

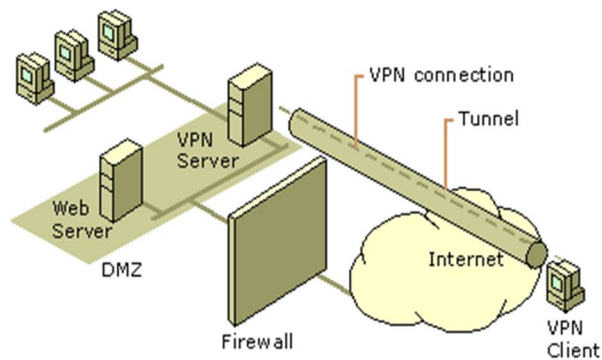


## Advantages of a VPN

Brian Gilman

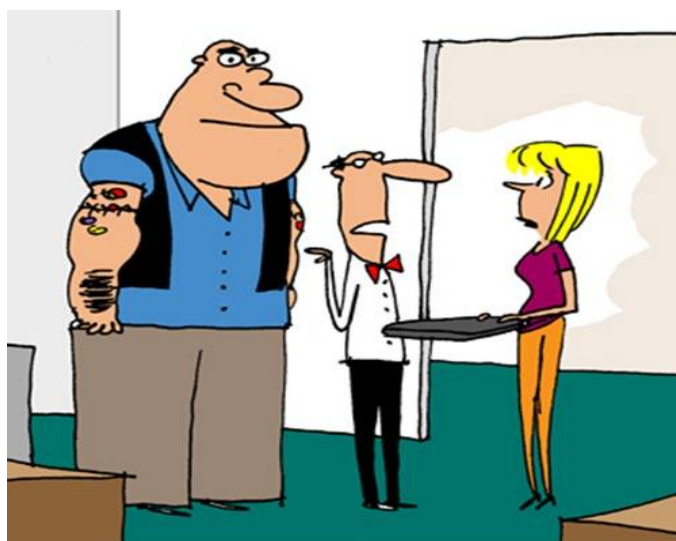
As security becomes an increasing concern in today's IT business environment, an office is faced with many options as to how to address this potential problem. Many companies would benefit from a virtual private network (VPN) connection. A VPN gives users the ability to share files over a network, access mapped network drives when away from the office, share remote printers, enhanced security and the ability to remotely connect to their work machine (RDP).

A VPN connection sets up a "tunnel" between your main office and the current office you are working out of. For example if you are home for the weekend but want to work on files that may be located in your office, a VPN lets you "tunnel" into your office network. Once connected you can access files that are mapped over a shared drive, run programs that use files off of another computer or a server, and print remotely so that your documents are ready on Monday morning.



When you remotely connect into your machine through a VPN connection you get the feel as though you are sitting right in front of your machine. You can control the cursor remotely as well as the keyboard. This can be very advantageous in a case where you are that employee that is always on the go. If you leave a document open on your work computer, you can then access it remotely and finish it from your home or from your laptop if you are on vacation.

A VPN could be your next step to advancing your company's network. It can give you peace of mind so that you are not always worried about keeping all your documents on a flash drive. If you are interested in setting up a VPN connection, please call M&H Consulting at 866-9MH-TECH or [support@mhconsults.com](mailto:support@mhconsults.com).



*"No, ma'am, I'm not the one who fixes computers, he is. It's a common mistake."*



## The Benefits and Pitfalls of Updates

Daniel Prestwood

There is a lot to be said about this topic and the importance of keeping your software up to date, but sometimes an update can wreak havoc on your productivity. Updates are rolled out by companies when they locate an error in their programming or have a solution to a security vulnerability that was discovered. It may also add functionality to current software or resolve compatibility issues between different programs. However, a new update brings the possibility of its own new range of vulnerabilities and compatibility errors. There is also the chance of introducing unintended security vulnerabilities to the table by installing 3<sup>rd</sup> party toolbars and extensions that are automatically checked for installation when updating items like Adobe. Case in point, Java updates attach an optional installation of the Ask.com toolbar for your web browser.



It was recently discovered that this toolbar contains a wide variety of security vulnerabilities that can make your systems susceptible to attacks. This toolbar in particular can be also be quite a nuisance to completely remove from a workstation resulting in time and productivity loss.

Other pitfalls can occur when a Windows update is rolled out and contains errors in the programming that may cause the system to crash. When these errors occur they can be resolved by rolling back the updates and running the system on the previous versions until the errors have been identified and corrected by the software manufacturers.

While it is always recommended to keep your software and operating systems up to date, M&H would implore you to let us handle your updating needs to help avoid any unnecessary downtime or added security threats! If you have any questions about any updates please contact us at 866-9MH-TECH or support@mhconsults.com

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