

Internet Service Provider (ISP) - What it is and how to stay safe

Gridinsoft Help Center

What it is

An Internet Service Provider (ISP) is the company that connects your home or office to the internet. It delivers bandwidth, assigns your public IP address, and may offer extras like email, DNS, web hosting, or a modem-router.

Why it matters

Your ISP affects speed, reliability, and privacy. It sits between you and the web, so its policies on logging, security, and support shape your day-to-day experience.

How it works - quick tour

- Last mile: wires or wireless link your location to the ISP network.
- IP addressing: the ISP assigns a public IP and routes your traffic.
- Core network: traffic rides through ISP backbones and peering partners.
- Extras: many ISPs provide DNS, modem-router gear, and security filters.

Smart choices and safety

- Use your own router when possible and change default passwords.
- Enable WPA2/WPA3, auto updates, and disable UPnP if you don't need it.
- Set a trusted DNS resolver or DNS filtering for safer browsing.
- Ask about data caps, CGNAT, IPv6, and logging policies before you sign.
- Prefer plans with clear support SLAs and no throttling on common apps.