

# Ending Geofencing As You Know It

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# Why I Became a \*VPN Evangelist

- Relocation to another country (Portugal)
- The need to access US content from outside US territory (radio, TV, banking, etc.)
- Multiple requests from fellow immigrants and expatriates

*\*Virtual Private Network*

# Why Use a VPN?

- Privacy: *Yes, you do have things to hide!*
- Security: *Layered protection is essential*
- Access to content not intended for your QTH -  
Avoid *geofencing* and access region restricted content
- Access content via connections not under your control (e.g. hotels, hotspots)

# What a VPN Won't Do

- Be a substitute for safe computing practices, applying security updates, and use of anti-hacking tools
- Keep your location a complete secret
- Make illegal content suddenly legal
- Stop state actors from finding you



# Downsides to VPNs

- Slows your internet connection
- Cost – Good VPNs aren't usually free
- More technical details to manage
- Time spent setting / switching the connection(s)
- Your information may be routed through more servers

# Choosing A VPN

- Location options (does the VPN have servers in your preferred locales?)
- Cost per month
- Logging and privacy practices
- Legalities in your QTH
- Home, travel, phone, all of these?
- Availability on the devices that you intend to hide behind the VPN
- Reputation of the VPN company

# Implementation Options

- General purpose routers
- Specific preconfigured routers
- Software on the device of choice
- Multi-layer VPNs



# Alternatives and Adjuncts

- StreamLocator - <https://www.streamlocator.com>
- Smart DNS and proxies
- Device re-configuration
- Using a provider in the QTH of choice
- Setting up a remotely accessed device
- Advert and pixel tracking blocks

# Test Your VPN!

- Your VPN should be tested for:
  - IP Address Leaks (where do other sites think you are?)
  - DNS Leaks (your device may be getting domain routing information from a different location than your VPN location)
  - WebRTC Leaks (Your IP address can be leaked by your browser or media device. These leaks may occur when you are establishing video or audio communication via a browser using WebRTC technology. The browser may reveal your IP address, even if your VPN is otherwise working correctly.)
  - Resources: <https://browserleaks.com/> and your VPN options/settings

# Media Organizations and VPNs

- © ® ™ Intellectual Property Protection
- Country specific sub-licensing
- Profit and Loss (*it's cheaper over there!*)
- *Why would they watch/listen to our content?*
- \$ £ ¥ €

# My Uses of VPNs

- Access to television and radio from outside Portugal
- Subscribing to services in a preferred country (for content or cost)
- Accessing content not available in a preferred language
- Listening to remote SDRs otherwise not available
- Rapid switching between virtual QTHs
- Using government and financial sites from multiple countries

# Q and A Time

- This presentation is available to download at:  
***<https://afana.mobi/vpn-swlfest-2024.pdf>***  
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