

Computer Bits by Mark Eggert of Raad One Network Solutions, Inc.

Welcome to Computer Bits, a series of articles on computers and network information. I'm going to follow up on last month's article with a review of a service for save wi-fi surfing.

As it happens sometimes, a few days after submitting last month's article I read about a service that relates to that article. The service is "Hotspot Shield" and it's from [www.anchorfree.com](http://www.anchorfree.com). It is a free add-on to your web browser that creates a Virtual Private Network (VPN) tunnel between your computer and their servers. This means you'll have a secure encrypted tunnel for your data when you're at a public wi-fi site. The add-on supports all versions of Windows, Mac OS, and Linux and is easy to install and setup.

While the add-on does as it says it will, there is a down side to using it. Remember, I said it was a free add-on? You know that not everything in life is completely free. So how is Anchorfree able to offer the add-on for free? In exchange for the add-on and service, you will have to put up with an advertising band across the top of your browser window. You can temporarily get rid of the advertising by downloading and installing one the programs that is associated with Anchorfree. You are even told that even if you uninstall the program, you will not see advertising of 7 days. Whether you do this to stop the advertising is up to you, although I wouldn't recommend doing that.

One last thought is that you can use the add-on when you're connected via a hard wire to a network or the internet. While this is good, it will block you from accessing resources on the network. Fortunately, the add-on needs to be started to use it, so if you to install the add-on, you can still use the computer on a network.

If you have a computer or network question you'd like answered and you think others would like to know the answer too, please forward them to me. My email address is [meggert@wi.rr.com](mailto:meggert@wi.rr.com), my phone number is 262-679-7704 and my fax number is 262-679-7664.