


Smartproxy > Blog > Difference between residential and datacenter proxies

Table of content

- [What are datacenter proxies and why use them?](#)
- [What are residential proxies and why use them?](#)
- [Are residential proxies better than datacenter proxies?](#)
- [Datacenter vs. residential proxies for sneakers](#)
- [How to set up a residential proxy server?](#)

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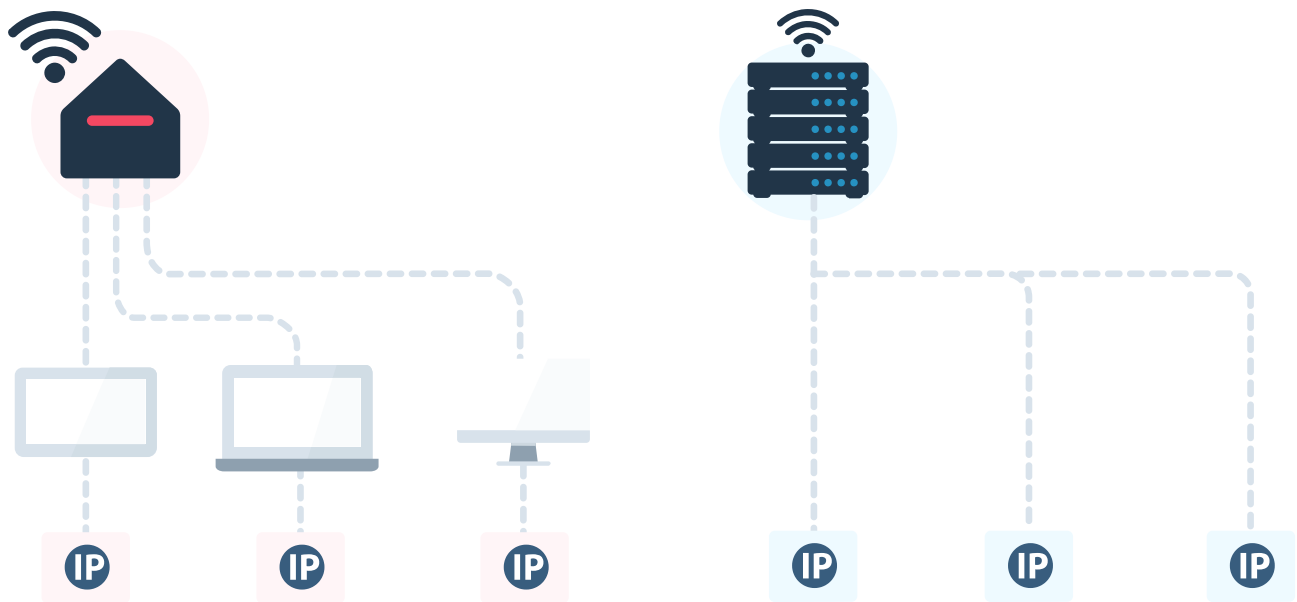
 7 minutes read

What is the difference between residential and datacenter proxies?

Residential proxy and datacenter proxy servers offer a way to hide your IP address and help you anonymously scrape data from the web. But which proxy is the best choice for you?



Both residential and datacenter proxies hide your real IP address when browsing online. This helps if you can't access a certain website because you are banned, or when you are trying to access geo-blocked content such as Netflix, YouTube, or whilst you are searching for the cheapest flight tickets.



Residential proxies

Datacenter proxies

So, how does this work? Well, your IP address is tracked by websites and services to identify and track you. By using a residential proxy you are able to mask your IP address with a residential IP address which is traced to a home address that's not your own. Whereas a datacenter proxy IP address is traced back to the corporation or datacenter associated with it.



So, which one would be the better choice for you to use?

What are datacenter proxies and why use them?

Let's start with **datacenter proxies** – they are the most common proxies out there. When it comes to hiding your IP address, these proxies don't have anything to do with your internet connection or Internet Service Provider (ISP) as these are completely independent of both. This way it is easy for you to hide your IP address without being linked to one particular place.



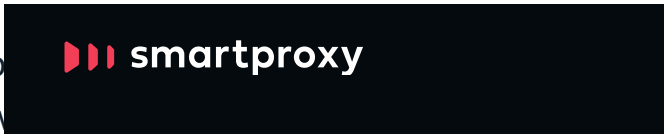


Websites also use cookies to help and identify your IP address by placing them in your browser. Of all the online fingerprints you leave behind when you browse the internet, your IP address is the most valuable, as it can pinpoint your exact geographical location. This way, search engines can provide localized results, and **websites can geo-block content based on your location.**

So, if you need online anonymity, or you want to unlock content from another country, you can [try a paid datacenter proxy service](#) to help mask your IP address. The trouble is, websites are getting more aware of this, and will often block datacenter proxies. There is a way though – if you're tired of being flagged while using datacenter proxies, **residential proxies offer an effective way around this problem.**

What are residential proxies and why use them?





Residential proxies offer IP addresses that are coming from real people, making them all but impossible to ban. This allows you to use a real address, work around geo-blocked content or scrape and harvest data from around the web. Buy residential proxies from reliable providers only, and avoid free proxies if possible.

Smartproxy offers a rotating residential proxy service that **constantly rotates and updates the IP you're hiding behind**, making it a more effective way to improve your online privacy, security, and safety. Smartproxy makes sure to **secure communications and transactions by supporting an HTTPs protocol**. Smartproxy residential rotating proxies also give you access to a pool of more than 40 million proxies which alternate with each new request, or sticky IP sessions to keep your sessions for up to ten minutes. This way very few, if any, websites will be able to track you. Unlike free proxy services, which are usually slow and unreliable, Smartproxy offers residential proxies with an **unlimited number of connections, threads, and countries at once**. Even so, there'll be a solution to suit both your needs and your budget, as our pricing model is based on traffic usage.

Are residential proxies better than datacenter proxies

In short, the answer is yes – and there are a few reasons why you should choose rotating residential proxies over datacenter proxies.



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