Understanding the Multi-Hop Feature

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PIA provides the options to utilize Shadowsocks and SOCKS5 as a multi-hop VPN connection. To access these proxies, click the three dots in the upper right-hand corner of the application to open the application's Settings.

Once in the Settings navigate to the Multi-Hop tab. From there you will have the option to connect to our Shadowsocks or our SOCKS5 Proxy connection.

**Shadowsocks:**

The first Proxy connection that we provide our users is our Shadowsocks connection. This was added in desktop version 1.7.

Clicking EDIT will allow you to select the server location you would like to use as the multi-hop pass-through.
After the Shadowsocks Proxy is selected, you will see the change on the application dashboard indicating you are using Shadowsocks. You can then connect using the power button as normal.
**SOCKS5 Proxy:**

The other proxy that we provided our users the option to connect to directly through our application is our SOCKS5 Proxy. This proxy was added on our v1.4.0 release, this adds an additional "hop" between the user and the VPN server.
Fill out the following text boxes as follows:

- **Server IP Address:** Enter in the IP address for the proxy-nl.privateinternetaccess.com domain
  
  (ping the hostname to receive an IP address for the above domain address)

- **Port:** 1080

Then fill out the username and password using your “x” credentials you generated in the CCP. Once everything is filled out, press OK and then connect to a server.
The change will be indicated on the application dashboard when connecting.
* If you do not have the ability to edit Multi-hop settings, you will need to switch to the OpenVPN protocol to use them.

To do that, Click on the Protocols tab, then click OpenVPN.

If you receive any error messages or are unable to connect, please contact the PIA Customer Support team [here](#) for further assistance.

**Tags**

- Proxy