

## What Is a VPN?

Put simply, a Virtual Private Network, or VPN, is a group of computers networked together over a public network—namely, the internet. Businesses use VPNs to get access to network resources when they're not physically on the same LAN (local area network), or as a method for securing and encrypting their communications when they're using an untrusted public network.

The most important thing you need to know about a VPN: It secures your computer's internet connection to guarantee that all of the data you're sending and receiving is encrypted and secured from prying eyes.

## Why Does VRP strongly insist on using a VPN for interstore communication?

An alternative method of letting the servers in the store connect to each other is by the use of static ports, and opening those ports in the network firewall. While this *will* work, it is inherently insecure. It's like locking all your doors, but leaving the windows wide open. From a security standpoint, a pair of hardware vpn devices is the most secure, stable, and seamless way to connect the as satellite store to the main office for the communication program to do it's job.

