

## Public IP Address

Author:

[www.freespeech.co.uk](http://www.freespeech.co.uk)

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Every device on the Internet must have an IP address (this is what they need to find one another). For devices to communicate directly across the Internet they need a public IP address. Therefore **A public IP address is an IP address that can be 'found' by any device on the Internet.** A public IP address is **unique** on the Internet.

Alternatively there are **private IP addresses** which are used on private networks (for example your home or office network). If an IP address is in the following range, then it is a private IP.

From 10.0.0.0 to 10.255.255.255

From 172.16.0.0 to 172.31.255.255

From 192.168.0.0 to 192.168.255.255

Private IP address can **not** be used directly on the Internet and need a NAT to translate them to a public IP address. This NAT translation is troublesome for VoIP.