VPN Client
(Virtual Private Network)

Wireless Connection

What you need:
- A PC or Mac laptop with a wireless network connection
- A Penn State user ID (xyz123) and password
- The current version of the Cisco Systems VPN Client

Getting Started:
- First make sure your wireless connection is turned on (*either through a physical switch or a setting on the computer*).
- Your laptop should detect the wireless signal "pennstate" and connect to it automatically. If not, double click on the wireless icon in your system tray to bring up a Wireless Connection window. The "pennstate" network should be listed here.
- Open your web browser (*your homepage will not load*) and visit the following site:

https://www.work.psu.edu/access/vpn/

Download and Install the VPN Client:
- Choose the version of the VPN that is appropriate for your hardware and operating system and click the link to download. (*a prompt for your user ID and password will appear*)
- Enter your user ID and password. At the next prompt, save the file to a location that will be easy to find (*the desktop is the best place*).
- Run the installer file (usually by double clicking the downloaded file) and follow the prompts to install the VPN.
- When the installation is complete, restart your computer (*save all open documents and restart*).

Connecting to the Network:
- Run the VPN client:
  - **For Windows:** Found under Start → Programs → Cisco Systems VPN Client
  - **For Macs:** Found in the Applications folder under Cisco Systems VPN Client
- The program will open and a list of options will appear. (*these are the different wireless connections available at all Penn State campuses*)
- Choose the connection for your location, for example "ITS Wireless at UP" and click connect in the upper left hand of the window.
- When prompted enter your Penn State User ID and password, and press enter. The program will authenticate you and then connect to the wireless network (*when the network is connected the window will disappear*).
- Open a web browser and your homepage should load. If not, see the troubleshooting tips on the other side of this handout.

(more on back)

Troubleshooting:

- Run the VPN client and connect to your location, for example "ITS Wireless at UP" **every time** you want to use wireless on campus.
- Ensure your wireless is enabled and connected to the network "pennstate." *Some computers will default wireless to off or will not connect automatically to new networks.*
- Some computers have firewall or security software that will block the VPN client. *If asked you should allow the VPN access to the internet. You also may have to do this manually by adding the VPN to the allowed list.*
- Make sure you have downloaded the right version of the VPN. *In particular there are 3 versions of the Mac software, so be sure to have the one that fits both your operating system and hardware.*
- If all else fails, come to the Gateway Library (for general setup questions) or call the ITS Helpdesk *(for more technical questions)* at 814-863-1035 or 814-263-2494. ITS also maintains an information site for the VPN at http://aset.its.psu.edu/vpn/.

Other uses for the VPN client:
- For off-campus users the VPN client provides some benefits, regardless of using a wireless network or a landline.
- Download and install the VPN client as instructed here and connect to it before searching Google Scholar. This will enable the "Get it! @ Penn State" links to appear in your search results and take you to the library database that contains your article.
- The VPN client also makes browsing PSU resources more seamless because you will not be required to log in as frequently.