Topic 3 Discussion 2

While connecting remotely to a corporate network or when conducting sensitive online activities (i.e., online banking from a public Wi-Fi), it is a best practice to use a VPN. What is a VPN and why is it necessary in those examples?

Hello Class,

Yes, using a Virtual Private Network, should be a best practice, when it comes to remotely connecting to a corporate network, or when conducting sensitive online activities such as, online banking from a public Wi-Fi. From a user’s perspective, using a VPN can offer a peace of mind, knowing that their online activities are private and shielded from potential threats, while a VPN for business, has become a game-changer. Ensuring a company that it’s employees can work from any location, without compromising the company’s information and resources.

A VPN stands for virtual private network — a service that helps you stay private online by encrypting the connection between your device and the internet. This secure connection provides a private tunnel for your data and communications while you use public networks(PaloAlto, n.d.).

For instance, when conducting banking using a public Wi-Fi, public Wi-Fi networks are often unprotected. Allowing cybercriminals to easily use open networks to hack into any user’s device, by creating fake public Wi-Fi networks that pose as free services. Thus, using a VPN, it will add extra security and privacy by ensuring all data is shared across a VPN connection is encrypted, and masked behind a virtual IP address, allowing a user to hide their identity and location. A VPN, best practice should be used in circumstances that might include, working from home, accessing sensitive information, or using a public Wi-Fi. When you use a VPN, your connection is encrypted, ensuring that your company's data remains secure, even when you're working from home or a remote location.

Reference:

PaloAlto. (n.d.). *What is a VPN? - Palo Alto Networks*. Www.paloaltonetworks.com. https://www.paloaltonetworks.com/cyberpedia/what-is-a-vpn