How to connect VPN on iPhone or iPad

When it comes to the security and privacy of Internet data on our mobile devices, VPN (Virtual Private Network) or Virtual Private Network becomes an indispensable tool. It allows us to establish a secure connection, encrypt all incoming/outgoing traffic and mask the user's real IP address. The advanced and most efficient way to create VPNs (networks) is the VPN protocol. It is performant, reliable, and fairly easy to configure. In general, the process of setting up a VPN on different devices is similar, but we will share a step-by-step instruction on how to install and run this VPN on iOS - Apple's mobile operating system.

To connect a VPN - whether it's an iPhone or not - you need at least two nodes: a client and a server. The iPhone will act as the client, but what will act as the VPN server depends on your choice

Step 1

Choosing a server. There are two options: use the services of VPN providers or rent a private virtual server from a hosting provider. In the first case, you need to find a VPN service that supports the protocol. Most likely, it will be paid, but even if you find a free service, we recommend you to avoid it. No one will offer a high-quality and secure VPN for free. If the client does not pay for using the service, it means that someone pays for receiving his data.

In the second case, you need to rent a VPS from any hoster you like and configure it yourself.

Step 2

Obtain or create a configuration file. The VPN provider's personal cabinet should have information on how to get a configuration file. Some services offer to use their Telegram bots to automatically generate the config file.

If you chose to configure the VPN server on your own, the required file should appear to you in the process. If you want, you can create it directly in the app later.

In both cases, we need to download the configuration file to the iPhone (or save the QR code, if available).

Step 3

Add configuration. We need to open the app, tap the plus sign in the top right corner or the “Add Tunnel” button in the center of the screen. In the notification that pops up about adding VPN configuration to iPhone, tap “Allow”. Now there are three options: download a file/archive with the configuration, use a QR code or create a config from scratch. Choose the first one, find the required file on the iPhone and download it.

Step 4

Configure the VPN profile. After the config is uploaded, a new profile will appear in the list with the name of the uploaded file. If you click on it, it will open the edit screen. You can change the name if you want, or configure additional settings like routing.

Step 5

Enable VPN. To start the service, you need to move the slider next to the created profile to the “On” position (to the right). Done!

Conclusion

Your iPhone is now connected to a VPN. You can use it to securely and encryptedly connect to public wireless networks

Let's go over it again

What you need to do

Connect a VPN on your iPhone or iPad to access websites and other online resources that are not available in your country, and to protect your login, password, and other data you use.

Procedure:

* Download mobile application.
* Register through the app or the VPN provider's website, if necessary.
* Open the app and find the country through which you want to connect. If the country is not important, go to the next step.
* Click on the Connect button. The button may have different names and looks.
* Allow the application to add the VPN configuration
* Enter the passcode of your iPhone or iPad to save the configuration
* Verify that the connection to the VPN is successfully established
* Launch your browser and try to open the website you need.