

Claim LucidTalk can see through VPNs challenged by Ulster expert

An expert on cyber security has cast doubt on LucidTalk chief Bill White's claims that he can detect where people are based even if they are using a VPN.

The comments stemmed from 'The Nolan Show' yesterday, when Mr White stressed that he only accepts a certain number of responses from each geographic area, to make sure the results are reflective of the society as a whole.

Mr Nolan asked how he can know "people are telling you the truth" when they give their location, since these days "the IP address could very, easily be distorted with a VPN".

Mr White replied; "No, no, that's not right Stephen ... you



Bill White

can actually trace, Stephen, where a response roughly comes from – quite rightly not down to a precise area, but you can say they're from south Ar-

magh or they're from north Down or south Belfast."

Kevin Curran, professor of cyber security at Ulster University, said: "A properly configured VPN will hide a person's true location. The only IP address a site such as LucidTalk would see is the actual IP address of the VPN.

"There can of course be cases where a poorly configured VPN drops the connection, and therefore leaves the true IP address visible but this should not happen in the vast majority of cases ...

"I would dispute LucidTalk's claim that they can identify the true location of users who use a VPN."

