

SOFTWARE DISCUSSION: DO I NEED A SECURE VPN TUNNEL?

VPNS CAN BE USEFUL

- when the SOURCE INTERNET is suspect or is public WiFi
Example: Coffee Bar, Restaurant, Free City WiFi etc.
- when a corporation wants to link up a Remote Office to its Data 24/7

LAPTOP USERS and VPNs

If you use CAFÉ INTERNET at a Coffee Bar Regularly, you *could* consider using a VPN to boost security. A VPN provides a *secure tunnel* to a remote server, which then securely executes your Web Requests, *bypassing* the usual local wireless security vulnerabilities at your Public (insecure) internet site.

HOWEVER, THERE IS A BETTER WAY FOR LAPTOP USERS ON THE GO

A VPN will slow down your internet performance by 10% or more.
And free WiFi may be crowded and is often slow to begin with.
For Laptop users desiring Fast Mobile Internet, the Best Answer is:

[X] Activate the **Mobile Hotspot** feature on your Smartphone. This is usually Located in the Settings, Connections section of your Phone Configuration Screen. **Verizon, T-Mobile (Best) and others offer this HOTSPOT service,** and it can typically provide FASTER NET PERFORMANCE than found in typical crowded Cafés (etc.) And it's as secure as your phone! Internet up to 40MB down and better. Your phone provides the safe WiFi you need. Problem Solved!

TIP! When making calls while the Hotspot is activated, use a headset, ear piece or Handsfree Speakerphone to eliminate phone movement which could negatively impact Voice quality and Internet speeds... ie. "Put the Phone Down" for best reception and use a "mike".

TIP2: Samsung phones will allow you to place a Hot-Spot Icon in your Pull-down Menu.

In the Back Country? Satellite Phone and Cell Boosting Solutions work, but run around \$500-600 and are slow. Hughes Satellite says 25Mb available. Great for Motor Homes, Mercedes Vans, Ranches and Desert bunkers.

SUMMARY

- VPNs are unnecessary for Laptop Users who have good Phone Reception and Hotspot Service on their Phones.
- VPNS are Very desirable for inter office 24/7 communications and data/folder sharing over the Internet.
- Mobile users can use a secure Remote Access Product (GoToMyPC) to access Company Data, instead of a VPN. This is usually simpler and potentially more secure than setting up a VPN.

John Compton
Avenue 18 Computer
310 829-3129
www.avenue18.com