

# VPN TEST 2024

## VPN Testing and Certification by AV-TEST

Date of the test report: May 22nd, 2025 (version 1.00)

### Kaspersky Premium



## Executive Summary

AV-TEST carried out a detailed evaluation of the VPN feature in Kaspersky Premium, version 21.19.7.527 (a) for Windows and version 11.118.4.12890 for Android, in November 2024. The review emphasized performance and security, simulating typical online activities in an era that values privacy and data protection. The testing process measured connection stability, data throughput, encryption effectiveness, and user anonymity.

The analysis factored in both local and remote (overseas) server locations, as well as torrent usage. Findings indicate that Kaspersky Premium provides stable connections, robust encryption, and effective defences against data leaks. The product supports 89 countries with 110 server locations and includes an automatic kill switch for Windows and Android platforms. Payment and subscription specifics shift by region, and a no-logging policy underpins user activity privacy. The performance tests reflected real-world use patterns, mirroring past approaches to ensure an accurate sense of daily VPN usage and experience.

Local tests showed strong torrent throughput, respectable upload/download rates, and consistently fast response for routine activities. Even in distant scenarios, Kaspersky Premium maintained practical speeds and response times, allowing for the streaming of region-locked material and transferring substantial files without notable slowdowns. The product guards personal data and remains user-friendly for novices and power users alike.

Overall, Kaspersky Premium meets high benchmarks for protection and convenience. It performs admirably for routine internet tasks while preserving a stringent encryption scheme. These latest findings reinforce its standing as a dependable solution for individuals needing a secure VPN.

### Key Findings:

Kaspersky Premium delivered strong results across a range of performance tests, establishing itself as a robust solution in the VPN market. The service offers fast connection speeds, advanced encryption, and comprehensive privacy protection, making it an attractive option for users who prioritize online security. The VPN in Kaspersky Premium is designed to work with the full protection engine active, maintaining the integrity of the overall security environment.

1. **Connection Quality and Speed:** Testing revealed that Kaspersky Premium consistently maintains robust connection stability and high-speed performance, facilitating uninterrupted online activities. The service ensures smooth performance for everyday Browse and real-time tasks.
  - a. In local scenarios, torrent download speeds approached those of an unprotected reference system, with minimal additional latency.
  - b. Overseas evaluations showed moderate decreases in download and upload speeds, which is expected when connecting to servers located far from the user's physical location. While latency slightly increased, it remained within a range that allowed for voice and video calls and other real-time tasks.
2. **Advanced Encryption:** Kaspersky Premium uses top-tier encryption methods, including 256-bit AES encryption for Catapult Hydra and OpenVPN protocols, and chacha20-poly1305 for WireGuard, ensuring user data remains secure against cyberthreats. This high level of encryption is essential for users who manage sensitive information online.

3. **Privacy Protection:** The service is effective in concealing users' IP addresses, significantly reducing the risk of tracking and bolstering anonymity on the internet. It includes protection designed to prevent leaks, as confirmed by DNS and IP leak testing.
  - a. The kill switch responded immediately on Windows and Android, reducing the possibility of accidental data exposure if the VPN connection dropped.
  - b. Kaspersky Premium offers automatic protection for unprotected Wi-Fi networks, ensuring user data stays safe in vulnerable environments. Simultaneously, split tunneling allows users to route only selected apps or data streams through the VPN, providing more granular control over traffic management.
  - c. Kaspersky Premium's privacy policy affirms that personal connection data is not recorded, and a separate transparency report notes zero data shared during the last published period.
4. **The product's feature set** is designed to meet a wide range of user needs and usage scenarios, including streaming, torrenting, and gaming, where performance, speed, and selective routing often play a critical role.
5. **The service supports** multiple platforms, including Windows, macOS, iOS, and Android – as well as Linux, AndroidTV, FireTV and VPN-compatible routers (via manual setup using OpenVPN or WireGuard).

Kaspersky Premium's VPN excels in speed, encryption, and privacy. Fast connections, powerful data protection, and comprehensive privacy practices make it appealing for those seeking a secure online experience.

Meeting all certification criteria, Kaspersky Premium with Virtual Private Network Feature has got the "Approved" certification badge:



The certification of Kaspersky Premium complements the long-standing track record of Kaspersky VPN Secure Connection's regular evaluations by AV-TEST.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>

2020: <https://www.av-test.org/en/news/6-vpn-packages-put-to-the-test-under-windows-10/>

2021: <https://www.av-test.org/en/news/vpn-packages-for-private-users-put-to-the-test-under-windows-10/>

2022: <https://www.av-test.org/en/news/vpn-packages-put-to-the-test-more-security-and-anonymous-paths/>

2022: [https://www.av-test.org/fileadmin/pdf/reports/AV-TEST\\_Kaspersky\\_VPN\\_Test\\_Report\\_December\\_2022.pdf](https://www.av-test.org/fileadmin/pdf/reports/AV-TEST_Kaspersky_VPN_Test_Report_December_2022.pdf)

2023: <https://www.av-test.org/en/news/kaspersky-vpn-test-report-2023/>

2024: [https://www.av-test.org/fileadmin/pdf/reports/AV-TEST\\_Kaspersky\\_VPN\\_Test\\_Report\\_December\\_2024.pdf](https://www.av-test.org/fileadmin/pdf/reports/AV-TEST_Kaspersky_VPN_Test_Report_December_2024.pdf)

## Virtual Private Networks (VPNs)

Virtual Private Networks, known widely as VPNs, are crucial for enhancing online security and ensuring the privacy of internet users. They establish a protected, encrypted channel for data to traverse the internet, which is a necessity for making sensitive info unreadable for intruders and for concealing users' identities. VPNs act as a shield for secure communication, essential for both personal and corporate use, to prevent unauthorized access to private networks and to keep data confidential.

The primary function of VPNs is to secure data through encryption, making it difficult for cybercriminals to capture and decrypt information in transit. They also hide users' IP addresses, which adds a layer of anonymity and shields personal details including user's geo-location. VPNs are also valuable for bypassing regional restrictions on content, which can be advantageous for personal entertainment and professional tasks. In business scenarios, they enable secure remote network access, allowing employees to work from anywhere without compromising company data and security.

## Kaspersky Premium with built-in VPN

The Kaspersky Premium with built-in VPN offers encrypted internet access while keeping user data secure. An evaluation in November 2024 confirmed its adherence to essential VPN requirements, including robust encryption, effective leak protection, and consistent performance across both local and international servers.

For Windows, macOS, Android, and iOS, users have the option to choose between WireGuard and Hydra protocols. The product offers OpenVPN protocol support on Linux, Chrome OS, Android and Fire TV and routers. All platforms utilize AES-256 encryption, a widely recognized industry standard for its robust security. Additionally, the product maintains user anonymity through a strict no-logging policy, ensuring that user traffic is not recorded.

Payment options (credit cards, bank transfers, and so forth) and policies vary by region, though trial periods and money-back guarantees are available worldwide. A 7 or 15-day trial period is available depending on the region, and there is a 30-day money-back guarantee. Licensing is available for between one and ten devices depending on the country.

A key security measure is the kill switch, which automatically stops data transfers if the VPN connection fails. Testing showed no instances of potential data exposure when this feature was active. Additionally, DNS and IP leak checks performed on Windows and Android confirmed that user information remained protected even when the network connection was interrupted.

The Kaspersky Premium with built-in VPN maintains a global server network spanning 89 countries and 110 server locations. This extensive network helps users access geo-restricted content and major streaming services. The user interface is straightforward, enabling new users to easily switch servers, while more experienced users can adjust protocols and choose specific endpoints.

## Introduction

This report examines the performance and privacy protection capabilities of Kaspersky Premium with built-in VPN in 2024. It analyzes the product's effectiveness in safeguarding users within an increasingly complex digital environment. As cyber threats continue to evolve, virtual private networks have become essential for protecting digital identities and sensitive information.

The test program simulated various real-world usage scenarios across multiple platforms and network conditions. Our evaluation included comprehensive assessments of typical Browse activities, file-sharing, and situations involving network connectivity interruptions. These tests rigorously examined the VPN's core capabilities: maintaining consistent encryption, preventing data leaks, and delivering reliable performance.

By testing the VPN under conditions that reflect authentic user experiences, the aim is to provide a transparent assessment of its capabilities. This assessment helps users make informed decisions regarding their online privacy and security strategies.

## Coverage Assessment

The analysis concentrated on the effectiveness of VPN functionality in Kaspersky Premium across three global regions: Asia (Japan), Europe (Netherlands), and the United States (East Coast). The objective was to determine if the product could provide stable connections, strong encryption, and effective privacy measures in different geographical locations. Testers specifically checked for DNS leak prevention, WebRTC leak protection, and torrent speeds.

Data was gathered by comparing the product's speeds against a reference system without a VPN. This method ensured that any reduction in speed was attributable solely to the VPN itself, rather than to the tester's network or hardware. Tests were repeated daily during a week to account for any variations that might arise from server congestion or other external factors.

## Quality of Protection Assessment

The protective layers of VPN functionality included in Kaspersky Premium include robust encryption, defences against IP and DNS data leaks, and a kill switch that blocks traffic if the VPN connection is lost. Even during intentional network disruptions, the service consistently concealed the user's real IP address.

Encryption relies on 256-bit AES, which is recognized as a dependable cipher. Users can choose among Hydra, WireGuard, or OpenVPN protocols, allowing them to balance speed with security based on their priorities. DNS checks confirmed that the product successfully masks the user's internet provider information. Kill switch trials involved simulating various issues such as cutting off the router and deactivating WAN. In every instance, traffic was successfully halted until the VPN tunnel was securely re-established.

## Test Results of Kaspersky Premium VPN Features

### Review of Key Features

Kaspersky Premium's VPN includes convenient options like automatic reconnection after a system reboot and the ability to maintain the previous connection settings. For specific scenarios, features such as Double VPN, Streaming, Torrenting, and Gaming Support are available. The service offers a 30-day free trial and a 30-day money-back guarantee. Licensing can cover 1, 3, 5, 10, or 20 devices per subscription, which can be useful for individuals, families, or small office environments.

Kaspersky Premium integrates the complete security engine with VPN tested and optimized to run seamlessly alongside — delivering maximum threat detection and prevention.

Payment methods vary based on regional specifics; some regions support credit cards or bank transfers, while others may have different payment options or purchasing restrictions. Kaspersky Premium VPN supports a range of platforms, including Windows (versions 8, 10, 11), macOS, iOS, and Android. It was noted that purchases are currently unavailable in the United States.

### Usability

During the evaluation, Kaspersky Premium's VPN demonstrated a straightforward installation and configuration process. Manual setup is possible for routers and open-source VPN tools. The interface features a clear design, allowing users to easily select server locations for various activities, including streaming, torrenting, and gaming. Additional functionalities like split tunnelling enable users to exclude specific applications or data traffic from the VPN tunnel, which is beneficial when a direct local connection is preferred for certain tasks.

### Security

DNS leak checks performed on both Windows and Android revealed no exposures, even when the kill switch was intentionally triggered during stress tests. The kill switch itself functioned effectively, blocking all traffic the moment the VPN session disconnected and restoring it promptly once a secure tunnel was re-established.

Tests conducted with torrenting confirmed that the user's real location remained hidden, which is advantageous for those engaging in peer-to-peer file sharing. Email leak checks on Windows and Android further indicated that user IP details did not become visible.

### Privacy

Kaspersky states that it does not log any personal connection data that passes through the VPN tunnel. Any data that is collected, such as device information or software usage patterns, is retained only for as long as necessary. The company's official policies indicate compliance with local laws regarding data handling. The encryption employed across the service is AES-256. It should be noted that ads and trackers are not blocked by default, as the primary focus of the service remains on encryption and IP protection.



## Transparency

Kaspersky maintains a practice of sharing data about government requests and overall security measures through regular transparency updates.

Kaspersky asserts its adherence to all relevant legal frameworks. If expressly required by law, Kaspersky informs users about their data processing rights<sup>2</sup>. Furthermore, Kaspersky has introduced and supports the Global Transparency Initiative and regularly publishes updates<sup>3</sup>. Even in situations where applicable law does not mandate the provision of certain warranties and rights, Kaspersky states it consistently adheres to the highest standards of data processing<sup>4</sup>.

The most recent report (H1 2024) indicated no data disclosures during that period. Earlier reports are available on Kaspersky's transparency centre website, providing a broader view of how frequently such requests occur.

Past audit efforts have focused on Kaspersky's general operational environment and internal controls, rather than the VPN product in isolation. The company has completed periodic SOC 2 audits, with the latest covering August 2023 to July 2024, confirming that its operational and security controls align with accepted standards. No critical issues were found during this period. Previous reviews in 2019 and 2023 also examined security practices, though these assessments primarily addressed the organization's wider processes, not specifically the VPN.

Kaspersky has chosen not to use a warrant canary for its VPN service. Instead, the company stresses a robust approach to legal requests, verifying each for legitimacy under the laws of the applicable jurisdiction. This method is consistent with Kaspersky's stated objective of safeguarding user data whenever possible while still adhering to legal obligations.

Kaspersky's transparency measures are part of its broader Global Transparency Initiative. While these efforts do not exclusively centre on the VPN, they demonstrate the company's overall dedication to consistent handling of user data. Individuals can refer to Kaspersky's public transparency materials for more details on data sharing, security testing, and corporate processes that could affect the VPN's reliability and trustworthiness.

## Service Accessibility

Kaspersky Premium's VPN offers a global network that includes servers in 89 countries, with a total of 110 server locations. Torrenting is supported, and the service assists in bypassing geo-restrictions, including Netflix in specific regions. User support is provided through chat, forums, and direct contact with the company. Automatic Wi-Fi protection is available, which activates the VPN when an unsecured network is detected, improving safety on public hotspots.

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.kaspersky.com/vpn-secure-connection-transparency-security>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.kaspersky.com/transparency-center#QA>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.kaspersky.com/about/transparency>

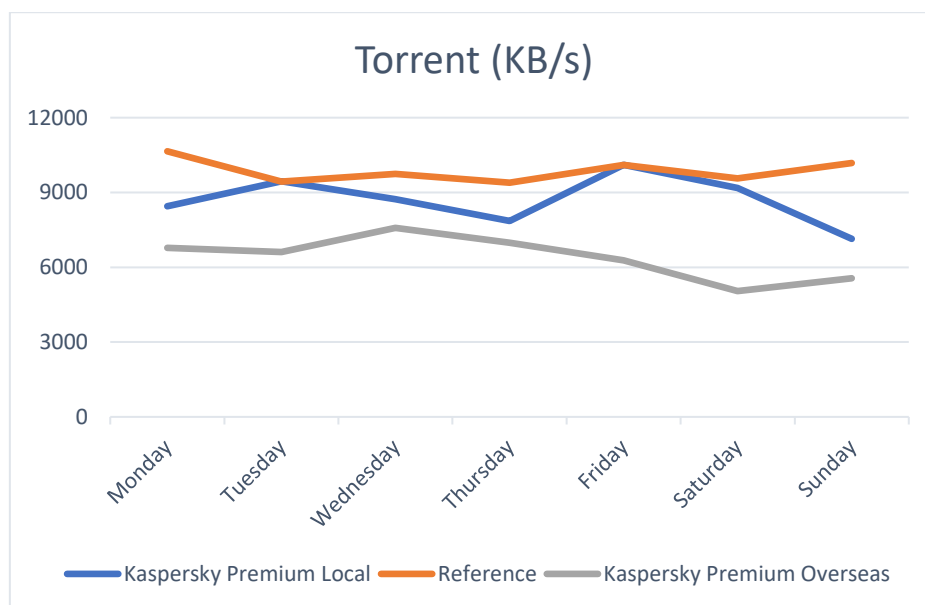
## Review of Key Performances

The VPN performance of Kaspersky Premium was tested under local and overseas conditions. The goal was to measure how encryption affects standard activities like torrenting, file up- and downloads, and everyday browsing. The tests used reference speeds as a benchmark, ensuring that any slowdowns could be attributed to the VPN.

### Torrent Performance

The performance test measured torrent download speeds for Kaspersky Premium's VPN across local and international servers in Asia, Europe, and the United States. By connecting to the nearest available server, the study found consistent download speeds across different regions, suggesting the VPN maintains reliable performance without significant speed degradation.

Kaspersky Premium's VPN showed strong file transfer results, keeping torrent speeds close to the unprotected baseline. Although overseas links caused predictable decrease in throughput, the service still maintained sufficient capacity for handling large files. This consistency lets users download data with minimal reductions in speed.



*Figure 1: Torrent Performance - Kaspersky Premium vs. Reference. This graph provides a analysis of Torrent performance by comparing Kaspersky Premium with the reference measures in both local and overseas geographical contexts.*



## Local Performances

Kaspersky Premium's VPN performance metrics for 2024 underwent systematic assessment through measurement of regional download rates, upload capacity, and Latency. Tests concentrated on connection stability and practical application support for activities including file transfers, web navigation, and online gaming. The following analysis presents critical findings from these proximity-based evaluations, with particular attention to consistent speed maintenance and system responsiveness when compared against baseline unprotected configurations.

Local latency rates went up just a bit compared to regular connections, so voice chats, games, and instant tasks should work without issues.

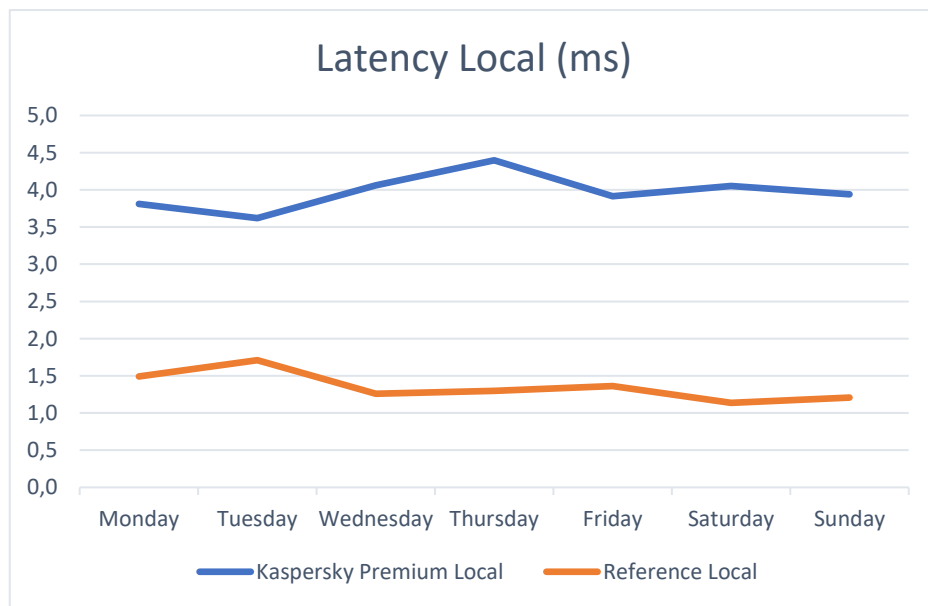
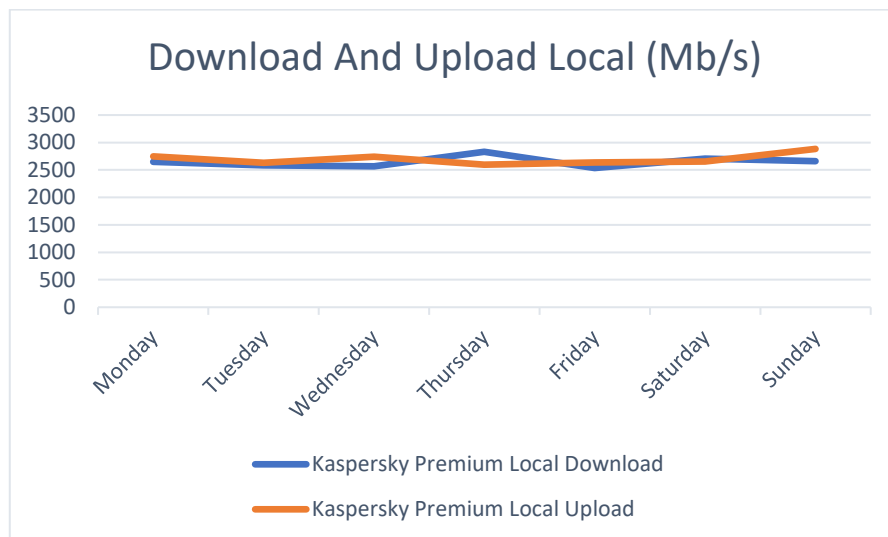


Figure 2: Local Latency - Kaspersky Premium vs. Reference. Presents an analysis of latency performance in a local geographical context, comparing Kaspersky Premium with the reference measures.

Throughout the test week, both the download and upload speeds consistently reached 2600+ Mbps, irrespective of the day or direct connection fluctuations, with performance ultimately constrained by the VPN tunneling bandwidth.



*Figure 3: Local Upload and Download Speeds - Showcases the upload and download speeds achieved with Kaspersky Premium in a local geographical context.*

## Overseas Performances

Kaspersky Premium's VPN tests across different regions showed steady results, giving a clear picture of how it works with far-away servers. Speeds decreased somewhat over longer distances, as expected, but downloads and uploads stayed fast enough for normal use, and torrent rates remained good enough for daily needs. Delay times expectedly grew with distance but stayed low enough for common online tasks like voice chats and moving files.

This section examines how the VPN performed in different global locations, considering any changes from local performance.

Latency increased in line with server distance but generally stayed within tolerable bounds for activities like video conferencing and other real-time interactions.

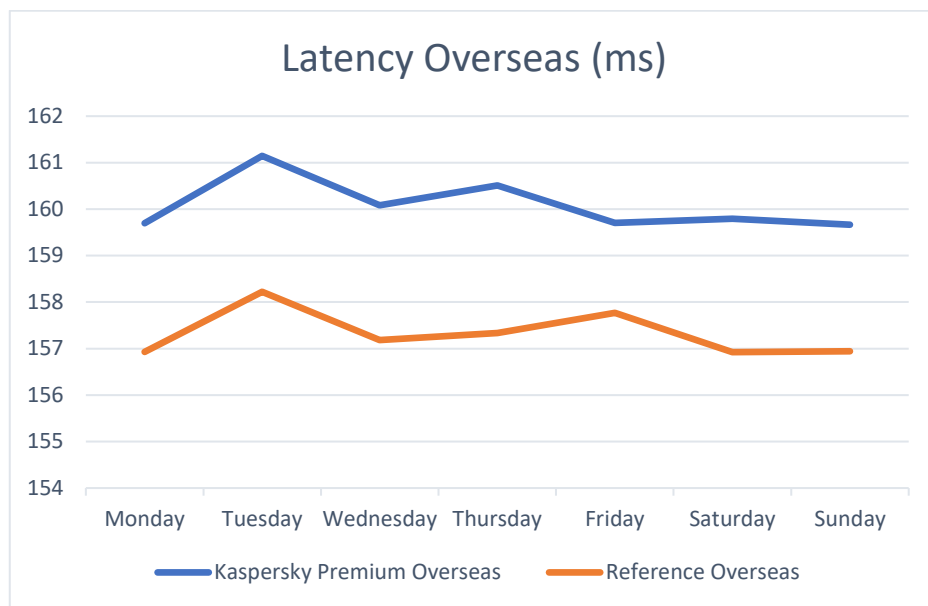


Figure 4: Overseas Latency - Kaspersky Premium vs. Reference. Analyzes latency performance in overseas geographical contexts, comparing Kaspersky Premium with the reference measures.

Throughout the test week, the download speed consistently reached 1380+ Mbps, independent of the day or direct connection fluctuations, while the upload speed averaged a stable 550 Mbps.

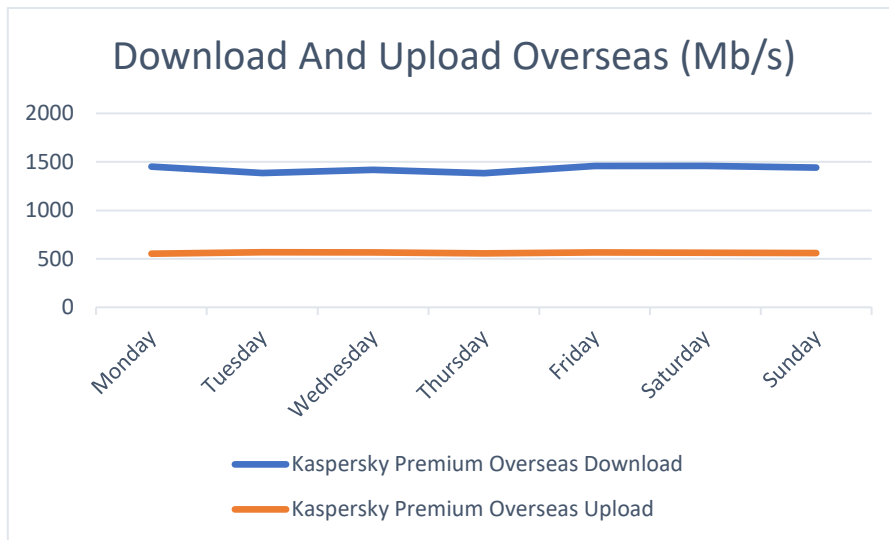


Figure 5: Upload and Download Speeds - Showcases the upload and download speeds achieved with Kaspersky Premium in an overseas geographical context.

## Overall

The 2024 performance assessments for Kaspersky Premium's VPN demonstrated consistent and robust results across both regional and long-distance connections.

Users situated geographically close to their chosen servers observed torrent download speeds nearly matching original baseline levels, with minimal increases in connection delay. Even when connecting across continents, speed reductions remained moderate and did not impede typical online operations.

Kaspersky Premium's VPN maintained reliable and unbroken connections and effectively secured user information throughout all evaluations. This confirms its capability to support a variety of daily online activities, from transferring files and streaming content to remote work and secure Browse, with negligible performance impact.

## Test Results Summary

Kaspersky Premium's VPN was assessed across various operational environments, including both local and long-distance server connections. The VPN functionality showcased strong capabilities, such as automatic reconnection, a range of payment options (though with some regional restrictions), and a kill switch confirmed to function on both Windows and Android platforms. Throughout the testing, DNS and IP leak prevention remained stable, and the service's commitment to a no-logging policy was upheld.

During local evaluations, torrent speeds closely approached baseline reference levels. Slight increases in connection latency and moderate reductions in download rates were observed, which are typical for encrypted connections and are not anticipated to interfere with regular daily usage.

When tested with international connections, Kaspersky Premium's VPN continued to perform effectively for file sharing activities. As expected over greater distances, both latency and bandwidth experienced decreases. Nevertheless, the service remained suitable for streaming media and downloading data without significant interruption.

In summary, Kaspersky Premium presents itself as a dependable VPN choice, offering a good balance of security, privacy, performance and identity protection. The overhead from encryption does not noticeably slow down common online tasks, and the combination of a quick-acting kill switch with strong leak protection helps build user confidence. The VPN depends on the full protection engine being active, ensuring that all security components function together without gaps..

Kaspersky Premium received an "Approved" certification from AV-TEST for 2024 for its Virtual Private Network Feature, demonstrating its consistent results and straightforward user experience. The certification of Kaspersky Premium complements the long-standing track record of Kaspersky VPN Secure Connection's regular evaluations by AV-TEST.<sup>5</sup>:



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2020: <https://www.av-test.org/en/news/6-vpn-packages-put-to-the-test-under-windows-10/>

2021: <https://www.av-test.org/en/news/vpn-packages-for-private-users-put-to-the-test-under-windows-10/>

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2022: [https://www.av-test.org/fileadmin/pdf/reports/AV-TEST\\_Kaspersky\\_VPN\\_Test\\_Report\\_December\\_2022.pdf](https://www.av-test.org/fileadmin/pdf/reports/AV-TEST_Kaspersky_VPN_Test_Report_December_2022.pdf)

2023: <https://www.av-test.org/en/news/kaspersky-vpn-test-report-2023/>

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