

Tech Training: VPN

VPN stands for Virtual Private Network. It is a client/server solution, meaning there is a program installed on the client (computer) and a program install on the server. Much like Outlook and Exchange, the VPN client is designed to communicate with the VPN server software.

Packets traveling over the internet are (generally) not secure. Anyone with the right tool can intercept packets. Web traffic can be secured using the https protocol. Other traffic can be secured using VPN. Once a VPN connection is established, traffic is encrypted by the VPN client and decrypted by the VPN server (and vice versa). This doesn't stop others from intercepting packets, but it does make it much more difficult for them to read the packets.

Currently, Taylor uses the Cisco AnyConnect VPN solution. IT installs Cisco AnyConnect on all Taylor-owned laptops. It can also be installed by clicking the VPN link on the Faculty/Staff page of 4040.taylor.edu. Internet Explorer seems to work best for the install. Once installed, run Cisco AnyConnect, and log in using Taylor credentials.

VPN is needed while off-campus to connect to secured services like Banner. Other services (BlackBoard, email, myTAYLOR, TOWER, etc.) are available without the use of VPN.

VPN Account Information

On 05/08/15, at 03:09 pm, Nick Corduan wrote:

1. VPN access is granted through one of a set of security groups. All employees are automatically given VPN access. Other security groups might be needed for vendors, students, and IT staff.
2. Most of the VPN access is granted automatically so no one needs to assign it. Only the Infrastructure Services team can make manual modifications to those security groups in the rare situation where it is required.
3. There is nothing either Client Services or Technology Services should do.
4. In those situations, only Infrastructure Services should be creating accounts or assigning security group membership. This requires a ticket and may require VP approval.

Additionally, while all employees with laptops should get VPN installed as part of our process in preparing them, per an in-person conversation with T. R. earlier this week, they should still pursue Vice Presidential approval before installing the software on a personally-owned computer.

On 05/07/15, at 09:18 am, Brent Gerig wrote:

All employees should automatically be given VPN access. When I checked on what groups were being used for that, I discovered that they were the old groups used for all faculty and staff. I have just updated the VPN to include all of the employee_non_student* groups. If, for some reason, an employee does not have VPN access (as of this morning), then there is a larger issue that needs to be taken care of, and it should be passed to EAM. Theoretically, VPN Employees should never be needed any more.

VPN Client Tutorial: <http://4040.taylor.edu/Tutorials/VPN/VPN.pdf>