What is a VPN?

A Virtual Private Network (VPN) is a server that provides a secure connection to network. It is a subset of the Peer-to-Peer network. A VPN receives specially encrypted data from one user before decrypting and sending it to the original intended receiver. The VPN acts as a middleman, as all data sent from the VPN host cannot be tracked further than the VPN. TOR is when multiple VPNs are linked as nodes, so the data cannot be tracked at any point.

Hardware/Software Requirements

- the internet
- a device with access to the internet
- a secure server to act as the host of the vpn

Pros	Cons
Ensures secure internet usage over a public server	Slower than a direct connection
Protects data from hackers. If a hacker were able to access the data, they would be unable to decrypt it.	

When to not use a VPN

A VPN would be unsuitable for use under a situation where speed is more important than the integrity of the information, such as choosing University Courses. In UofT, applications for each course begins at a specific time; a few seconds could mean the difference between enrolling in a course and not. The VPN, which slows the transfer of data, is unsuitable to be used in cases such as this.