

Personal VPN

Background:

I have lived outside of the United States since August 2019. During this time, I have lived in three countries and traveled to over ten countries for work or leisure purposes. I originally purchased a subscription to ExpressVPN when I moved abroad. This, and many other third-party VPNs, are not allowed to be downloaded in the countries I lived in and needed to be pre-installed. Unfortunately, ExpressVPN and a few others failed to consistently provide VPN service to my Apple TV for my streaming apps. Some apps would work while others I had to delete.

I did not feel like I was getting my money's worth for the service if it worked sometimes and only for certain apps. I was constantly instant messaging customer service due to outages. I needed a solution for a personal VPN that I could administer myself.

Install:

- 3 hours

Difficulty:

- Easy. It would be moderately difficult for someone without an IT background.

Skills:

- Attention to detail
- Basic Linux
- Basic networking

Purpose of Project:

- To save money by not paying a third-party service like ExpressVPN
- To control my own VPN that secures my connection back to my home network
- To address streaming app issues with third-party VPN providers

Equipment I used:

- Raspberry Pi 4 ([CanaKit](#))
- GL-iNet Travel Router ([GL-iNet](#))

Sources:

- [YouTube Source 1](#)
- [YouTube Source 2](#)