

TASK 8

VPN Usage Test Report

Introduction:

This report details the process of evaluating a free VPN service by following setup, testing, and research steps, with a focus on privacy features, benefits, and limitations.

Procedure:

1. Selected ProtonVPN for its strong privacy policy and positive user reviews.
2. Created a free account using my email address.
3. Downloaded and installed the Windows client.
4. Connected to a Netherlands server via the ProtonVPN app.
5. Checked IP address at whatismyipaddress.com before (India) and after (Netherlands)—IP changed.
6. Browsed several encrypted HTTPS sites; all loaded normally.
7. Disconnected VPN; verified IP returned to India and speed improved.
8. Researched ProtonVPN's use of AES-256 encryption and strict no-logs policy.

Results:

- IP address and location changed as expected.
- Browsing was slightly slower with VPN but functional.
- VPN uses strong encryption (AES-256) and does not log user activity.

Benefits:

- Enhanced privacy, encrypted traffic, hides real IP address.

Limitations:

- Some speed loss, fewer server choices on the free plan, reliance on VPN provider's policies.

Conclusion:

VPNs offer robust privacy advantages, but speed and trust in providers are key considerations—especially with free services.

