

## Dental School VPN Overview and Requirements

A **virtual private network (VPN)** is a private communications network often used by companies or organizations, to communicate confidentially over a public network (the Internet). Some faculty and staff have been approved to access the dental school computer resources while off-site.

Review and comply with all campus computer policies that are located online at <http://www.umaryland.edu/cits/policies/>

[Download](#) and complete the form and have it authorized by the appropriate supervisors.

### Requirements

- Windows 2000, Windows XP Professional or Windows Vista (provided by user)
- Antivirus software with the latest definitions
- Cisco VPN Client (provided by the school version 4.0.5 (D) or later)

### Suggested Software

- Install a spyware detection and removal tool (*below are two recommended tools*)
  - Windows Defender
  - Ad-Aware SE available at [www.lavasoftusa.com](http://www.lavasoftusa.com) click download.com for the free version

Before proceeding, make sure your virus definitions are up-to-date and run a full system scan. It's always a good idea to make sure your PC is free from spyware before accessing any secure computer resource.

Next make sure your operating system has all the latest service packs and patches. This can be done from Internet Explorer. Select "Tools" from the menu and click on "Windows Update" follow the directions provided by Microsoft. Repeat this process until Microsoft says "No updates available". You may have to run this several times and reboot several times.

The CD with the VPN Client is available for pick up in the Student Technology Center or Rm. G-426, to approved users. If you are upgrading the VPN software it will prompt you to remove the older version first.

### Test the VPN client

Click Start -> Programs -> Cisco Systems VPN Client -> VPN Client

When the program opens click on "Internet 2 Private Zone" and select "Connect" ([click here for detailed directions](#))

This will prompt you for a username and password. Enter the username and password that you use for email.

You should connect after you authenticate.

We will be adding questions to our "Frequently Asked Questions" as they are submitted by sending an email to: [dshelp@umaryland.edu](mailto:dshelp@umaryland.edu)