

Re: Is it possible to establish a VPN for road warriors using XP home and a machine running win2000 pro

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*Source:*

[http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.network\\_web/2007-08/msg00419.html](http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.network_web/2007-08/msg00419.html)

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- *From:* Jeff VA <jcvanallen@xxxxxxxx>
  - *Date:* Thu, 23 Aug 2007 16:44:41 -0700
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On Aug 23, 8:42 am, Jeff VA <jcvanal...@xxxxxxxx> wrote:

On Aug 23, 8:06 am, "Sooner AI [MVP]" <Soone...@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

"Jeff VA" <jcvanal...@xxxxxxxx> wrote in message

[news:1187830779.883097.101390@xx](mailto:news:1187830779.883097.101390@xx)

Hi,

I work for a small company that has a number of field technicians and a small central office. The field technicians use laptops running windows xp home edition. Most of the technicians connect to the internet via wireless connections (D-Link DI-524's being the most popular at the moment) The computer in the office is a Dell Precision 650 running Windows 2000 Professional.

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Is it possible to establish a VPN using this equipment /  
operating  
systems?

I've attempted to connect using the "Incoming Connections"  
in 2000 and  
the "Connect to a network at my workplace" option in the  
New  
Connection Wizard (XP Home). (If so I've just got  
something  
misconfigured) When I try to connect, the process stalls for  
several  
minutes at the "Verifying user name and password" dialog,  
then  
eventually reports "Error:721 the remote computer did not  
respond..."

I understand that XP Home isn't designed to authenticate  
against a  
domain, but would that cause this error?

If that option isn't workable, can Open VPN be used to  
establish the  
connection? I don't understand the difference well between  
the two  
technologies, but if OpenVPN uses ca certificates for  
authentication,  
would that circumvent the issue of trying to get XP Home to  
log in to  
the "server".

Thanks in advance,

Remember you need TCP Port 1723 open on any firewall between the server  
PC  
and the client. Also the firewall must pass GRE Protocol 47 traffic. You can  
test that using the tests detailed in the PPTP Ping and VPN Traffic sections  
on this page...

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<http://www.microsoft.com/technet/community/columns/cableguy/cg0105.mspx>

You could use OpenVPN as an alternative. I had it running on a XP Pro box (server) and an XP Pro (client).

What do the field techs need to access through the VPN? Ie. shared files or actual desktops, etc? Secure Shell (SSH) may also be an alternative...

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Al Jarvi (MS-MVP Windows Networking)

Please post *\*ALL\** questions and replies to the news group for the mutual benefit of all of us...

The MS-MVP Program –<http://mvp.support.microsoft.com>

This posting is provided "AS IS" with no warranties, and confers no rights...

Al,

Thanks for the reply, I'll work through the testing as outlined on the page you sent. As it happens, we're "Cable Guys", we build/maintain fiber/coax cable systems. The techs need to be able to access a couple of Access databases, and shared excel workbooks. Emailing multiple copies of the same workbooks back and forth has led to confusion and missed billing. I'm trying to eliminate the confusion.

I'll follow up once I've worked through the "testing network paths" instructions.

Thanks for now

Thanks again for the guidance, I've made good progress to date, but some work left to do....

The following was completed with an XP home laptop and the Win 2000 Pro server operating within the same LAN...

After reading through the Cable Guy article on testing network paths, I downloaded the Windows XP Service Pack 2 Support Tools from

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<http://www.microsoft.com/downloads/details.aspx?amp;displaylang=en&familyid=49ae8576-9bb9-4126-9761-ba80>

Since the tools won't install on Windows 2000 Pro, I installed them on the XP home machine and then copied the pptpsrv executable over to the server.

On the server I navigated to Control Panel => Administrative Tools => Services and disabled the "Routing and Remote Access Service"

I then started the pptpsrv tool on the server, and ran the pptpclnt tool on the laptop. The tools showed that I had good communication on port 1723, but the server didn't receive any GRE traffic.

After realizing that protocol 47 is NOT the same as Port 47, I navigated to the VPN section of the D-Link support page and found out how to configure the router to pass this protocol...

"In Virtual Server make 1 entry for your PPTP/GRE connection. Use TCP port 1723 and forward to your MS VPN (PPTP/GRE) server. This has to be TCP (not UDP or Both). After applying settings, check Firewall section for a TCP 1723 entry and a PPTP\_GRE entry. Now connect to your WAN IP address using your MS VPN client from the WAN (this will not work from LAN using the WAN IP to loopback to LAN). "

With this done, I ran the pptpsrv and pptpclnt tools again, and both the communication on port 1723 and the GRE tests were successful..

On the laptop, I created a new connection, and can now log into the vpn from home.

I still have to figure out how to map the server shares as network drives, but that's another post.

Thanks again,

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