



## How to find your Public IP address

Internet accessible Internet Protocol or IP addresses are needed to do a Remote Vulnerability Assessment (RVA). Some institutions have these public IP addresses assigned directly to their computers and systems while others have private IP addresses assigned to their computers and then have a device that performs a translation between private and public addresses. Devices that can perform this translation can be (but not limited to) proxy servers, firewalls, and routers. An RVA cannot be performed against private addresses, only public addresses. This document is to help you identify your public addresses to submit for testing.

### What is an IP address?

An IP address is what uniquely identifies your computer systems on the Internet. It is formatted in the following way: X.X.X.X (e.g. 65.223.12.5).

### Public, Private, and Hijacked IP Addresses

Only public IP addresses can be accessed from the Internet. Public addresses are unique world wide. Private addresses are for use in private networks although these private addresses can be translated to public addresses. Hijacked addresses look just like public addresses but they have been selected by an institution at random and are actually assigned to someone else. Hijacked addresses work on private networks but do not work on the Internet without some form of translation to a public address.

### Finding your address(s)

If you use a consulting firm or other outsourced IT provider, they should be able to provide you with a list of public IP addresses that should be tested. You may also contact your Internet service provider (ISP) for the IP addresses that they have assigned to you.

Often, the addresses that are assigned directly to your computer and server are not public addresses. If you obtain an IP address, check to make sure it is not a private address. Private addresses fall within the following ranges:

10.0.0.0 to 10.255.255.255

172.16.0.0 to 172.31.255.255

192.168.0.0 to 192.168.255.255



If these addresses are within these ranges, they are not public addresses and you need to do further investigation to find your public addresses.

Once you think that you know what your IP addresses are, verify it by going to the following web site from the machine or system you would like tested.

<http://www.whatismyip.com>

This web site will list the IP addresses you are coming from. If you are unable to go to this web site from the system(s) you would like tested, move to another system. From that system, go to the same web site and the first three "octets" should match, for example: 87.224.24.x. This can be an indication that you have the right IP addresses.

If your IP addresses do not fall into one of the private ranges, but the IP address you have is different from the one you get from the web site listed above, you may have hijacked addresses.

### **Dynamic Addresses**

If you have broadband (always on, high speed Internet access. Usually T1, DSL, cable modem, frame relay but NOT dial-up), then you are either using static (non-changing) public IP addresses, or dynamic (changing) IP addresses. If you determine, or if are told that you are using dynamic public IP addresses, then submit your RVA work order with "Dynamic" written in the IP address area. Once we receive your work order, we will call you to determine the IP address that you are using on that day before running the RVA.

### **Dial-Up**

If you are using dial-up to access the Internet, either individual modems or a shared modem environment, call for further instructions before submitting the RVA work order. It may not be possible to perform the RVA, or it may just need to be coordinated with a time you dial-up to the Internet.

**If you have any questions or are still having difficulty determining your IP Address(es), please send an e-mail to [kprince@cavionplus.com](mailto:kprince@cavionplus.com) with your contact information (Name, CU Name, and phone number) and a security specialist will contact you.**