

What is an IP address?

An IP address (Internet Protocol address) is a unique series of numbers which is assigned to a device connected to a network.

- It works like a digital postal address: it helps route information to and from connected devices.
- An IP address can help trace the origin of a connection and locate where that connection was used.
- However, it does not automatically prove identity or location.

How to manipulate and fake your IP: VPNs

A VPN (Virtual Private Network) hides a user's real IP address by routing internet traffic through a secure server located elsewhere.

- Hackers may use VPNs to hide their location.
- Regular users may use VPNs to protect their identity and privacy.
- VPNs can be used to access content that is restricted to certain areas.

Image editing & fake news

How can images be manipulated?

- Photo editing software can alter backgrounds, faces or add/remove elements.
- AI tools can generate deepfake content, which can completely replicate and alter photos and videos.
- Cropping or context removal can distort meaning.
- Fake visuals and information can damage reputations quickly.

How to identify fake content?

- Always question the content and verify it in another source.
- Identify the source, the author and their goals.
- Analyse the metadata to confirm the time and potential alterations.
- Identify who benefits from the image being shared or misinterpreted.

What is a digital footprint?

All the information you leave behind online:

- Posts & comments
- Locations
- Password reuse
- Public personal data

How can hackers misuse it?

- Password guessing through personal info
- Phishing based on known interests
- Identity impersonation
- Accessing accounts via weak security settings

How to protect yourself?

- ☐ Strong privacy settings
- ☐ Secure passwords
- ☐ VPN and anti-virus software.