In the next pages, you will find detailed information about some free-to-use VPNs and Tor Browser, including the official channels to download them.

Find out more about them! →

#KeepItOn

FREE AND EASY-TO-USE VPNS

UPDATE: JAN 2022

PSIPHON

FREE

A must-have to circumvent censorship

AVAILABLE ON

→ Android 4.0 and up
→ iOS 10.2 and up

→ Windows (XP/Vista/7/8/10)
→ macOS 11.0 and up (with M1 chip)

TO DOWNLOAD AND USE

https://psiphon.ca/download.html

LANTERN

FREE

Fast, reliable, and secure access to the open internet

AVAILABLE ON

→ Android 4.4 and up
→ iOS 12.1 and up

→Windows (XP/SP/3)
→ macOS 11.0 and up (with M1 chip)
→ Linux Ubuntu

TO DOWNLOAD AND USE

https://getlantern.org/

PROTONVPN

ProtonVPN FREE (Limited)

High-speed VPN that safeguards your privacy

AVAILABLE ON

→ Android 5.0 and up
→ iOS 11.0 and up

→ Windows
→ OSX
→ Linux

TO DOWNLOAD AND USE

https://protonvpn.com/download

TUNNELBEAR

Free 10GB data/mon in Kazakhstan

A VPN that enables private browsing with no logging

AVAILABLE ON

→ Android 5.0 and up
→ iOS 12 and up

→ Windows 7 and up
→ MacOS 10.10 & up

TO DOWNLOAD AND USE

https://www.tunnelbear.com/download-devices

Also available as browser extensions
CHROME | FIREFOX | OPERA

#KeepItOn

https://www.accessnow.org/keepiton/

FREE AND EASY-TO-USE BROWSING TOOL

UPDATE: JAN 2022

TOR BROWSER

Protect yourself against tracking, surveillance, and censorship.

AVAILABLE ON

→ Android

→ Windows → OSX → Linux

TO DOWNLOAD AND USE

https://www.torproject.org/download/

#KeepItOn https://www.accessnow.org/keepiton/

Test for ongoing internet shutdowns.

When you lose internet connection or can't visit certain websites, services, or apps, it is very difficult to tell the technical means behind these disruptions. However, there is a global internet measurement community that provides tools and data to help you investigate the technical details.

You can test your internet connections using the OONI Probe app, which allows you to run tests and document evidence of various forms of network interference.

Let's look at the OONI Probe app for example →

#KeepItOn

TEST YOUR INTERNET CONNECTION WITH OONI

UPDATE: JAN 2022

OONI

A tool to test whether websites, social media apps, or VPNs are blocked

OONI PROBE IS AVAILABLE ON

Android & iOS	**https://ooni.org/install/mobile**
Windows, macOS, Linux	**https://ooni.org/install/desktop**

NOTES

1. OONI Probe tests require turning off VPNs.
2. Running these tests could be risky. Anyone monitoring your internet activity (e.g. ISP, government, your employer) can see that you are running OONI Probe and the websites they are trying to visit.
3. These tests use megabytes of data.

WE RECOMMEND

1. Read more about potential risks before installing OONI Probe.
2. Close all your browsers, other applications, and your VPN service before running the test.
3. Avoid using your home or work wifi. Beware of data usage when you use your cellular data.

Open this link in app to check social media blockings
https://accessnow.org/ooni-test-social

For more information, including risks, visit
https://ooni.org/

Learn about different types of network disruptions and possible mitigations.

You can avoid certain types of network disruptions with out-of-box tools, such as Tor browser, Virtual Private Networks (VPNs), and proxies that utilize encryption. The following table can help you understand what kind of shutdown you might be experiencing and what methods can help you stay connected.

Let’s take a closer look →

#KeepItOn

Symptoms	Possible type of network disruptions	Possible ways of mitigation
All websites are immediately unreachable. No internet connection is available.	**Full blackout:** a complete shutdown caused by critical infrastructure manipulation, such as turning off the power grid, cell towers, or broadband services	If possible, get a **roaming SIM card** from a neighboring country. Their telecom infrastructure works and may reach you. To contact people near you, you can install **encrypted mesh network** apps like Briar (Android only) and Bridgefy or devices like goTenna.
Websites and apps have become sluggish, slow, and frustrating to use. Downloads and/or uploads seem to take a lot longer than normal.	**Throttling:** intentionally slowing down internet speeds, making it difficult or impossible for users to upload or download information	There are many ways to implement throttling, and some are more difficult to mitigate. To start, you can try using a **VPN** to see if the network bandwidth limits are lifted.

Symptoms	Possible type of network disruptions	Possible ways of mitigation
When you visit a website, you get messages saying “the connection is unsafe” or “DNS Server Not Responding,” or the webpage looks strange, different, or is not working properly.	**DNS blocking and DNS poisoning:** disrupting the domain name system (DNS) lookups so when you try to visit a website it points you to the wrong place	Try using a **reliable VPN**. **Install and test more than one** in case some of them no longer work. You can also use a **trusted DNS server** with help from civil society help desks. You may also be able to visit the **IP address** of a website.
The website/app or a version of it is not available, or the content you see is different from people in other regions. E.g. you can only visit the HTTP address of the website, not the HTTPS address.	**Network filtering:** using “middleboxes” planted in network traffic to interfere with communication protocols like Hypertext Transfer Protocol Secure (HTTPS)	A **reliable VPN** may work. You can also try **switching to a different internet service provider (ISP)**, like using broadband instead of cellular data.

Symptoms	Possible type of network disruptions	Possible ways of mitigation
Specific parts of a particular app, service, or website don't work or are unreachable (for example, you can make a new account but you can't log in), while all other apps or services seem to be ok.	**Deep Packet Inspection (DPI):** using a checkpoint to detect detailed information about what internet traffic on a network, and using that information to block certain kinds of data from getting through	If you have an idea of what is being targeted, you may be able to reconnect. Some possible remedies include using a **reliable VPN**, using circumvention tools like **Tor Browser**, or **switching to a different ISP.**
The website or app that you are trying to use is slow or unresponsive. Sometimes it works and other times it is unreachable with things getting slower and slower.	**Denial of Service:** overwhelming the web server or related system of the website or app with so many requests that it slows down or crashes	Try to visit the service or website **from a different country using a VPN**. You can also try visiting the **IP address** of the website or service instead of its domain name.

Important note

A VPN can help you circumvent the blocking of websites or online platforms, including specific services such as social media platforms and instant messaging apps. Download several VPNs in advance if you are at risk of a shutdown.

Not all VPNs can guarantee your privacy or offer you the same level of protection. When choosing a VPN provider, opt for open source tools with publicly accessible codes and transparency on how they protect your data. You should also ensure that the VPN is public about their peer security review process and that their security has been reviewed by independent auditors. Read this guide from EFF to determine which VPNs would be the best in your specific case.

Be mindful: your internet provider, or other people in your network can tell if you are using VPNs or Tor. In some countries, the use of circumvention tools and VPNs are illegal or subject to restrictions. Make sure to consider any legal and personal safety risks that may arise from your use of such tools.