

How to create a VPN connection to your Office

This document demonstrates how to setup a VPN Connection. Having a Secured VPN (Virtual Private Network) server is great for businesses with many offices or if you want to work from home. With Windows XP you can connect to any VPN site for free and with ease. There is even a way to automate the VPN connection on Windows Start-up.

1. Click Start
2. Go to Settings - Network Connections
3. Create a New Connection
4. Select "Connect to a Network at my Workplace"
5. Select Virtual Private Network Connection
6. Type in a name for this connection
7. Do Not Dial the Initial Connection
8. Host Name or IP Address: Type in the IP or Hostname of the Remote VPN you are trying to connect to.
9. Do Not use my Smart Card
10. In the "Create this connection for" field, select either My Use or Anyone's Use.
11. Select: "Add a shortcut to this connection to my Desktop", click finish.

Now you have a connection to your remote VPN server thanks to Windows XP. After you have tested the VPN connection you now have the option to automate the VPN connection when windows start, by doing this you will be connected to the VPN without actually doing anything.

1. Open up Network Connections
2. Double click on your newly created VPN connection
3. Check "Save this user name and password for the following users"
4. Select the "Anyone who uses this computer" radio button.
5. Click "Properties" on the VPN Connect screen
6. On the "Options" tab, uncheck: "Display progress while connecting" and "Prompt for name and password, certificate, etc."
7. In Windows Explorer, browse to C:/documents and Settings/All Users/Start Menu/Programs/Startup
8. Open up Control Panel and browse to Network Connections
9. Drag the icon of your VPN connection to the Startup folder. This will create a shortcut.