Name: _____ Date: _____ Score: _____

Best VPN for PC Gaming

Split tunneling, kill switches, and nearby servers for gaming on a Windows PC.

BEST VPN FOR PC GAMING LEARNING OVERVIEW

LEARNER
STUDENT STATUS
Network Defender Track

WINDOWS
PLATFORM FOCUS
VPN app runs on the PC

4
PICKS RANKED
NordVPN to CyberGhost

Welcome! This activity packet guides you through PC Gaming VPNs on Windows. You will explore split tunneling, kill switches, game launchers, anticheat rules, and ways to keep ping low.

WORKSHEET CHECKPOINTS

- [ ] **Part 1-4: Master VPN and network security configurations.**
- [ ] **Part 5-7: Solve crossword & word search puzzles.**
- [ ] **Part 8-9: Solve case studies & cipher challenge.**
- [ ] **Part 10: Review basic & advanced FAQ pages.**
- [ ] **Part 11: Explore 10 interesting real-world facts.**
- [ ] **Bonus: Think Fast challenge.**

Open the VPN.com Best VPN for PC Gaming Guide

URL: https://www.vpn.com/vpn/best-vpn-for-gaming/pc/

Your PC Gaming VPN Learning Roadmap

- Name the four ranked VPN picks and their Windows split tunneling support.
- Explain how launchers, anticheat, and server distance affect gaming on a PC.
- Choose a VPN setup for a gaming PC using the guidance on the VPN.com page.

PC GAMING VPN GUIDE INSTRUCTIONS

Answer the multiple choice and true/false questions, complete the fill in the blank sentences using the word bank, match definitions, and solve the crossword and word search puzzles. Apply what you learn about split tunneling, kill switches, and nearby servers. Finish with the Bonus Activity: Think Fast.

PC GAMING VPN BASICS (INTRODUCTION)

On a gaming PC the VPN app runs on the machine itself, so the choice comes down to split tunneling, a kill switch and a nearby server. NordVPN, ExpressVPN and Surfshark list per app Windows split tunneling, while CyberGhost lists website exclusions only.

READ EACH CHECKPOINT CAREFULLY AND SELECT OR WRITE THE CORRECT RESPONSE.

Checkpoint 1: Multiple Choice Challenge

1. **1. Which provider ranks #1 of 4 and is labeled Best for Gaming?**
   - A. ExpressVPN
   - B. NordVPN
   - C. Surfshark
   - D. CyberGhost

2. **2. Which pick has Windows exclusions that apply to websites only, not per app?**
   - A. NordVPN
   - B. ExpressVPN
   - C. Surfshark
   - D. CyberGhost

3. **3. If a game launcher stalls or asks you to verify your account, what should you try first?**
   - A. Connect to a server in your own country
   - B. Switch servers mid download
   - C. Turn off the kill switch
   - D. Delete the launcher

4. **4. Which provider allows unlimited simultaneous connections?**
   - A. NordVPN
   - B. ExpressVPN
   - C. Surfshark
   - D. CyberGhost

5. **5. What does the page say keeps the extra ping small?**
   - A. A server far from the game host
   - B. A nearby, low load server and a WireGuard based protocol
   - C. Switching servers during a match
   - D. Sending every app through the tunnel

Checkpoint 2: True or False Challenge

6 Question 6

6. On a PC, a VPN app runs directly on the machine, with no router or hotspot in between.

- ○ True
- ○ False

7 Question 7

7. The page says every anticheat system accepts VPN traffic.

- ○ True
- ○ False

8 Question 8

8. NordVPN, ExpressVPN and Surfshark list per app split tunneling on Windows.

- ○ True
- ○ False

9 Question 9

9. CyberGhost can keep a single game off the tunnel with Windows app exclusions.

- ○ True
- ○ False

10 Question 10

10. Distance adds more delay than protocol, so choose a server close to the game's host region.

- ○ True
- ○ False

Checkpoint 3: Key Term Insertion

Read each sentence below and fill in the blank with the correct term from the Word Bank.

1. NordVPN's protocol built for low overhead is _____ .
2. The delay a game shows between you and its server is called _____ .
3. Sending only one game through the VPN on Windows uses _____ .
4. The feature that blocks traffic if the tunnel drops is a _____ .
5. Software that may restrict VPN traffic in ranked play is _____ .
6. Steam, Epic Games and Battle.net are each a game _____ .

VOCABULARY WORD BANK

ANTICHEAT DEVICES KILL SWITCH LAUNCHER NORDLYNX PING SPLIT TUNNEL WIREGUARD

Write your answers here:

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.
6.

Checkpoint 4: PC Gaming Concept Match

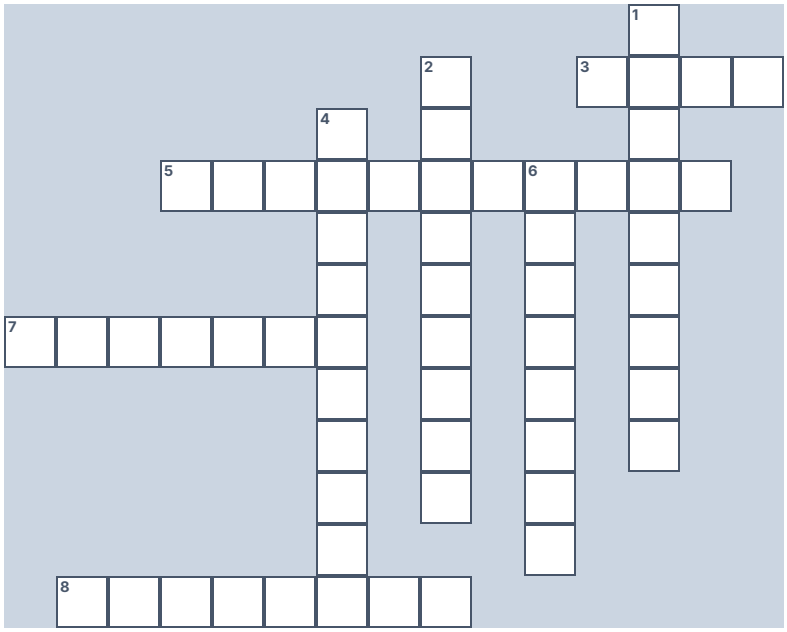
DEFINITION MATCHING

Match each vocabulary term on the left with its correct definition on the right by writing the corresponding letter (A-H) in the fillable input box.

☐	1. NORDLYNX	A	Game software that may restrict VPN traffic.
☐	2. PING	B	NordVPN's low overhead gaming protocol.
☐	3. SPLIT TUNNEL	C	Delay between you and the game server.
☐	4. KILL SWITCH	D	Steam, Epic Games or Battle.net app.
☐	5. ANTICHEAT	E	Low overhead protocol type that Surfshark uses.
☐	6. LAUNCHER	F	Simultaneous connections one VPN account allows.
☐	7. WIREGUARD	G	Sends some apps through the VPN and the rest outside it.
☐	8. DEVICES	H	Blocks traffic if the VPN tunnel drops.

Checkpoint 5: Crossword Puzzle

Solve the crossword puzzle by typing letters into the active white boxes. The numbers correspond to the clues below.



ACROSS

3. Delay between you and the game server. (4)

5. Sends some apps through the VPN and the rest outside it. (11)

7. Simultaneous connections one VPN account allows. (7)

8. Steam, Epic Games or Battle.net app. (8)

DOWN

1. Low overhead protocol type that Surfshark uses. (9)

2. Game software that may restrict VPN traffic. (9)

4. Blocks traffic if the VPN tunnel drops. (10)

6. NordVPN's low overhead gaming protocol. (8)

Checkpoint 5 Alternative: Accessible Crossword Clues

Screen-reader and keyboard users can type the crossword answers directly in the text fields below.

ACROSS

3 across: Delay between you and the game server. (4 letters):

5 across: Sends some apps through the VPN and the rest outside it. (11 letters):

7 across: Simultaneous connections one VPN account allows. (7 letters):

8 across: Steam, Epic Games or Battle.net app. (8 letters):

DOWN

1 down: Low overhead protocol type that Surfshark uses. (9 letters):

2 down: Game software that may restrict VPN traffic. (9 letters):

4 down: Blocks traffic if the VPN tunnel drops. (10 letters):

6 down: NordVPN's low overhead gaming protocol. (8 letters):

Checkpoint 6: Hidden Word Search

Find the 8 key vocabulary terms hidden in the grid below. Words can be horizontal, vertical, or diagonal.

U S T E L J B N A B C P X L K
Y K X T K D Q O M J L D I N N
H K Q P G M M R Q R A S T T G
C C S Q O H S D B W U D S Z V
T C Z W F S K L H Z N D N A D
I G Q X P P C Y U B C A Z N N
W N D K A L D N W O H D F T H
S I I D R I Q X I D E M E I I
L P R Z S T F Q R E R V F C A
L A Q O N T P T E V X Q K H R
I U S D N U Y B G I F S X E W
K J A R Z N Y Y U C L G I A M
R J M L T N O H A E Q Q H T Z
A O V G U E B Y R S R Y B H L
Z G J O P L N W D C M Z Y G Y

VOCABULARY WORD LIST

NORDLYNX PING SPLITTUNNEL KILLSWITCH ANTICHEAT LAUNCHER WIREGUARD DEVICES

Checkpoint 6 Alternative: Accessible Vocabulary Matching

Match each of the 8 vocabulary terms from the Word Search to its correct definition by writing the letter (A-H) in the blank space.

VOCABULARY TERMS

- **A. NORDLYNX**
- **B. PING**
- **C. SPLITTUNNEL**
- **D. KILLSWITCH**
- **E. ANTICHEAT**
- **F. LAUNCHER**
- **G. WIREGUARD**
- **H. DEVICES**

DEFINITIONS & MATCH FIELDS

1. Blocks traffic if the VPN tunnel drops.
2. Low overhead protocol type that Surfshark uses.
3. Steam, Epic Games or Battle.net app.
4. Simultaneous connections one VPN account allows.
5. Sends some apps through the VPN and the rest outside it.
6. Game software that may restrict VPN traffic.
7. Delay between you and the game server.
8. NordVPN's low overhead gaming protocol.

Checkpoint 7: Scrambled Word Challenge

Unscramble the letters below to reveal key PC gaming VPN terms. Write your answers in the input boxes provided.

1. NDLNYOXR
2. TLPSETLNNUI
3. AHCNETIAT
4. GDREAUWIR
5. GPNI
6. CSLITKIWHL
7. LRCHEANU
8. EISDECV

Bonus Activity: Think Fast

3 ITEMS FROM EACH CATEGORY. FIRST PERSON TO COMPLETE THE LIST WINS.

1	Reasons to use a cable instead of Wi-Fi			
2	Things that ruin a gaming night			
3	Reasons gamers use a VPN			
4	Things that cause lag in online games			
5	Cheats or scams gamers run into			
6	Consoles or gaming platforms			
7	Things you do before an important online match			
8	Accessories for a game console			
9	Online games you know			
10	Things that happen in a DDoS attack			
11	NAT types or network settings			
12	Gaming platforms			
13	Things streamers say to their chat			
14	Things you need for a gaming setup			
15	Words gamers use about their connection			

Checkpoint 8: PC Gaming VPN Case Studies

Apply the concepts you have learned to solve the real-world scenarios below.

CASE STUDY 1: ONE GAME ON THE TUNNEL



Scenario: A student on a Windows PC wants only their game to use the VPN while a large launcher download stays outside it.

Discussion Question: Which VPN feature should the student look for, and which picks offer it?

CASE STUDY 2: LAUNCHER STALLS AND ANTICHEAT



Scenario: A player connects to a VPN server abroad, then Steam stalls when signing in, and the player plans to use the VPN in ranked matches.

Discussion Question: What steps does the page recommend?

Checkpoint 9: Decrypting the Cipher

A gamer tests ping and tunnel settings on a Windows PC. Use the Letter-to-Number key below to decrypt the message by writing the matching letters in the blank spaces.

LETTER-TO-NUMBER ENCRYPTION KEY

A=1 B=2 C=3 D=4 E=5 F=6 G=7 H=8 I=9 J=10 K=11 L=12 M=13

N=14 O=15 P=16 Q=17 R=18 S=19 T=20 U=21 V=22 W=23 X=24 Y=25 Z=26

20	5	19	20		16	9	14	7		2	15	20	8		23	1	25	19

Decoded message:

TIP: EACH NUMBER REPRESENTS THE POSITION OF THAT LETTER IN THE ALPHABET (E.G. 1 = A, 2 = B, 26 = Z).

Checkpoint 10: Basic VPN FAQs (Part A)

Review the most common questions and answers regarding Virtual Private Networks (VPNs) and tunneling.

Q1: How do I use a VPN while gaming on a Windows PC?

Install the Windows app, sign in and connect to a nearby server before you launch the game.

Q2: Does split tunneling work with Steam, Epic Games and Battle.net?

It works on the app you choose, so you can add a launcher or the game itself. Test signing in and a small download.

Q3: Will a VPN get me banned by anticheat software?

It depends on the game. Some anticheat systems and publishers restrict VPN traffic, so read the game rules first.

Q4: How much ping does a VPN add on PC?

Usually a little delay. A nearby, low load server and a WireGuard based protocol keep it small.

Q5: Do I need a kill switch for PC gaming?

A kill switch blocks traffic if the tunnel drops, so your home IP is not exposed during a match. Turn it on before you play.

Checkpoint 10: Basic VPN FAQs (Part B)

Review the most common questions and answers regarding Virtual Private Networks (VPNs) and tunneling.

Q6: Can one VPN account cover my PC and my phone?

Yes, with any of the four. Surfshark allows unlimited connections, NordVPN covers 10 devices and CyberGhost covers 7.

Q7: What does a gaming VPN for PC cost?

Plans on the longest terms run from $2.19 to $3.49 per month across the four picks.

Q8: Which VPN ranks #1 for PC gaming on this page?

NordVPN ranks #1 of 4 as Best for Gaming, with a 93 Trust Score.

Q9: Why is a PC the easy platform for a gaming VPN?

Unlike PlayStation and Xbox, a PC runs a VPN app directly, with no router or hotspot in between.

Q10: What does split tunneling let a gamer do?

It lets the game use the VPN while a launcher or browser connects directly, or the reverse.

Checkpoint 10: Advanced VPN FAQs (Part C)

Explore the finer points of PC gaming with a VPN, including launchers, anticheat rules, server distance, and kill switches.

Q1: What if a launcher stalls or asks me to verify my account?

Connect to a server in your own country first, and do not switch servers mid download.

Q2: Does distance or protocol add more delay?

Distance adds more delay than protocol. Choose a server close to the game's host region.

Q3: Which protocols does the page name as built for low overhead?

NordVPN's NordLynx, ExpressVPN's Lightway and Surfshark's WireGuard.

Q4: How should I test whether a VPN helps my ping?

Play a match with the VPN off and on, and keep the server that plays best.

Q5: Why can the page not promise anticheat will accept a VPN?

Systems differ, and a publisher can restrict VPN traffic in its rules. Test in a casual match first.

Checkpoint 10: Advanced VPN FAQs (Part D)

Explore the finer points of PC gaming with a VPN, including provider differences, household use, and the final verdict.

Q6: Why can CyberGhost not keep a single game off the tunnel?

Its Windows exclusions apply to websites, not apps.

Q7: Which of the four list a Windows kill switch?

NordVPN, ExpressVPN, Surfshark and CyberGhost each list one on their own sites.

Q8: Which picks suit someone who wants the simplest app?

CyberGhost or ExpressVPN, because they have few settings to get wrong.

Q9: Which pick suits one account for a whole household?

Surfshark, because it allows unlimited simultaneous connections.

Q10: What does the final verdict recommend?

Pick NordVPN, ExpressVPN or Surfshark for per app split tunneling, use a nearby server, test ping both ways, and check anticheat rules.

Part 11: 10 Real-World VPN Facts & Insights

Review real facts from the VPN.com page on Trust Scores, device limits, plans, launchers, and keeping ping low.

1. VPN INSIGHT

NordVPN ranks #1 of 4 as Best for Gaming, with a 93 Trust Score.

2. VPN INSIGHT

ExpressVPN scores 86, while Surfshark and CyberGhost each score 85.

3. VPN INSIGHT

NordVPN lists 7,213 servers in 150 countries. CyberGhost lists 9,600+ servers.

4. VPN INSIGHT

Surfshark allows unlimited devices. NordVPN covers 10 devices and CyberGhost covers 7.

5. VPN INSIGHT

NordVPN, ExpressVPN and Surfshark offer a 30 day money back guarantee. CyberGhost offers 45 days.

6. VPN INSIGHT

None of the four picks has a free plan.

7. VPN INSIGHT

Plans on the longest terms run from $2.19 to $3.49 per month across the four picks.

8. VPN INSIGHT

Steam, Epic Games and Battle.net each open their own connections, so test signing in and downloads with the VPN on.

9. VPN INSIGHT

Distance adds more delay than protocol, so pick a server close to the game's host region.

10. VPN INSIGHT

CyberGhost's Windows exclusions apply to websites, not apps, so it cannot keep a single game off the tunnel.

Technical References & Sources

The study guide and puzzles are compiled from the VPN.com page and the provider pages it cites.

SCHOLARLY & INDUSTRY REFERENCES

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[2] NordVPN Customer Support. (n.d.). What is Split Tunneling and how to use it with NordVPN?

https://support.nordvpn.com/hc/en-us/articles/19618692366865-What-is-Split-Tunneling-and-how-to-use-it

[3] Surfshark. (2019). What is VPN split tunneling and how does it work?

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[4] VPN.com. (2026). Best VPN for PC Gaming.

https://www.vpn.com/vpn/best-vpn-for-gaming/pc/

Answer Key: Checkpoint 1 - Multiple Choice

1 **Top Ranked Pick** NORDVPN **Correct Answer: B**

TEACHING NOTE

NordVPN ranks #1 of 4 as Best for Gaming, with a 93 Trust Score.

2 **Websites Only** CYBERGHOST **Correct Answer: D**

TEACHING NOTE

CyberGhost's Windows exclusions apply to websites, not apps.

3 **Launcher Stalls** OWN COUNTRY **Correct Answer: A**

TEACHING NOTE

If a launcher stalls or asks you to verify your account, connect to a server in your own country first.

4 **Household Plan** SURFSHARK **Correct Answer: C**

TEACHING NOTE

Surfshark allows unlimited simultaneous connections.

5 **Low Ping** NEARBY SERVER **Correct Answer: B**

TEACHING NOTE

A nearby, low load server and a WireGuard based protocol keep ping small.

Answer Key: Checkpoint 2 - True or False

6 **PC Advantage** DIRECT APP — **Correct Answer: True**

TEACHING NOTE

A PC runs a VPN app directly, with no router or hotspot in between.

7 **Anticheat Rules** NO PROMISE — **Correct Answer: False**

TEACHING NOTE

Some anticheat systems and publishers restrict VPN traffic, and the page cannot promise acceptance.

8 **Per App Split** WINDOWS — **Correct Answer: True**

TEACHING NOTE

NordVPN, ExpressVPN and Surfshark list Windows split tunneling on their own sites.

9 **Websites Only** CYBERGHOST — **Correct Answer: False**

TEACHING NOTE

CyberGhost's Windows exclusions apply to websites, not apps, so it cannot keep a single game off the tunnel.

10 **Question 10** — **Correct Answer: True**

TEACHING NOTE

Distance adds more delay than protocol, so choose a server close to the game's host region.

Vocabulary Keys & Grading Rubric

Instructor Grading Rubric: Award 1 point for each correct matching (8 points total) and context term (6 points total).

CHECKPOINT 4: CONCEPT MATCH KEY

B 1. NORDLYNX	C 2. PING	G 3. SPLIT TUNNEL	H 4. KILL SWITCH
A 5. ANTICHEAT	D 6. LAUNCHER	E 7. WIREGUARD	F 8. DEVICES

CHECKPOINT 3: KEY TERM KEY

1 NORDLYNX	2 PING	3 SPLIT TUNNEL	4 KILL SWITCH
5 ANTICHEAT	6 LAUNCHER		

CHECKPOINT 6 ALTERNATIVE: VOCABULARY MATCH KEY

1 D – KILLSWITCH	2 G – WIREGUARD	3 F – LAUNCHER	4 H – DEVICES
5 C – SPLITTUNNEL	6 E – ANTICHEAT	7 B – PING	8 A – NORDLYNX

DISCUSSION NOTES FOR INSTRUCTORS

Key Terms:
Check that students can explain NORDLYNX, PING and SPLIT TUNNEL in their own words and give an example of each.

Case Studies:
Ask students to support their recommendations with facts from the worksheet rather than assumptions.

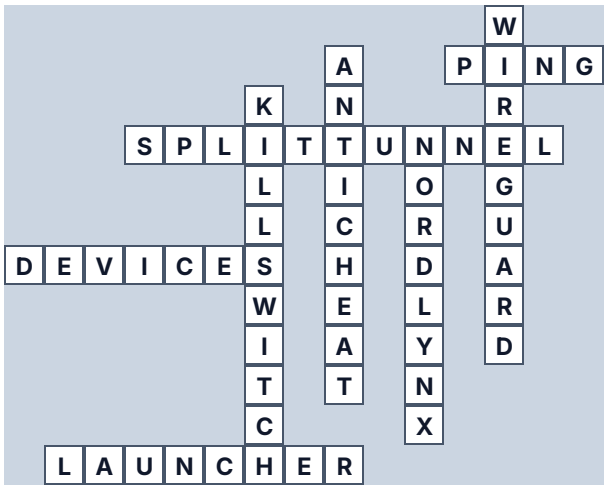
Source Evaluation:
Have students verify at least one claim against the worksheet references, and discuss why figures, prices and rules can change over time.

Puzzles Keys & Instructor Notes

WORD SEARCH SOLUTION

U	S	T	E	L	J	B	N	A	B	C	P	X	L	K
Y	K	X	T	K	D	Q	O	M	J	L	D	I	N	N
H	K	Q	P	G	M	M	R	Q	R	A	S	T	T	G
C	C	S	Q	O	H	S	D	B	W	U	D	S	Z	V
T	C	Z	W	F	S	K	L	H	Z	N	D	N	A	D
I	G	Q	X	P	P	C	Y	U	B	C	A	Z	N	N
W	N	D	K	A	L	D	N	W	O	H	D	F	T	H
S	I	I	D	R	I	Q	X	I	D	E	M	E	I	I
L	P	R	Z	S	T	F	Q	R	E	R	V	F	C	A
L	A	Q	O	N	T	P	T	E	V	X	Q	K	H	R
I	U	S	D	N	U	Y	B	G	I	F	S	X	E	W
K	J	A	R	Z	N	Y	Y	U	C	L	G	I	A	M
R	J	M	L	T	N	O	H	A	E	Q	Q	H	T	Z
A	O	V	G	U	E	B	Y	R	S	R	Y	B	H	L
Z	G	J	O	P	L	N	W	D	C	M	Z	Y	G	Y

CROSSWORD SOLUTION



INSTRUCTOR GUIDE FOR CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS

ACROSS

3 across: PING Delay between you and the game server. (4 letters)

5 across: SPLITTUNNEL Sends some apps through the VPN and the rest outside it. (11 letters)

7 across: DEVICES Simultaneous connections one VPN account allows. (7 letters)

8 across: LAUNCHER Steam, Epic Games or Battle.net app. (8 letters)

DOWN

1 down: WIREGUARD Low overhead protocol type that Surfshark uses. (9 letters)

2 down: ANTICHEAT Game software that may restrict VPN traffic. (9 letters)

4 down: KILLSWITCH Blocks traffic if the VPN tunnel drops. (10 letters)

6 down: NORDLYNX NordVPN's low overhead gaming protocol. (8 letters)

Scrambled Words & Cipher Solution Key

Grading key for the vocabulary word unscramble activity and Secret Cipher Challenge.

WORD UNSCRAMBLE KEY

1. NDLNYOXR	NORDLYNX	5. GPNI	PING
2. TLPSETLNNUI	SPLITTUNNEL	6. CSLITKIWHL	KILLSWITCH
3. AHCNETIAT	ANTICHEAT	7. LRCHEANU	LAUNCHER
4. GDREAUWIR	WIREGUARD	8. EISDECV	DEVICES

SECRET CIPHER CHALLENGE KEY

"TEST PING BOTH WAYS"

Case Studies Solution Key

A Case Study 1: One Game on the Tunnel

Instructor Solution

GRADING GUIDELINE

Student answers should cover the following points:

- Scenario Analysis: A student on a Windows PC wants only their game to use the VPN while a large launcher download stays outside it.
- Recommended Strategy & Solution: Use per app split tunneling on Windows. NordVPN, ExpressVPN and Surfshark list it. CyberGhost covers websites only, not apps.

B Case Study 2: Launcher Stalls and Anticheat

Instructor Solution

GRADING GUIDELINE

Student answers should cover the following points:

- Scenario Analysis: A player connects to a VPN server abroad, then Steam stalls when signing in, and the player plans to use the VPN in ranked matches.
- Recommended Strategy & Solution: Connect to a server in your own country first and do not switch servers mid download. Read the game's support page, test in a casual match, and skip the VPN in ranked play if the publisher forbids it.