
Avast: Platform Features and Functionality

The word “Avast” is not new when it comes to the tech industry. Avast has been around for as long as one can remember. It is well-known for its friendly-to-use protection software. Specializing in protecting clients from various malware as well as viruses, the company added a VPN to its list of protecting shields. Secureline joins the crew as an online browsing mask, enabling users to surf the internet anonymously. Just like the popular Avast Antivirus software, the VPN comes in two versions, free as an add-on to the Avast antivirus software or a standalone subscription.

Platform Features and Functionality

Avast Secureline is a multi-platform software that supports a range of devices. Although the number of platforms supported is short of impressive, it does not disappoint either. The VPN is compatible with the latest Windows version as well as its previous versions such as XP, Vista, 7 and 8. It also supports a range of Mac OS which includes the X series of 10.9.x, .10.x, as well as .11.x. Android, as well as iOS devices, are included too in the list of supported platforms. However, open source routers, Chromebook as well, this VPN does not support Linux computers.

When connected, Secureline VPN encrypts your internet traffic using the developer’s data centres and reroute it through a tunnel. Such functionality anonymises your activity online thus preventing any forms of surveillance as well as getting hacked. It also protects your data as well as browsing history from ISPs who collect and sell it. When switched on, Avast Secureline modifies your geolocation which is represented in the form of an IP Address to an alternate VPN server. We discovered that one could set the app to auto-connect when connected to unsecured Wi-Fi networks.

User Interface

Just like any other software released by Avast, Secureline VPN has got all the basic features, yet it is still one of the easiest VPN to use out there. As such, this is one of the strong points that Secureline has; easy-to-use. Even for someone without prior VPN knowledge, you can download and install the app in minutes by just following the on-screen instructions. Everything is self-explanatory and written in general terms. We expected to see more options under the Menu button, but only a few features greeted us.

The design is simple and does not have any complicated or special features. All that you need to do is select a server and enable the VPN. You can let Secureline auto-select the best location for you by selecting Optimal Location.

Features & Values

Secureline VPN has got great features all laid out simply and pleasantly. The VPN comes with unlimited bandwidth, and this is a great feature as most VPNs we have tried have limited data on offer. P2P sharing is also available on some of the servers. The servers that we tried in P2P

sharing include Amsterdam, London, as well as Paris. The good thing about this feature is that you do not have to waste time checking out the available P2P sharing servers. P2P servers are already indicated when you are choosing your VPN location. We also tried streaming on Netflix. Unfortunately, it failed. At this point, this is one of the major issues that we came across while accessing the VPN.

Secureline comes with a kill switch. With a bright, easy and clean user interface, there is not much difference between mobile and desktop platforms. The kill switch feature also adds weight to Secureline. In the case of a VPN dropped the connection, this feature prevents your IP address from being exposed. If there is a connection failure within the VPN server, this feature automatically shuts down your internet connection.

Secureline VPN has a somewhat significant number of servers worldwide. Upon selecting your preferred location, the VPN indicates your Optimal location. Compared to most of the reckoned VPNs, Secureline has got fewer configuration options, and that includes the inability to switch between VPN protocols. It also does not have an ad blocking system.

Available Locations

Avast Secureline VPN provides more than 50 servers in 36 nations globally. Although the figures may appear relatively low, it does satisfy to a certain extent by having a server in almost every corner of the world. For the entire time spent testing the VPN, all locations could connect without a problem.

Internet Speed

We tested network speed using various locations. The results were pretty much decent indicating that the user can stream HD videos with no problem. However, internet speed differs from location to location, and there is a significant difference. These are the two locations that we used to test and the results.

Encryption

Secureline utilises a couple of protocols namely IPSec as well as the OpenVPN. Both of these protocols come with encryption of AES 256-bit commonly regarded as the most secure up to date. Windows, as well as Android devices, use OpenVPN while Mac OS X and iOS platforms have IPSec implemented.