

How Tor Works

- Tor works by sending your traffic through a virtual circuit composed of three random servers (also known as *relays* - run by volunteers) in the Tor network.
- The first relay is called the “**Entry Guard**” and the last relay in the circuit is the “**Exit Relay**” that sends the traffic out onto the public Internet.
- The first step in building a Tor connection is the Tor Browser or Client to download a list of **Tor nodes, servers or relays** from a known **directory server**.
- Data packets on the Tor network take a **random pathway** through several relays.
- The Tor client builds a circuit of encrypted connections through relays on the network **for each website you visit**.
- **A Tor relay knows only its direct neighbors**. No individual relay ever knows the complete path that a data packet has taken.