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Split Tunnel App Examples

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This article will show you how you can enable split tunneling with Private Internet Access (PIA). Split tunneling lets you exclude certain apps from the VPN tunnel. You will access these apps with the IP address from your internet service provider and your traffic will not be encrypted.

Note: Split tunneling is available with PIA for all desktop platforms (macOS, Windows, Linux).

Windows

Follow these steps to enable split tunneling on Windows. Make sure you are not connected to a VPN server.

- 1. Open the PIA app.
- 2. Click on the three-dot menu in the upper right corner.
- 3. Click Settings.
- 4. Click Split Tunnel.
- 5. Click the checkbox labeled *Split Tunnel* to enable the feature.
- 6. Click on *Add Application* or *Add IP Address* to choose the app or to enter the IP address you wish to exclude from the VPN tunnel.

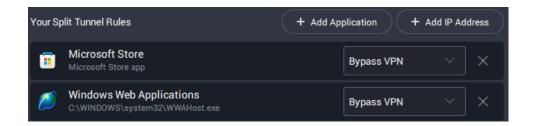
Here are some examples of apps you can exclude.

Microsoft Store Apps

Note that some apps that are downloaded from the Microsoft Store will not appear with their respective icon. For example, when excluding the Netflix or Hulu apps, they might appear as Windows Web Applications on the exclusion list.

Split Tunnel					
Add Application					
	Netflix	Browse			
Yo	Windows Web Applications Netflix		A		

This is not the case for all apps from the Microsoft Store. Below shows the example of Netflix and Hulu being excluded from the VPN as well as other apps from the store.



Steam

If you wish to exclude the Steam application from the VPN, you will also need to exclude the steamwebhelper.exe file as well. To do so, please follow these steps:

1. Click on Add Application.

Your Sp	lit Tunnel Rules	+ Add Application + Add IP Address
	Steam C:\Program Files (x86)\Steam\Steam.exe	Bypass VPN \checkmark \times
۵	Firefox C:\Program Files\Mozilla Firefox\firefox.exe	Bypass VPN \checkmark \times
<i>(</i>	Windows Web Applications C:\WINDOWS\system32\WWAHost.exe	Bypass VPN \checkmark \times
	All Other Apps	Use VPN 🗸
	Name Servers	Follow App Rules 💛

- 2. Click the *Browse* button next to the search bar.
- Next select Windows (C:) > Program Files (x86) > Steam > bin > cef > cef.win7 > steamwebhelper.exe.

🗊 Open						×
← → • ↑ <mark> </mark> <	Windows-SSD (C:) > Program Files (x8)	36) → Steam → bin → cef → cef.wir	17x64			
Organize 🔻 New	folder				.	•
1.0.1	Name	Date modified	Туре	Size		
📌 Quick access	locales	4/12/2022 6:29 AM	File folder			
📥 OneDrive - Perso	onal 🔤 swiftshader	4/12/2022 6:29 AM	File folder			
💻 This PC	🛹 html5app_steam.exe	9/1/2020 7:25 PM	Application	3,122 KB		
3D Objects	📀 steamwebhelper.exe	3/14/2022 2:57 PM	Application	6,386 KB		
Desktop						
🔮 Documents						
🚽 Downloads						
Music						
Pictures						
📳 Videos						
🏪 Windows-SSD ((C:)					
🚅 Network						
F	File name: steamwebhelper.exe			~ Applicatio	ns (*.exe)	
				Open		Cancel .

4. Once selected, click the *Add* button.

Specific Games

You may wish to exclude specific games from the VPN tunnel. For this, you will need to add a specific .exe file to the list. Here's how you can locate the specific .exe file.

- 1. Click Add Application.
- 2. Click the *Browse* button next to the search bar.
- 3. Next select Windows (C:) > Program Files (x86) > Steam > steamapps > common.
- 4. You will then see a list of your installed Steam games.
- 5. Select the file for the desired game.
- 6. Click the .exe file for the game in the installation folder and click the *Add* button.

)pen						
→ × ↑ 📙 « F	Program Files (x86) > Steam > steamapps	> common > AdVenture Ca	pitalist	✓ Ö Search	n AdVenture Capitalist	۶
ganize 🔻 🛛 New fol	der					
	Name	Date modified 🛛 👻	Туре	Size		
Quick access	adventure-capitalist_Data	10/7/2019 9:45 AM	File folder			
This PC	MonoBleedingEdge	10/7/2019 9:45 AM	File folder			
🗊 3D Objects	🔯 adventure-capitalist.exe	10/7/2019 9:44 AM	Application	625 KB		
Desktop	🚭 UnityCrashHandler32.exe	10/7/2019 9:44 AM	Application	1,303 KB		
🗄 Documents						
Downloads						
Music						
Pictures						
Videos						
Windows (C:)						
Network						
File	name: adventure-capitalist.exe			~ Appli	cations (*.exe)	
	· ·					

Your Sp	lit Tunnel Rules + Add Ap	+ Add IP Address
	Steam C:\Program Files (x86)\Steam\Steam.exe	Bypass VPN \checkmark \times
	steamwebhelper.exe rogram Files (x86)\Steam\bin\cef\cef.win7x64\steamwebhelper.exe	Bypass VPN \checkmark \times
	adventure-capitalist.exe amapps\common\AdVenture Capitalist\adventure-capitalist.exe	Bypass VPN \checkmark \times
=	All Other Apps	Use VPN 🗸
	Name Servers	Follow App Rules 🛛 🗸

This will add the game to the exclusion list. If your games are not installed on your (C:) drive and you do not know how to find the file destination, you can check *Steam Library* > *Properties* > *Local Files*, and select *Browse the Local Files*. This will display the destination path.

Example:

📙 > This PC > Windows (C:) > Program Files (x86) > Steam > steamapps > common > AdVenture Capitalist

macOS

Follow these steps to enable split tunneling on macOS. Make sure you are not connected to a VPN server.

- 1. Open the PIA app.
- 2. Click on the three-dot menu in the upper right corner.
- 3. Click Settings.
- 4. Click Split Tunnel.
- 5. Click the checkbox labeled *Split Tunnel* to enable the feature.

	Settings	
Settings	Split Tunnel	
🗯 General	Split Tunnel	
	Choose which applications use the VPN. Learn More	
🖧 Network	Your Split Tunnel Rules	+ Add Application + Add IP Address
Privacy	Google Docs /Applications/Google Docs.app	Bypass VPN \checkmark \times
Dedicated IP	All Other Apps	Use VPN V
🌱 Split Tunnel		
🚨 Account		

- 1. On the pop-up titled System Extension Blocked, click Open System Settings.
- 2. Under System Settings, select Privacy & Security.
- 3. Scroll down to the notification under *Security* and click *Allow*.
- 4. Enter your macOS password to confirm the settings.
- 5. Go back to the PIA app.
- 6. Click on *Add Application* or *Add IP Address* to choose the app or to enter the IP address you wish to exclude from the VPN tunnel. Afterwards, confirm your choice.

Note: Make sure *Use VPN* is selected next to *All Other Apps*. This will ensure that the apps you want to redirect through the VPN tunnel will have traffic encrypted.

- 1. Connect to a VPN server.
- 2. Click *Allow* at the second pop-up where PIA Split Tunnel asks to add proxy configurations.

If you wish to exclude multiple apps such as the App Store, Safari, the Mail app, and others, simply exclude the WebKit applications option within the *Add Application* menu.

•••			Settings		
			🗱 Applications	\$ Q Search	
Settin	Recents	App Store Automator Books Calculator			
🗘 Gene	Desktop	 Calendar Chess 			
णि Prote	Documents Downloads	 Contacts Dictionary 			
🖧 Netv		 FaceTime Find My 			s
🔒 Priva	🎵 Music 🞯 Photos	6 Firefox Font Book 1 Home			
🐑 Dedi	Movies	Image Capture Launchpad Launchpad			
🁻 Auto	Tags Red	Mail 🛃 Maps			
🌱 Split	 Orange Yellow 	Mission Control Music			
🖗 Mult	New Folder			Cancel Open	
💄 Acco	unt				
? Help					

Linux

Follow these steps to enable split tunneling on Linux. Make sure you are not connected to a VPN server.

- 1. Open the PIA app.
- 2. Click on the three-dot menu in the upper right corner.
- 3. Click Settings.
- 4. Click Split Tunnel.
- 5. Click the checkbox labeled *Split Tunnel* to enable the feature.
- 6. Click on *Add Application* or *Add IP Address* to choose the app or to enter the IP address you wish to exclude from the VPN tunnel.

Note: Due to the complex nature of Linux .desktop files, this guide cannot showcase universal step-by-step instructions on how to find the executables you wish to exclude. Finding the proper executable can be challenging. For example, for Firefox, the proper executable is /usr/lib/firefox/firefox, not the one in /usr/bin.

Here are a few ways you can find the correct file:

1. readlink /proc/\$(pgrep <executable> | head -1)/exe

Ex: readlink /proc/\$(pgrep firefox | head -1)/exe

1. Look for a process in your task manager. Some task managers may provide the executable path. Or readlink /proc/<PID>/exe.

Your Sp	olit Tunnel Rules	+ Add Application + Add IP Address
×	firefox /lib/firefox/firefox	Bypass VPN \checkmark X
Ŷ	Routed Packets Includes most containers and virtual machines	Use VPN 🗸
	All Other Apps	Use VPN 🗸
	Name Servers	Follow App Rules 🛛 🗡

Here is a list of common apps and their executable locations on Ubuntu. These may vary among distributions or versions, but it may provide a good starting point.

- Chrome: /opt/google/chrome/chrome
- **Firefox**: /usr/lib/firefox/firefox
- Opera: /usr/lib/opera/opera
- Chromium: /usr/lib/chromium/chromium
- Brave: /usr/lib/brave/brave
- **Thunderbird**: /usr/lib/thunderbird/thunderbird
- Steam: ~/.local/share/Steam/ubuntu12_32/Steam
- **Steamwebhelper**: ~/.local/share/Steam/ubuntu12_64/steamwebhelper
- Hexchat: /usr/bin/hexchat
- Discord: /opt/discord/Discord
- Flatpak: /usr/libexec/flatpak-bwrap

Note: Excluding flatpak-bwrap excludes all Flatpak apps, as they cannot be selected individually. This is inherent to the Flatpak packaging system. AppImage apps can be excluded by selecting the AppImage file.

Tags split Tunnel

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Attachments

• <u>support-image.png (992.82 KB)</u>