

# IP Address - What it is, types, and simple privacy tips

Gridinsoft Help Center

## What it is

An IP address is a device's network ID - the number that lets computers find each other on the internet or a local network. The classic format is IPv4 (four numbers like 192.168.1.38). There is also IPv6 (longer, hex numbers like 2001:0db8::1) to handle billions more devices. For a short primer, see our IP address explainer.

## Why it matters

Websites, apps, and routers use IPs to route traffic. Your public IP is seen by the internet; private IPs are used inside your home or office network. IPs can hint at location and provider, so they touch privacy as well as connectivity.

## Quick tour

- IPv4 vs IPv6 - IPv6 is newer, bigger, and more efficient
- Public vs private - public is outward facing, private stays inside your LAN
- Dynamic vs static - dynamic changes over time, static stays fixed
- NAT - many private devices share one public IP via your router

## Simple safety tips

- Use a trusted router firewall and keep firmware updated
- Turn off unneeded port forwarding and UPnP
- Prefer HTTPS and DNS over HTTP to reduce snooping
- Be mindful that IPs can be logged - use MFA and good passwords everywhere