

## [Unblocking American Netflix from anywhere](#)

### [Using a smart DNS service.](#)

What is a Smart DNS and how does it work?

A DNS (**domain name system**) is a protocol for the translation of domain names to internet protocol (IP) addresses. DNS addresses are assigned by ISPs (**Internet Service Providers**) and they contain your **geo-tag**.

A smart DNS service **replaces your DNS** with that of a proxy server located in the region withholding the content or information you need; in our case, America. Introduced in 2012, **it's a legal practice** with some giant tech companies such as Google providing free DNS server addresses.

### Smart DNS use Cases

When you want to access **geo-restricted content**

With its impeccable routing capability, Smart DNS provides a free pass to any information or content limited to certain countries like restrictions on the American Netflix media library.

When you need fast Speeds

Since Smart DNS servers are **located in the countries** where the restricted content is withheld, the **speed of access is fast** improving your streaming and browsing experience. This is enhanced by the fact that **smart DNS does not encrypt your data**, which reduces speed.

When you want to avoid compatibility issues

Some devices such as Smart TVs do not support VPNs or proxies. **Smart DNS is compatible** with a wide array of devices ranging from routers to gaming consoles.

When you're surfing from multiple devices

It's quite common to browse the internet from different devices. You may use a laptop, switch to a tablet then eventually your phone.

Once the router is configured, **all devices connected** will go through the Smart DNS. It is worth noting that no additional configuration is needed in these devices, unlike VPNs.

### Smart DNS service providers.

SmartDNS **providers are of two types**; those offering the service alongside a VPN and those providing the utility as their main service. The VPN cum Smart DNS providers include:

- Strong VPN
- Surf Shark VPN
- Express VPN

While the first two **provide you a choice of the locations**, express VPN **provides a static DNS address from America** that you apply when setting up your device.

**SmartDNS** as suggested by its name offers only smart DNS services. It comes with a two-week free trial and an array of feature-oriented subscription packages. **Unlocator, UnblockUS, and overplay** are other stand-alone smart DNS providers.

[How can you choose the best Smart DNS provider?](#)

There are **free and paid service** providers. However, the free DNS addresses provided by Google do not categorize it among the free service providers.

The free smart DNS services provided by some companies come at a cost. Most of the provided addresses do not work. The security of your sensitive information is not guaranteed too as there's no encryption.

With this in mind, how can you pick the right provider which will suit your needs? The following checklist can prove useful:

- **Scope of regions** it has access to-ensure it can unblock your desired content and can access the country it's based in (America).
- **Websites it can unblock**-confirm whether it can unblock your desired website (Netflix) by going through the list provided.
- **Is the service dynamic?**-some ISPs tends to change your DNS regularly thereby requiring a provider with Dynamic DNSs tool to be up-to-date with such changes.

[How is a smart DNS different from a VPN?](#)

Here is the summary of the main differences:

Aspect	Smart DNS	VPN
<b>Encryption</b>	Does not offer encryption	Offers encryption
<b>Speed</b>	fast	slow
<b>Anonymity</b>	Does not offer anonymity	Offers anonymity
<b>Firewalls</b>	Cannot bypass firewalls	Can bypass firewalls

- **Anonymity**-a smart DNS **masks your DNS address** but **does not hide your IP address** exposing your digital identity while a VPN Hides your IP address making you untraceable.

- **Encryption**-a VPN provides **layers of encryption** to your internet traffic while a Smart DNS offers minimal or none.
- **Speed**-Smart DNS is **faster than VPNs** since there's no encryption and the servers in use are in proximity to the restricted content source. It's worth noting that Smart DNS is faster than proxies too.

### Advantages of Smart DNS

- **Easy configuration** with most of the internet-capable devices.
- **Compatibility** with a range of devices.
- **Affordable** compared to VPNs.
- **Faster speeds.**
- **Simultaneous access** to various websites from different devices on **the same server.**

### Disadvantages

- × **No encryption** thereby less security.
- × It **does not bypass** firewalls.
- × **Limited functionality** when the ISP uses **transparent DNS proxy**. This proxy intercepts reroute requests and forces you to use the ISP-provided DNS rendering the smart DNS useless.
- × Unlike Their VPN counterparts, SmartDNS **unblocks websites individually** and does not work on all websites forcing you to acquire another service in case your website is not covered by the Smart DNS.

### Using Proxy servers

#### How do they work?

A proxy server acts as a **middleman** by taking on your browsing requests and **forwarding them to the internet** and in the same manner **returning the feedback from the internet** to you.

The IP address of the proxy servers is the one that's detected while **yours is masked**.

To unblock American Netflix, you need to connect to a **proxy server located in America** for the requests to **appear like those from America**; thereby bypassing the restriction.

HTTPS proxies are recommended but in case you need **more encryption** you can throw **SSL** into the mix.

#### Advantages

- It stores your login details and logs your activities through **caching increasing performance** on the next session.
- An **affordable** way to bypass restrictions.

#### Disadvantages

- **Does not offer encryption** like VPNs thereby no anonymity.

- Unlike VPNs, It **logs your activities** placing your **details and traffic** out there for hackers and prying eyes.

### Comparison with other methods

- It's **slower** than the smart DNS but faster than VPNs.
- It's **less secure** than VPNs.

### In a nutshell.

Smart DNS is a handy tool when it comes to **bypassing geo-restrictions**. It's affordable, fast, and easy to set up. However, keep in mind that your privacy is compromised. Lack of encryption makes you **prone to spying and online identity theft** when using this tool.

I recommend VPNs since they have **encryption and privacy** which protects you from identity theft and online crimes.

### Common FAQs

1. Is the use of smart DNS **legal**?

Since the utility safeguards your DNS requests and the rest of the traffic including your IP address remains in the open, it is completely legal. To affirm this, it's considered a **security practice**.

2. What is the difference between a VPN and smart DNS?

While VPNs **totally hide and change your IP address** together with encrypting your traffic, smart DNS just unblocks geo-restricted content but does not offer address masking and data encryption.

Therefore VPNs offer more anonymity but lowers your browsing speed while Smart DNS does not lower your speed and works on more devices.

3. How Many devices can be supported by my smart DNS service?

Regarded they are on the same network with the same external IP (such as when using the same router) **several** devices can feed off the smart DNS.

4. Why Do I need to use DDNS with my smart DNS?

DDNS-dynamic DNS enables **validation of your IP address automatically** in cases when your internet service provider assigns you a different IP address regularly. This ensures your SmartDNS stays intact.

5. What websites can be unblocked using smart DNS?

Each **provider has its list of websites and countries** from which its content can be unblocked. Before taking on a provider, it's wise to cross-check and ensure your desired content can be unblocked.