Hotstop sheild is using the same **"Tap Network Adapter"** as the other VPN providers does.

TAP-Windows provides virtual TAP device functionality on the Windows OS and is required by your VPN software to function.

TAP devices are virtual network kernel devices supported entirely in software and not backed up by hardware network adapters. TAP drivers are used for TAP devices to work and they are designed with low-level kernel support for Ethernet tunneling.

**TAP benefits:**

* behaves like a real network adapter (except it is a virtual network adapter)
* can transport any network protocols (IPv4, IPv6, Netalk, IPX, etc, etc)
* Works in layer 2, meaning Ethernet frames are passed over the VPN tunnel
* Can be used in bridges

**TAP drawbacks:**

* causes much more broadcast overhead on the VPN tunnel
* adds the overhead of Ethernet headers on all packets transported over the VPN tunnel
* scales poorly