Private vs VPN Connections – Private Networks

- A private network uses links which are dedicated for an individual organisation.
- Local Area Networks are private networks.
- Wide Area Networks can also use physical links which are dedicated for an individual organisation.



Private Network



VPN Virtual Private Networks

- A Virtual Private Network (VPN) provides a virtual tunnel between private networks across a shared public network such as the Internet.
- Traffic travelling over the tunnel is encrypted and only readable by the authorised users on both sides.
- Users can share data over the tunnel as if they were connected with a dedicated private link.



VPN Virtual Private Networks





VPN Virtual Private Networks

- VPNs allow an organisation to use the same physical links for connectivity to the Internet and between offices.
- Because they use shared infrastructure, VPN connections are typically less expensive than dedicated physical links.



Site-to-Site VPN

- Site to Site VPN connections are terminated on a router or firewall in each office.
- Software does not need to be installed on user desktops.
- IPsec is typically used for encryption.





Remote Access VPN

- Remote Access VPN connections are between a router or firewall in the office and VPN software installed on an individual user's device.
- The user can access the VPN from anywhere with Internet connectivity.
- They usually use SSL (sometimes IPsec) for encryption.





Site-to-Site IPsec VPN Configuration Options

- IPsec Tunnel: open standard IPsec tunnel, does not support multicast
- GRE (Generic Routing Encapsulation) over IPsec tunnel: adds support for multicast
- IPsec VTI (Virtual Tunnel Interface): Cisco proprietary simplified configuration, supports multicast



Site-to-Site IPsec VPN Configuration Options

- DMVPN (Dynamic Multipoint VPN): Cisco proprietary. Scalable simple hub and spoke style configuration enables direct full mesh connectivity between all offices
- FlexVPN: Cisco proprietary. Very similar to DMVPN, newer technology
- GETVPN (Group Encrypted Transport VPN): Cisco proprietary. Scalable centralised policy for VPN over non-public infrastructure eg MPLS.

