VPN (Virtual Private Network)

The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston provides remote access to the UTH network (inside the firewall) via a Virtual Private Network (VPN) solution. This permits a remote user (at home, from a satellite campus, with a laptop from their hotel room, etc.) to connect into the University network system and function as if they were sitting at their desk at the University. Basically all resources they typically access while at work (file services, data systems, printers, e-mail, etc.) they can access from a remote location.

Credentials required for VPN Access

The credentials you need for connecting to the VPN are your UTHOUSTON username and password. These are the same username and password you use to log onto a computer at SPH, to log into Blackboard, to get to your e-mail, and to log into the Timesheet system (also referred to as your UTH password).

If you do not know your UTHOUSTON username, contact anyone at SPH IT Services for assistance. https://sph.uth.edu/faculty/it-services/

Two-Factor Authentication required for VPN Access

When accessing resources from off campus, all users of VPN connections are required to log in using two-factor authentication. Two-factor authentication, also known as two-step authentication, adds an additional layer of assurance onto your normal login process. This is done by both verifying something you know, such as a password, and something you have, such as a phone.

With the increase of online phishing attacks targeting personal sensitive data, such as paychecks, financial data and protected health information (PHI), UT System will now require two-factor authentication as a means to mitigate these risks.

UTHealth's two-factor authentication service uses a technology from the company **Duo Security**, which uses your phone as the second factor in addition to the login method using your password, to which you are accustomed. This two-factor authentication service allows you to use the phone(s) you already have—your cellphone or landline phone that you have easy access to—as that second factor.

Features
- Enhances security for access to your highly sensitive data, such as paychecks, W2, bank account information, and PHI.
- Compatible will all phones, with extra features for smartphone users.
- Easy enrollment anytime, anywhere.

Read more and enroll here: https://inside.uthouston.edu/itsecurity/idm/two-factor.htm

VPN Client required for VPN access

You will need to install a VPN client application on the machine you use to access the UT Health VPN. Downloads and installation details are available for the VPN client for the common operating systems at this site https://inside.uthouston.edu/itsecurity/vpn/

If you need assistance with getting the VPN client installed, contact anyone at SPH IT Services. https://sph.uth.edu/faculty/it-services/

Accessing Resources Via the VPN Connection

Typically SPH employees who connect to the VPN are doing so to access their assigned desktop computer at the office. This is generally done with a Remote Desktop application. For more information on getting set up for remote desktop access to your office computer, refer to our Working Remotely Guide at this link https://sph.uth.edu/content/uploads/2011/12/WorkingRemotely.pdf