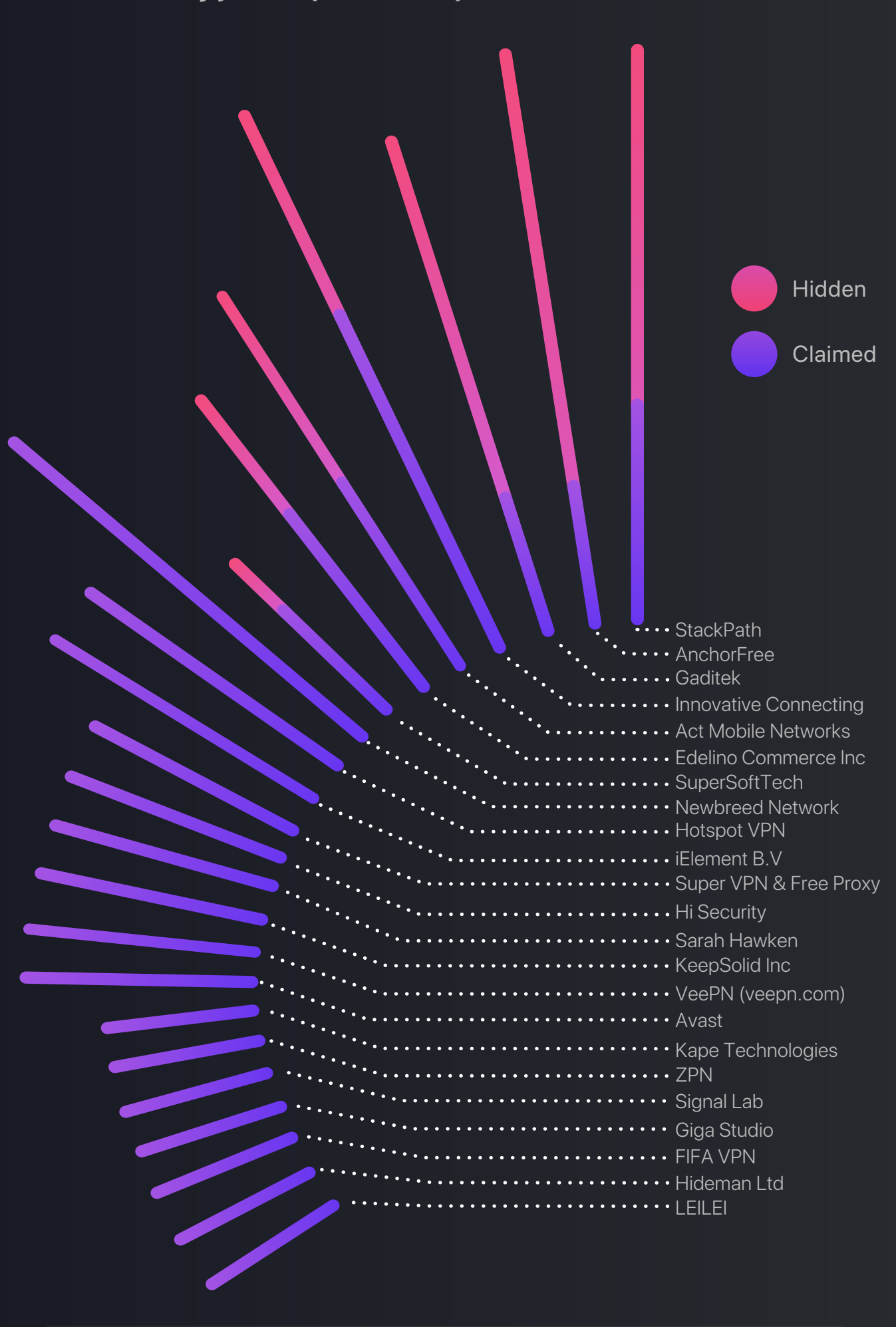
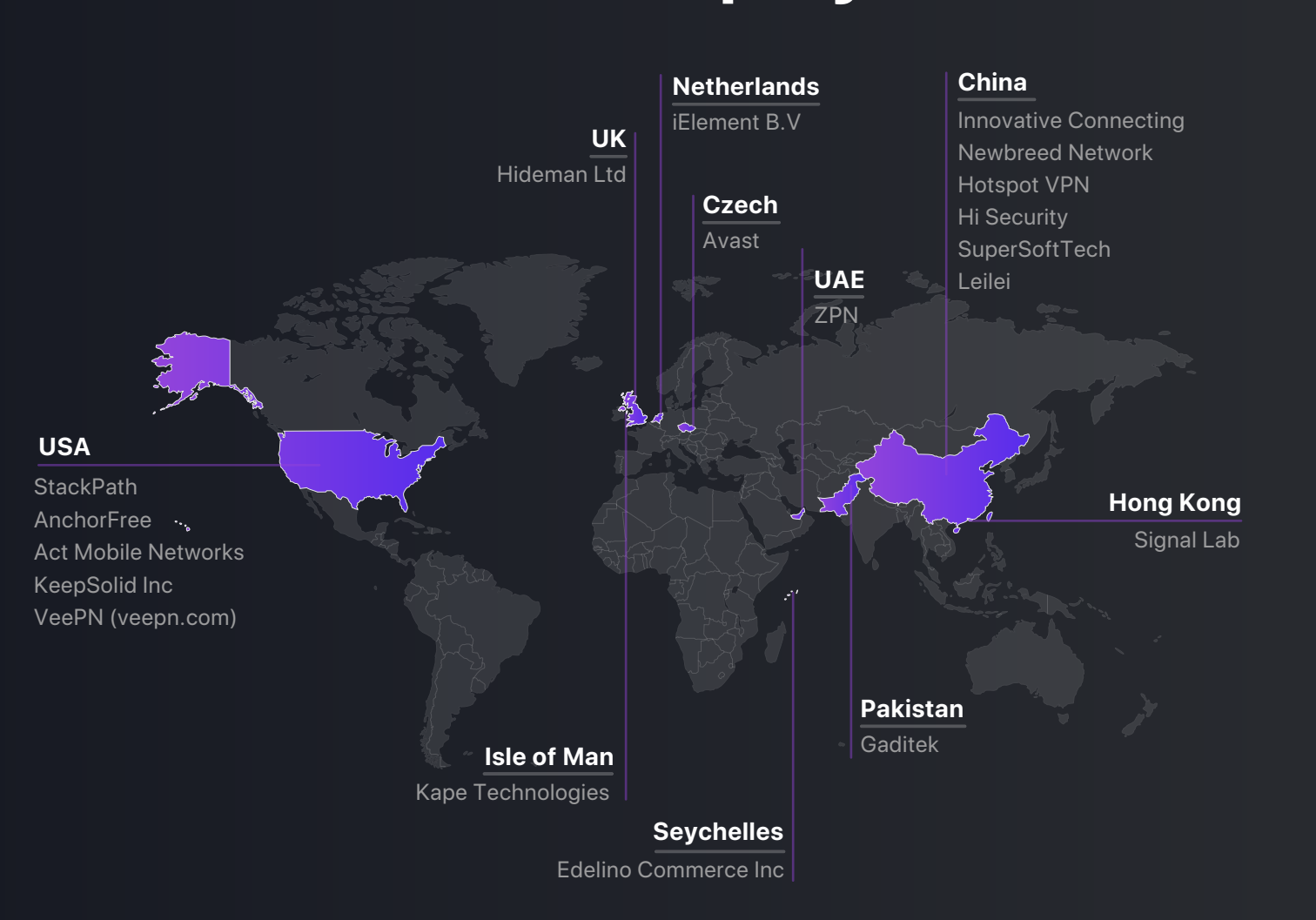
VPNpro

The few behind the many: hidden VPN owners unveiled

VPN products that appear to be separate are all actually run by the same handful of companies. Even more, they're based in locations that aren't always privacy-friendly. Our research showed that **at least 97 VPN products are run by just 23 parent companies.**



VPN Parent Company Location



Unknown

Giga Studio
Super VPN & Free Proxy
FIFA VPN
Sarah Hawken

China

One of the most repressive, surveillance-hungry nations with strict data retention laws. Having a VPN based in or connected to this country means your data is probably in the government's hands.

- China is a world leader in cyber spying
- Sponsors cyber attacks on foreign officials
- Government can ask for encryption keys, data, etc.

Chinese Parent Companies:

Innovative Connecting
- TurboVPN
- VPN Master
- VPN Proxy Master
- VPN Proxy Master Lite
- VPN Sofast

ALL Connected
- Freenet VPN

Autumn Breeze 2018
- VPN Monster
- HOT VPN

Lemon Clove
- Snap VPN
- VPN Robot

SuperSoftTech

FuryWeb Tech
- LinkVPN

SuperSoftTech
- SuperVPN
- VPN Payment

Newbreed Network
- VPN Green
- SGreen
- MasterVPN
- NodeVPN
- TXVPN
- AirGO Fast

Hotspot VPN
- Free VPN
- Hotspot VPN
- Secure VPN
- Easy VPN

Hi Security
- Hi VPN Free
- Net Master
- Hi VPN Pro

LEILEI
- Yunfan VPN
- Bit VPN

USA

Founding member of the 5 Eyes alliance, the US is a major surveillance state. VPNs based in this country must comply with government requests for user data.

- NSA invests heavily in back door encryption
- FBI can access any data by secret subpoenas (NSLs)

American Parent Companies:

StackPath
- IPVanish
- StrongVPN
- Encrypt.me

via CEO
- netDNA
- Secured Connectivity

NetProtect Ltd
- Unblock.us
- NetProtect VPN

WLVPN
- VPNHub
- Namecheap VPN
- Overplay VPN

Act Mobile Networks

Act Mobile Networks
- DashVPN
- VPN On
- Dash Net

Free VPN LLC
- USA Wifi VPN
- Free VPN
- VPN Pro

AnchorFree
- Hotspot Shield Free
- Hotspot Shield Basic

JustVPN
- JustVPN

TouchVPN
- Touch VPN
- VPN 360
- VeePee VPN Proxy

Betternet
- VPN Free
- VPN in Touch
- Hexatech
- VPN Pro

VeePN veepn.com
- Fast VPN
- Super VPN
- Unlimited VPN

KeepSolid Inc
- VPN Lite
- KeepSolid
- Business VPN

Pakistan

Pakistan's 2016 cyber-crime law has been called "the worst piece of cyber-crime legislation in the world."

- Government can access any data without a warrant
- Data can be freely handed over to foreign institutions

Pakistani Parent Company:

Gaditek

GZ Systems Ltd
- PureVPN (Android)
- PureVPN (Android TV)

OneVPN.com
- OneVPN

Disrupt
- Unblock

Ivacy Limited
- Ivacy VPN
- Ivacy VPN TV
- Ivacy Lite

Seychelles

Seychelles is the kind of country where no VPN is actually based, but they are registered there for all its privacy-friendlvy laws and low taxes. This makes it a good place for a VPN to be registered.

- There are no mandatory data retention laws in Seychelles

Seychelles Parent Company:

Edelino Commerce Inc

VPNservicesProvider
- BoxPN
- Anonine
- VPNTunnel

Edelino Commerce
- Easy Hide IP VPN
- FrootVPN

Czech

The Czech Republic is moderately safe when it comes to personal data protections. It is subject to the GDPR,which is enacted by all eurozone members, and has no mandatory data retention laws.

Czech Parent Company:

Avast
- VPN SecureLine by Avast
- HideMyAss
- AVG Secure VPN

Netherlands

The Netherlands is a moderately safe country when it comes to personal data protections. It is subject to the GDPR, which is enacted by all eurozone members, and has no mandatory data retention laws.

Dutch Parent Company:

iElement B.V.
- b.VPN
- VPN WASEL
- iWASEL
- (iOS)بروكسي واصل لفتح المواقع

Isle of Man

Although not part of the EU, the Isle of Man has enacted data laws in line with the EU's GDPR. This makes it a good location to base a VPN.

Isle of Man Parent Company:

Kape Technologies
- CyberGhost VPN
- ZenMate VPN

UAE

United Arab Emirates is a moderately safe country when it comes to personal data protections. There are no mandatory data retention laws in the UAE.

- VPNs are banned for "criminal" usage, with heavy fines or jail time

UAE Parent Company:

ZPN
- VPN Easy
- Free VPN

Hong Kong

Hong Kong is exempt from mainland China's laws and regulations. There are no mandatory data retention laws in Hong Kong. However, its proximity and relationship to mainland China is often worrying.

Hong Kong Parent Company:

Signal Lab
- Secure VPN
- Thunder VPN

UK

One of the founding members of the 5 Eyes alliance, the UK is perhaps worse than the US for its surveillance laws since passing the Snooper's Charter. Having a VPN based in the UK is not optimal.

- Gives law enforcement strong surveillance power without warrant
- Forces ISPs to keep user browsing records for 1 year
- Allows authorities to hack into computers or devices

British Parent Company:

Hideman Ltd
- Hideman
- Hideman Free

Unknown

These VPN parent companies have no clear information about where they are based. It is very rare for VPN companies to not provide information about their company location. Since they could be based anywhere – including the UK, China, Russia, or worse – this is not optimal.

Unknown Parent Companies:

Super VPN & Free Proxy
- Unblock
- Super Unblock
- Security

Giga Studio
- Melon VPN
- VPN Bottle

Sarah Hawken
- Yoga VPN
- VPN Lighter
- Bestline VPN

FIFA VPN
- VPN Express
- VPN Earth