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Version 1.2



**ARTIFACT
SECURITY**

VPN Performance Evaluation H1 2026

AMTSO Standard Compliance Statement

This Test has been designed to comply with the Anti-Malware Testing Standards Organization, Inc. (“AMTSO”) Testing Protocol Standard for the Testing of Anti-Malware Solutions, Version [1.3] (the “Standard”). This Test Plan has been prepared using the AMTSO Test Plan Template and Usage Directions, Version [2.4]. Artifact Security is solely responsible for the content of this Test Plan.

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VPN Performance Test Plan H1 2026

1. Introduction

This Test Plan was developed in concert with the AMTSO Testing Protocol Standards to support Artifact Security’s VPN Performance submission test for AMTSO accreditation. Artifact Security aims to follow the AMTSO Testing Protocol standard throughout the operation of the test and publication of results.

2. Scope

This evaluation aims to measure the performance of Consumer VPN Products.

Product Vendor	Product Tier
NordVPN	Plus
ExpressVPN	Advanced
Surfshark	One
ProtonVPN	VPN Plus
Mullvad	N/A (Only one tier available)

Default configuration is used for all deployed products.

3. Methodology and Strategy

Detailed methodology can be found on Artifact Security [website](#). The evaluation covers Windows and Android physical devices.

- Windows 11 Physical Devices: Lenovo V15 Gen 4)Intel Core i5-13420H, 16GB RAM, 512 GB SSD
- Android devices: Google Pixel 9a

The test aims to evaluate highways in 5 significant Worldwide locations using the AMTSO VPN Guidelines. The highways are shown in section 5.

The test report focuses on:

- Speed (throughput) - average and best case scenario at 1G
- Consistency across all the highways tested
- Latency
- Real testing using real physical devices

4. Participation

Opt-Out Policy: Vendors may choose to opt-out of any publication via info@artifactsecurity.co.uk. Public commentary is allowed on completion of report.

Conflict of Interest Disclosure: no conflicts of interests have been identified.

Funding: The test is self-funded by Artifact Security, usage of report, awards or troubleshooting services for the purposes of product improvement can be purchased. Test result validation is free of charge.

5. Environment

Physical Configuration: The test environment consists of virtual Windows 11 machines, physical Android Devices.

- Windows 11 Physical Devices: Lenovo V15 Gen 4) Intel Core i5-13420H, 16GB RAM, 512 GB SSD
- Android devices: Google Pixel 9a

Origin locations:

City	Region
London	United Kingdom
Frankfurt	Europe
Singapore	Asia SEA
New York	US East
San Francisco	US West

Destination Locations:

City	Region
London	United Kingdom
Frankfurt	Europe
Amsterdam	Europe
New York	US East
San Francisco	US West
Toronto	North America
São Paulo	South America
Singapore	Asia SEA
Tokyo	Asia East
Sydney	Oceania
Johannesburg	Africa

Geographic Limitations: Best efforts were made to select varied significant Origin locations for the testing.

Distribution of Test Data: All collected test data such as scenario detail, traffic captures (where applicable), product logs and other test artifacts can be shared with participants upon completion of the test scenario.

6. Schedule

Schedule Summary for Test Project

Index	Test Activity	Start Date Range	Dependencies
1	Test Commencement	15th - 18th May 2026	
2	Confirm Vendor Configuration Feedback	18 th -19 th May 2026	

3	<i>Milestone 1 – Test Report First Edition – End of Testing Period</i>	<i>1st June 2026</i>	
4	<i>Milestone 2 - Preliminary Results</i>	<i>2nd June 2026</i>	<i>(3)</i>
5	<i>Feedback and Dispute Resolution Time – Retests as Needed</i>	<i>20th May - 1st June 2026</i>	<i>(4)</i>
6	<i>Milestone 3 – Issue Final Report – End Date for Test</i>	<i>2nd June 2026</i>	<i>(5)</i>

Communications: Artifact Security will make best effort to notify participants of major delays from the above schedule or any major issues occurring during the test.

Risks and Risk Management: No significant risk has been identified to execution and delivery of the test.

7. Control Procedures

The Test Plan may include instructions for potential Participants to provide Specific Data regarding the Product(s) to be included in the test. These elements are included in the Control Procedures section.

Connectivity Validation: Each product has unfiltered access to the internet throughout the test.

Logging: Instructions for enabling logging within the Product must be provided by the Participant upon request. Any specific logging can be requested via email at stefan@artifactsecurity.co.uk

Updates: Products are allowed to update at any time during the test.

8. Dependencies

Participant and Test Subject Vendors Required Actions: Participant status can be confirmed via contacting stefan@artifactsecurity.co.uk or info@artifactsecurity.co.uk

9. Scoring Process

Detailed scoring process is available on the test methodology [here](#).

10. Dispute Process

Preliminary results will be shared with security vendor contact during testing, this includes

complete scoring spreadsheet, tested scenario details, product logs & any other test artifacts relevant.

Evidence Sharing Policy: Result validation is provided free of charge to all participants.

11. Attestations

I understand and agree that I am submitting this Test Plan, and the following Attestations, on behalf of the entity listed below, and I represent and warrant that I have authority to bind such entity to these Attestations. All references to “I” or “me” or similar language refer to such entity. I represent and warrant that the following Attestations are true, to the best of my knowledge and belief, and each of the following commitments will be upheld to the best of my ability.

1. I will provide public notification on the AMTSO website covering my obligation for notification of a Public Test, regardless of whether a potential Participant is in actual receipt of such notification prior to the Commencement Date of a Test. (Section 1, Section 4, Section 6)
2. All products included in this Test will be analyzed fairly and equally. (Section 2, Section 3, Section 5)
3. I will disclose any anticipated or known imbalance or inequity in the Test design to all Participants in the Test. (Section 2, Section 3)
4. Although I may charge for participation in a Test, I will not charge any additional fees for a vendor to be a test subject under the Standards. (Section 4)
5. I will disclose any material conflicts of interest or other information that could materially impact the reliability of the Test. (Section 4)
6. I will disclose how the Test was funded. (Section 4)

I hereby affirm, to the best of my knowledge and belief that this Test Plan complies with the AMTSO Testing Standards, as of the date hereof.

Signature:

Name: Stefan Dumitrascu

Test Lab: Artifact Security

AMTSO Test ID: AMTSO-LS1-TP201