

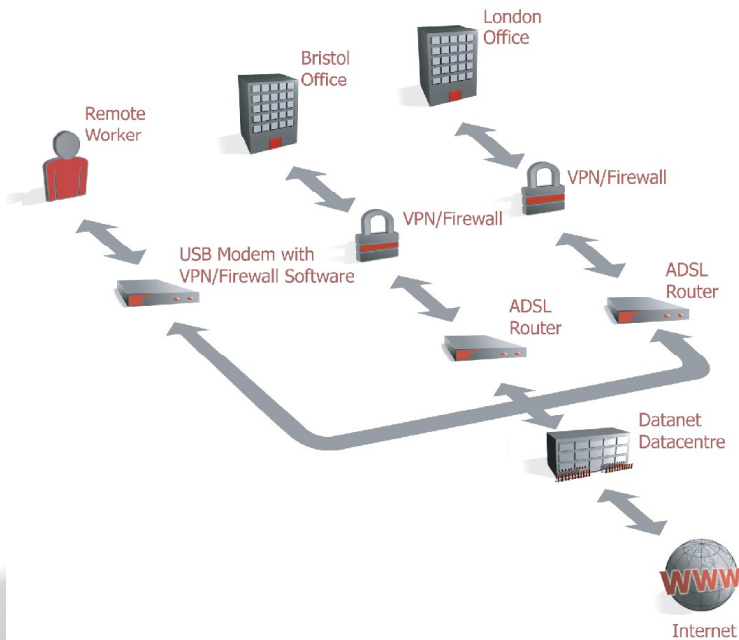


## VPNs

# What is a Virtual Private Network?

### What is a Virtual Private Network (VPN)?

A VPN connects separate offices and remote workers to the main office network, via a secure connection over the Internet. Using the Internet to connect different locations to the central system is a highly efficient and cost effective way of exchanging information. VPNs are not limited by distance like a leased line or private circuit, and retain all the high security elements so vital when it comes to your company data.



### Who would benefit from a VPN?

- Companies with multiple offices
- Companies with a main office and remote workers
- Companies who wish to allow suppliers, partners or customers access to their central network

### What benefits would a VPN bring my business?

- High security data transfer and access
- High speed connections available regardless of location
- Easy and efficient way to connect all workers
- Flexibility and freedom to easily connect new sites as required

### How do VPNs work?

VPNs work by connecting each site over the Internet. Each site has a VPN firewall that both protects the internal network and encrypts the data for sending over the Internet. Encrypted data is sent through a secure "tunnel" via the Internet to other sites where the VPN firewall then decrypts the data. This method of sending data over the Internet provides the maximum level of security for the company data. The combination of a secure tunnel and encryption means that third parties cannot read vital company data.

To further increase the efficiency of the network, thin client technology can be used, meaning that all work is effectively done on the central server, reducing the need to upload and download large files. This server can either be located at a head office, or in one of our highly secure data centres.