FOR NH PUBLIC WORKERS & IT STAFF

SECURING YOUR VPN



Your VPN is the front door to your network.

Remote access lets NH public workers serve their communities from anywhere. That makes VPN gateways a top target. Attackers hunt for **incorrectly configured VPNs** and use **phished account credentials** to access them, and one way in can reach everything behind it.

HOW ATTACKERS GET IN

1. **Unpatched Gear**
   Firewalls and laptop VPN apps with known flaws are attacked fast.
2. **Stolen Passwords**
   Without MFA, a phished or guessed password is all an attacker needs.
3. **Forgotten Accounts**
   Default, vendor and unused accounts leave the door open.

8 WAYS TO PROTECT NEW HAMPSHIRE'S VPNS

1 MFA on Every Account

Require multi-factor on **all** VPN accounts. Remove default accounts, and allow **no admin accounts that bypass MFA**.

2 Organization Devices Only

Allow VPN **only from devices your organization controls**, never from personal phones, laptops or home computers.

3 Limit Vendor Access

No always-on vendor accounts. Turn vendor access on only when it's needed, then off again, and audit every vendor login.

4 VPN Only as Needed

Don't give everyone VPN. Grant it only to people whose work requires it, and remove it when they no longer do.

5 Patch Your Firewall

Your VPN usually connects through your firewall. Install firewall updates **as quickly as testing allows**.

6 Update VPN Apps

VPN software on laptops **falls out of date** and can carry vulnerabilities. Keep the app current on every device.

7 No Split Tunneling

Users **can't be on your network and another network** at the same time, not even a home network.

8 Audit Every Year

Review your VPN **annually**: confirm settings are optimal, retire old cryptography and update anything out of date.

GET TRAINED

VPN security training is part of the Annual Trainings for IT Administrators.

Sign up at www.theatomgroup.com/mcdp

MUNICIPAL CYBER DEFENSE PROGRAM — POWERED BY ATOM

New Hampshire DoIT

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