrite the install instructions, I would take out the emphasis on creating an account. There are a few benefits to having an account, they do offer more usage for creating an account but some user wishes to stay off the grid per say, and not to have any personal information accessible by the service provider.
D) After using the Windscribe VPN for a few days, I have gotten familiar with the layout and functionality of the vpn's interface. From my experiences the interface for the vpn is layed out in a clean and simple manner with drop down menus for functions like changing the location. Switching the vpn on and off is very simple thanks to the large on/off button located on the launch screen. Overall, after a few minutes looking around the interface, you should have it down pat. (Limited, 2019)
2. Throughout my few days of testing, I could not get the Windscribe VPN to connect to the test site (southpark.cc.com). I attempted to use various servers in different parts of the United States. I did test this on a physical machine and a virtual machine to see if that made any difference, but the VPN was still unsuccessful when trying to connect to the test site.

Hotspot Shield

1. A) The download and install of the was simple and fast, after the download was done, the install was only two steps. Then straight into the launch screen, there was also no prompt to create an account. However the start screen after the first use does prompt for you to upgrade to a premium account. The VPN does also take a few moments to start up. Also, just like the Windscribe VPN, I did test out the Firefox extension. I found the Firefox extension to be a bit more complicated

to set up, there were a few settings that needed to be changed within Firefox's network configuration.

B) The steps to install and setup the VPN were very straight forward, there was only a few steps to set the VPN up and all the steps are listed on the splash screen after you click on the download link.

C) If I could rewrite a part of the setup, I would remove the starting prompt for a premium account, I'd change it a small banner on the side that could easily be dismissed. I would also make the fact that you will have to change a few of Firefox's network settings if you choose to download the extension.

D) As far as the interface goes, it's a very fast, simple and clean interface, there is a modern straight forward design. The on/off button is front and center with a side menu with all the configuration contained in it. The only flaw I found in my usage was the location of the location modifier, it was buried within the settings menu.

2. The Hotspot Shield VPN was successful with the same test site that I attempted with the Windscribe VPN. The only downside was that the VPN disconnected from the server a lot, around every 2 minutes the VPN disconnected and would connect to a different server. (Inc, 2019)

Comparison

Based on my testing and research, neither of the tested VPNs were perfect, they both had a few crucial flaws. First, the pros of both, both VPNS had a clean, elegant and simple design and layout. As well as a very simple install and setup process. As far as flaws go, neither of the tested VPNs connected to the test site very well. The Hotspot Shield VPN did connect to the site unlike the Windscribe VPN, however the Hotspot VPN wouldn't stay connected to the server for over a few minutes. Another important aspect to look at is the amount of usage the VPN allows. The Hotspot VPN only comes with 500mb of usage before you're prompted to upgrade to a premium account again.

Where as the Windscribe VPN gives you 10GB of data before you're asked to buy more. Overall, I would recommend the Windscribe VPN, the set up is very easy, it has a simple and clean layout, it does have a few connectivity issues but so does the Hotspot VPN. As well as it comes with more data straight out of the download.

References

Inc, A. (2019). *Hotspot Shield VPN*. Retrieved from Hotspot Shield: <https://www.hotspotshield.com/>

Limited, W. (2019). *Windscribe VPN*. Retrieved from Windscribe: <https://windscribe.com/>