

# Task 8 Report – VPN Setup and Privacy Protection

**Date:** 15/08/2025

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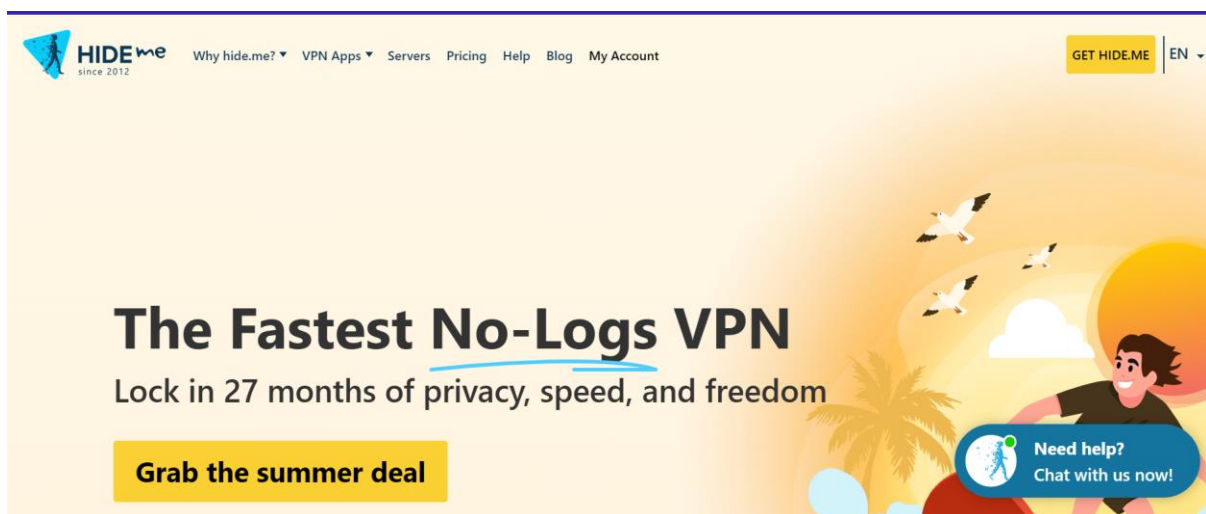
## Introduction

A **Virtual Private Network (VPN)** is a tool that encrypts internet traffic and hides the user's real IP address, ensuring privacy and security. For this task, **Hide.me VPN** (Free plan) was chosen due to its strong encryption, no-logs policy, and easy-to-use interface.

## Hide.me VPN Setup & Task 8 Guide

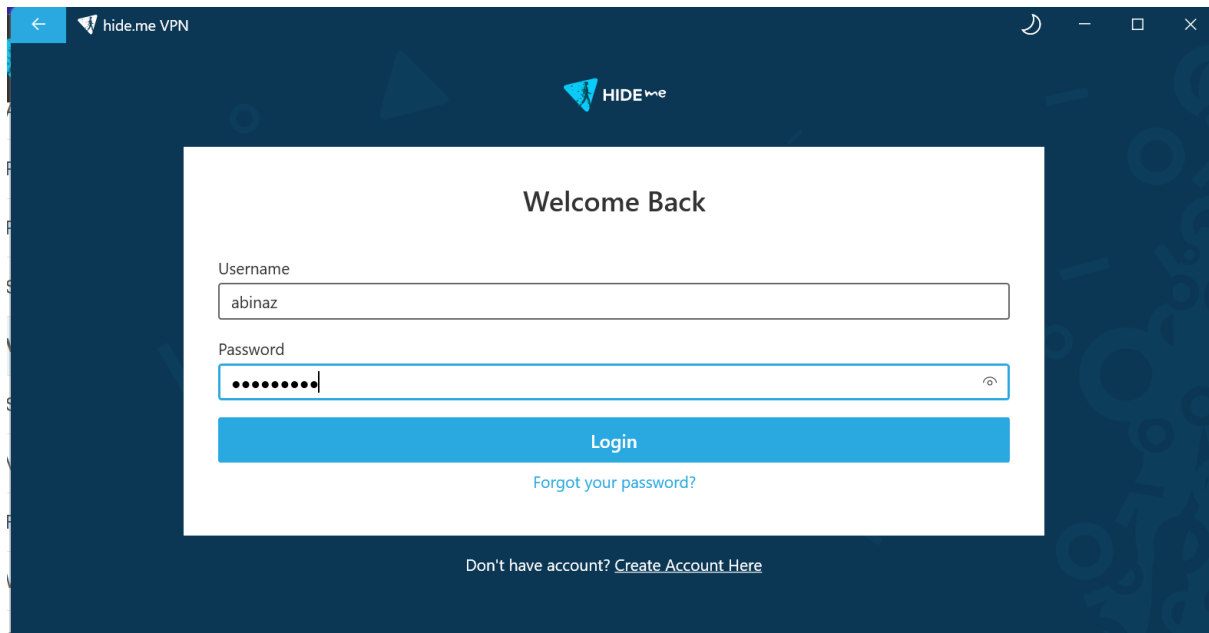
### 1. Sign Up

1. Go to **<https://hide.me>**
2. Click **Get Free VPN**.
3. Create a free account with your **email & password**.
4. Verify your email (check inbox).



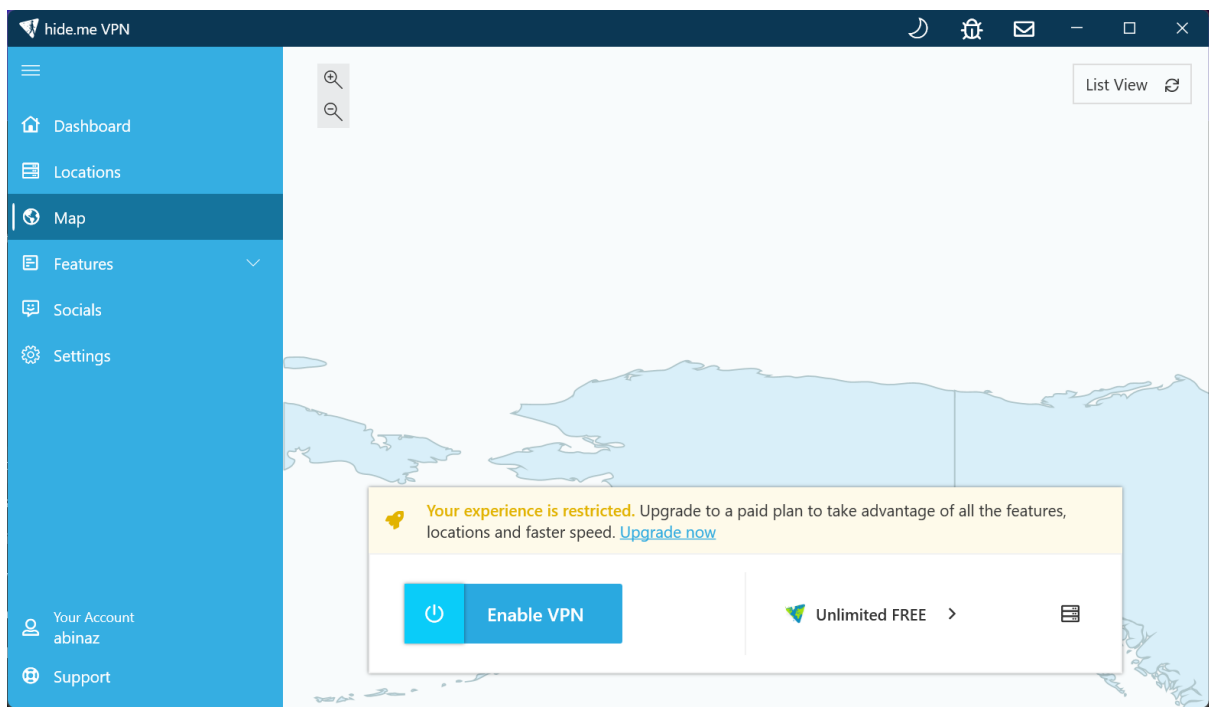
### 2. Download & Install

1. After logging in, go to the **Downloads** section.
2. Select your operating system:
  - o **Windows** → .exe installer
3. Install Hide.me by following the setup wizard.



### 3. Connect to VPN

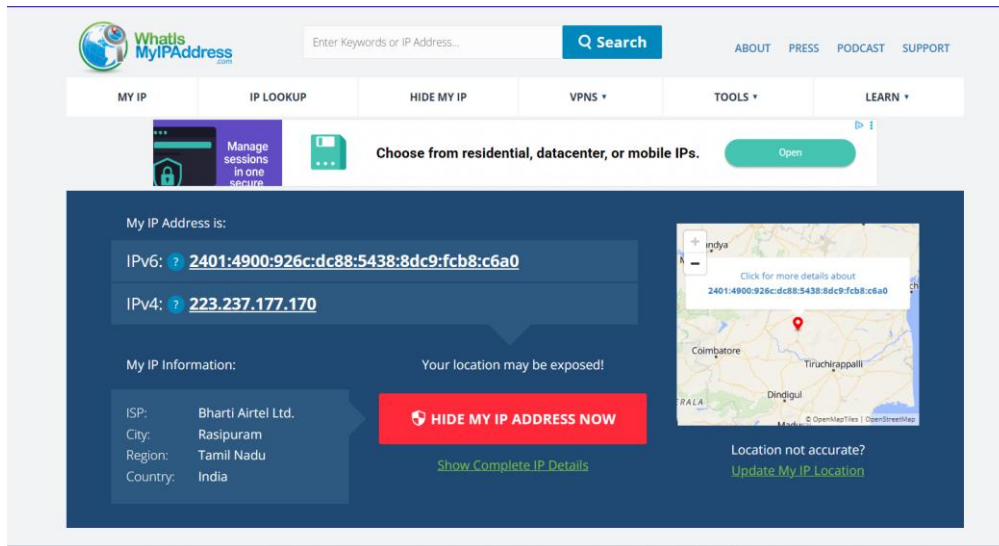
1. Open the Hide.me app.
2. Log in with your credentials.
3. From the server list, choose any **Free Location** (e.g., Singapore, Canada, Netherlands).
4. Click **Enable VPN** or **Connect**.



#### 4. Verify IP Address Change

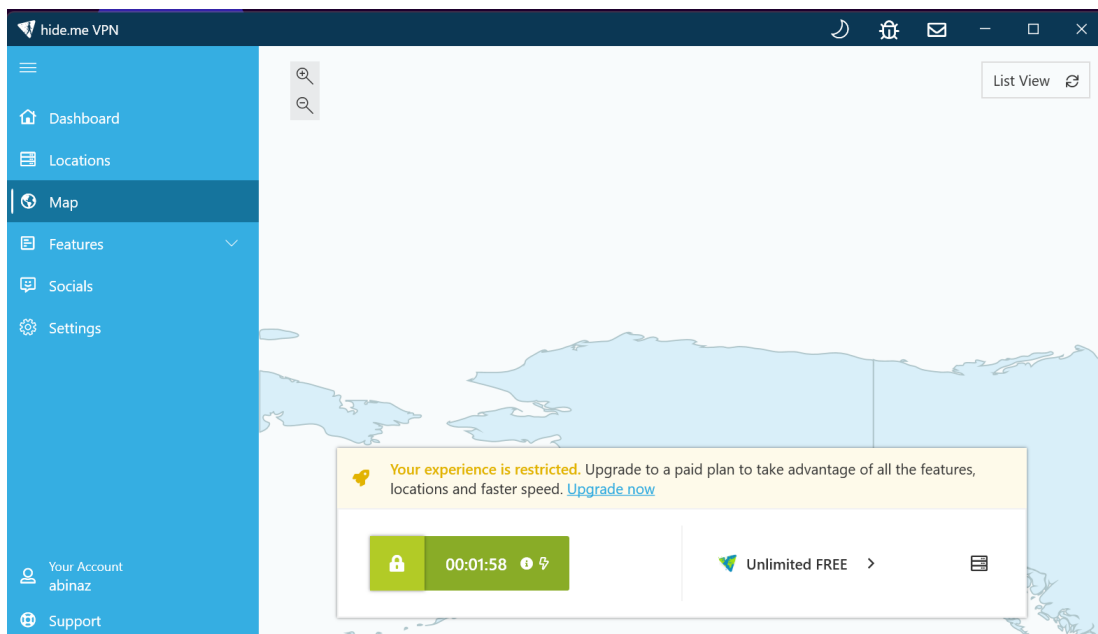
##### Before Connecting:

- Visit <https://whatismyipaddress.com>



##### After Connecting:

- Visit the same site again.



The screenshot shows the homepage of WhatIsMyIPAddress.com. The header includes a search bar and navigation links: ABOUT, PRESS, PODCAST, SUPPORT. Below the header is a menu with links: MY IP, IP LOOKUP, HIDE MY IP, VPNS, TOOLS, and LEARN. The main content area displays the user's IP address: IPv6: 2a0b:64c0:f800:0:6bf::1 and IPv4: 45.144.196.62. It also shows IP information: ISP: RoyaleHosting BV, Services: Datacenter, City: Amsterdam, Region: Noord-Holland, and Country: Netherlands (Kingdom of the). A red button labeled 'RATE YOUR VPN' is visible, along with a link to 'Show Complete IP Details'. On the right, there is a map of the Netherlands with a location pin near Amsterdam. A tooltip on the map says 'Click for more details about 2a0b:64c0:f800:0:6bf::1'. Below the map, there is a link to 'Update My IP Location'.

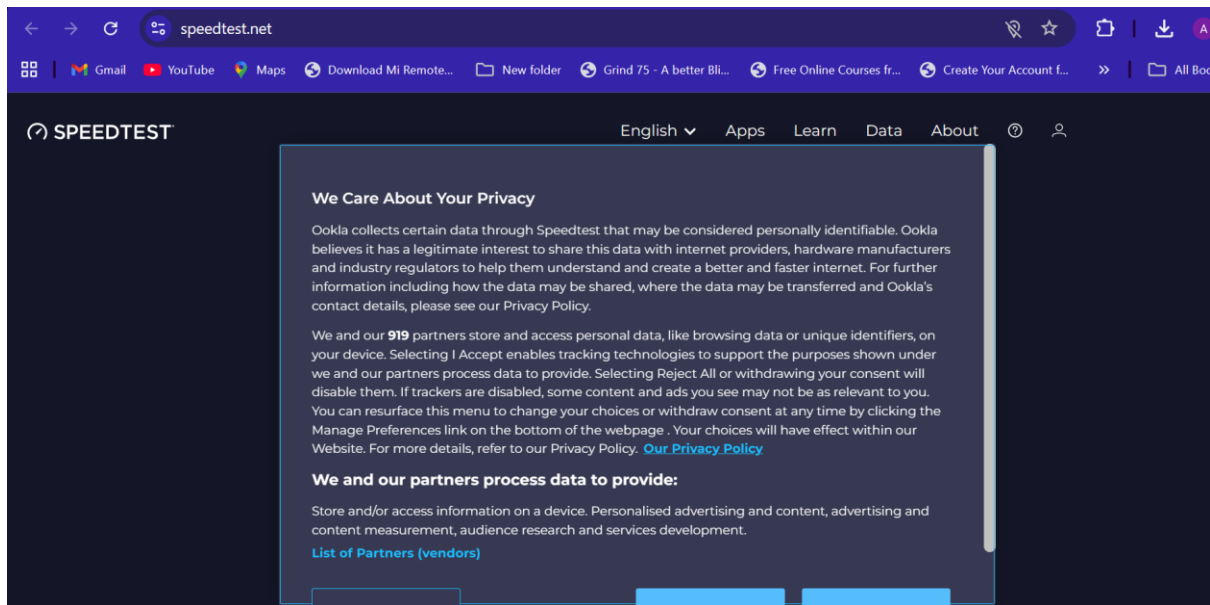
## 6. (Optional) Speed Test

1. Visit <https://www.speedtest.net> before and after connecting.

### Before Connecting:

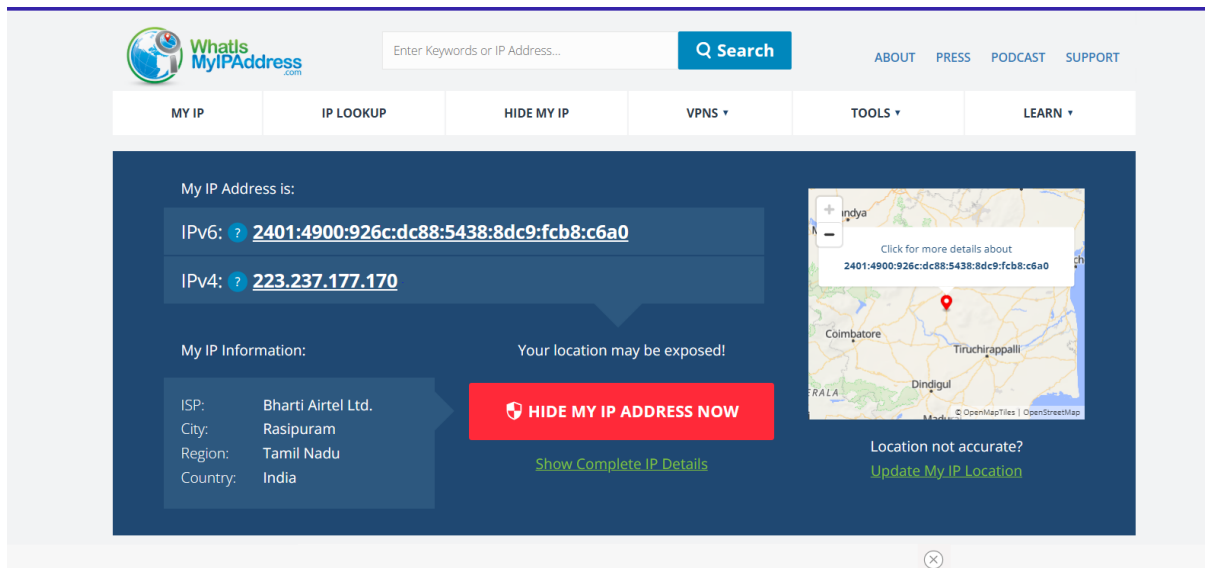
The screenshot shows the Speedtest website interface. The top navigation bar includes links: English, Apps, Learn, Data, About, and a search icon. The main content area features a large speedometer showing a download speed of 10.96 Mbps. Above the speedometer, there are links to 'Speedtest Mobile Apps' for iOS and Android. Below the speedometer, there is a section for 'Airtel' with a speed of 223.237.177.170 and a link to 'Nextpertise + 3 more' in Amsterdam. The interface is dark-themed with blue and white accents.

## After Connecting:



## 6. Disconnect & Compare

1. Disconnect the VPN from the Hide.me app.
2. Check **whatismyipaddress.com** again to confirm your original IP is restored.



### Screenshots to Include:

1. IP before connection.
2. IP after connection.
3. Speed test before VPN (optional).
4. Speed test after VPN (optional).

### Conclusion

Using **Hide.me** VPN successfully protected my privacy by encrypting traffic and hiding my IP address. The free plan is sufficient for basic secure browsing, though it has limited data and server options. This task highlighted how VPNs enhance online security and privacy.