

Viola M2M Gateway

OpenVPN Application Note



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Revision History

07/2008 Version 0.1

09/2008 Version 0.1.2 - More detailed routing descriptions

09/2008 Version 1.0 - First official release

OpenVPN overview

This chapter describes the basics of OpenVPN.

1.1 VPN basics

VPN tunnels are secure connections between two computers on the Internet. All data in this tunnel are encrypted and therefore not visible to outsiders. This is important because Internet itself is a hostile environment.

The most typical use for VPN is to connect two separated networks together. These networks usually locate in different physical locations and are connected to a public Internet. Secure VPN connection is then formed between two hosts.

VPN setup can also be configured to have one server and multiple remote clients. This way one VPN server is configured to handle the connections from many clients. The server is located on fixed address (both IP and physical) and the clients are located on the field on large geographical area.

1.2 OpenVPN features

- Many options for authentication and encryption
- Uses only single UDP port for many remote connections
- Can be configured to use compression and traffic shaping
- Works over NAT and firewalls
- GUIs for easy configuration on different operating systems
- Client to client connectivity possible

1.3 OpenVPN on M2M Gateway

OpenVPN on M2M Gateway is designed for server-client operation. Server running on M2M Gateway is usually located in central management station and the clients are distributed to remote monitored stations.

Configuring OpenVPN server on M2M Gateway

This chapter describes how to configure OpenVPN server on Viola M2M Gateway.

2.1 Quick reference

Here are brief instructions how to set up a server. For more detailed instructions, please read the whole chapter.

- 1. Create a new certificate authority if not exist.
- 2. Create a new server key.
- 3. Create a new server configuration. Select server name and tunnel network.
- 4. If you need to configure routing, define routing parameters. See section 2.7.
- 5. Save new server configuration and start server.
- 6. Add clients to server.

2.2 Requirements

OpenVPN server requires

- Configured M2M Gateway on fixed IP address. Refer to *Viola M2M Gateway User Manual* for more information about configuring M2M Gateway.
- Web access to M2M Gateway.
- Correct date and time configuration on M2M Gateway.
- Open port in firewall for M2M Gateway (OpenVPN uses UDP 1194 by default).

2.3 OpenVPN configuration screen on M2M Gateway

Login to M2M Gateway and from the main menu go to OpenVPN configuration screen. Select *OpenVPN with certificate-based authorization* from two choices (pre-shared keys method is not described in this document). See figure 2.1 for more detailed explanation.

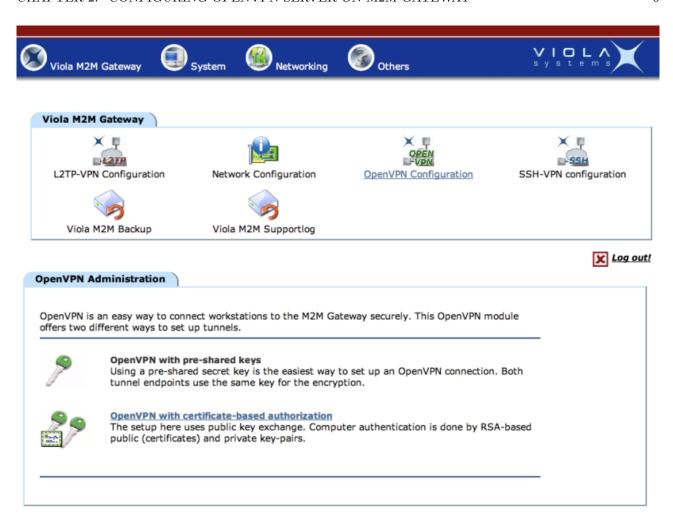


Figure 2.1: Finding OpenVPN configuration screen on M2M Gateway

OpenVPN main configuration screen is displayed on figure 2.2.

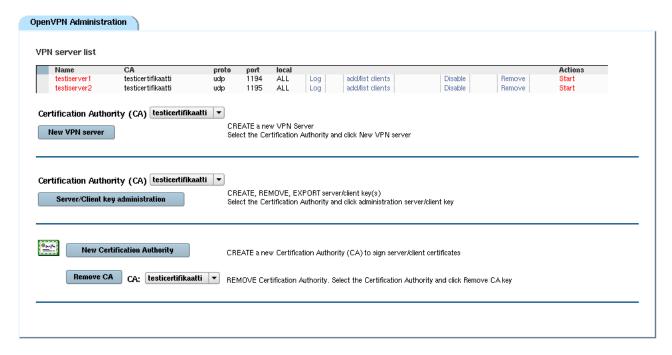


Figure 2.2: OpenVPN main configuration screen on M2M Gateway

2.4 Create new certificate authority

Each key needs a certificate authority. This certificate authority is used to create the actual keys.

From the OpenVPN configuration screen, click *New Certificate Authority* button. Configuration screen appears, see figure 2.3. Change the values to suit your preferences.

Name of Certification Authority	changeme
Key size (bit)	1024 🔻
Expiration time of Certification Authority key (days)	3650
Country Code (2 letters)	FI
Province	FI
City	Turku
Organization	My Org
Email	me@my.org

Figure 2.3: New certificate authority configuration

Note: Country and Province fields should be only two characters long upper case.

When you are ready, press Save button. The next phase takes a while to complete, so be patient. When the certificate is created, press back button on the bottom of the screen.

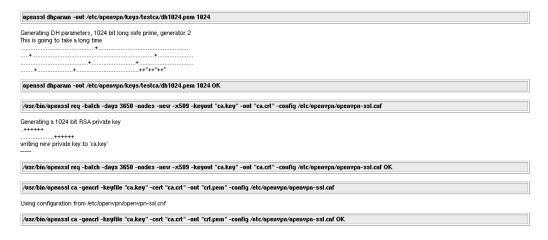


Figure 2.4: New certification authority creation

Note: Internet Explorer does not show any progress on this creation page. The text will appear only at the end of the certificate creation, which could take a while. If you run to any problems, please use other browsers, for example Mozilla Firefox.

Usually these problems are caused by invalid characters or too long texts in configuration fields.

Now you should have a certificate authority created. You usually need only one certificate authority per M2M Gateway.

2.5 Create new server key

To create an OpenVPN server key.

- 1. Server always needs a key. To create a key, select Server/Client key administration button on the Open-VPN main configuration screen.
- 2. Key configuration screen appears. This screen lists all the keys for a specific Certificate Authority on the top and has configuration fields for a new key on the bottom.

3. To create a new server key, enter your correct values to configuration fields. Do not forget to select server key from the *Key Server* list. See figure 2.5.

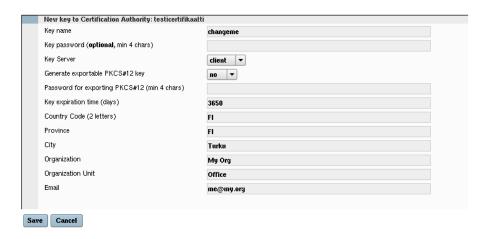


Figure 2.5: New server key configuration

2.6 Create new server configuration

Now that the keys are configured, new server can be created.

- 1. Select New VPN Server button on the OpenVPN main configuration screen.
- 2. Server configuration screen appears. See figure 2.6. Fill in server name and select correct key (the key you created in previous step).
- 3. Configuration field *server Net IP assigns* determines what IP address to be assigned to OpenVPN tunnel. This has to be a network which does not overlap with any other network in current setup.
- 4. If you need to access IP addresses behind OpenVPN client, enter its network information to *route* configuration. See section 2.7.
- 5. When you are ready, press Save button. Now this new server should be listed on the main page.

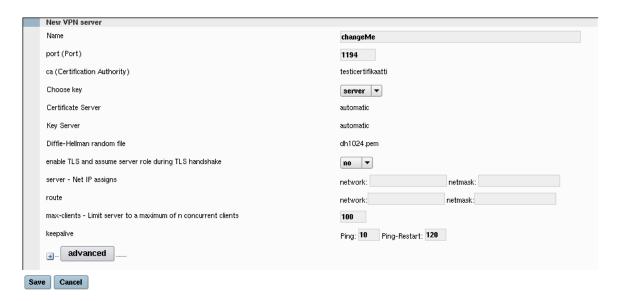


Figure 2.6: Server configuration screen

2.7 Server routing configuration

Server route parameter describes the network that is being routed to the specific OpenVPN server interface. If the M2M Gateway has multiple OpenVPN servers, all the servers must have specified *server route* parameters in order to have working routing.

Server route parameter is related to *client iroute* parameter. All the clients configured to specific server must have their *client iroute* parameters fit in the *server route* address space. See figure 2.7 for example.

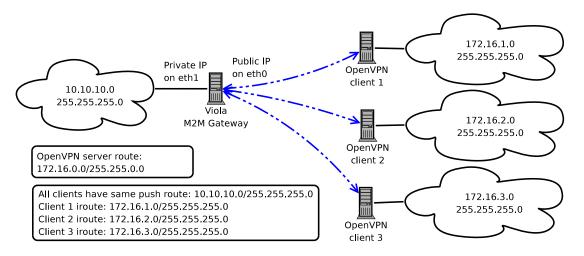


Figure 2.7: OpenVPN routing example 1

In this exemple, the clients are configured to small 172.16.x.0/255.255.255.0 networks that fit inside the larger server route address 172.16.0.0/255.255.0.0. The clients tell their addresses to server with iroute parameters. The clients are also told that the eth1 address on the M2M Gateway is reached via the OpenVPN tunnel by defining push route parameters. If the clients would use OpenVPN as their default gateway, push route would not be needed.

See section 3.5 for client route configuration.

2.8 Start server

Server can be started by selecting Start text on its status line from the OpenVPN main configuration screen.



Figure 2.8: Server start button

Adding client configuration to server

This chapter describes how to add client configurations to OpenVPN server running on Viola M2M Gateway. For information about configuring clients, refer to following chapters.

3.1 Quick reference

Here are brief instructions how to set up a client. For more detailed instructions, please read the whole chapter.

- 1. Create a new server if not exist.
- 2. Create client key.
- 3. Create a new server configuration. Select client name and tunnel endpoint IP address.
- 4. If you need to configure routing, define routing parameters. See section 3.5.
- 5. Save new client configuration and export configuration to client machine.

3.2 Requirements

Requirements are

- Network diagram. Write down a network diagram describing exactly what kind of a network you are building.
- Configured OpenVPN server running on M2M Gateway with fixed IP address.
- Web access to M2M Gateway.
- Open port in firewall for M2M Gateway (UDP 1194 by default, can be changed).
- Client with network connectivity to M2M Gateway. Can be tested with ping from client to M2M Gateway IP address.

3.3 Create client key

To create an OpenVPN client key.

- 1. Client always needs a key. To create a key, select Server/Client key administration button on the OpenVPN main configuration screen.
- 2. Key configuration screen appears. This screen lists all the keys for a specific Certificate Authority on the top and has configuration fields for a new key on the bottom.
- 3. To create a new client key, enter your correct values to configuration fields. Do not forget to select client key from the *Key Server* list. See figure 3.1.

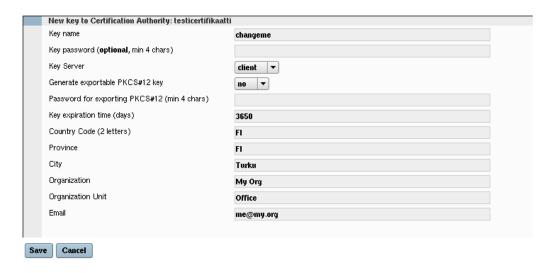


Figure 3.1: New client key configuration

Note: Do not specify a password unless you are generating PKCS#12 keys as well. Password enabled PEM keys are not currently supported.

3.4 Create new client

Now that the keys are configured, new client can be created.

- 1. From the OpenVPN main configuration screen, select add/list clients text on the server status line.
- 2. Select New VPN Client button on the OpenVPN main configuration screen.
- 3. Client configuration screen appears. See figure 3.2. Fill in client name and select correct key (the key you created in previous step).
- 4. Configuration field *ifconfig* is the address of OpenVPN tunnel endpoint on client side. This should be next value from server side IP address.
- 5. Configuration field *remote* is the address of OpenVPN server (public IP address of M2M Gateway which the clients have access to).
- 6. If you need to access IP addresses behind OpenVPN server, configure *push route* and *iroute* parameters. See section 3.5.
- 7. When you are ready, press Save button. Now this new client should be listed on the client list under specific server.

	New VPN Client testiserver2		
	Name	client1 ▼	
	proto (Protocol)	udp	
	Device	tun 🔻	
	ca (Certification Authority)	testicertifikaatti	
	Choose key	automatic (= name)	
	cert (Client Certificate) automatic		
	key (Client Key)	automatic	
	Diffie-Hellman random file	network: 172.40.40.0 netmask : 255.255.255.0	
	Server settings		
	ifconfig (Transport network)		
	remote (Remote IP)	IP server:	Port server: 1195
	remote (Remote IP) - Backup	IP server:	Port server: 1195
	push route - Add route to routing table after connection is established	network/IP:	netmask:
	iroute	network/IP:	netmask:
	keepalive	Ping: 10 Ping-Restart: 12	0
	advanced		
Save	Cancel		

Figure 3.2: Client configuration screen

3.5 Client routing configuration

Client route configuration has two parameters: push route and iroute.

Client push route is added to clients routing table after the OpenVPN connection is initialised. It tells the client that there is a specific network behind the OpenVPN tunnel and that network can be reached via the tunnel. This parameter can be left unused and configure the client to use OpenVPN tunnel as default gateway.

Client *iroute* parameter describes the network that is being routed to the specific OpenVPN client. It tells the OpenVPN server what network belongs to each client.

Client *iroute* parameter is related to *server route* parameter. All the clients configured to specific server must have their *client iroute* parameters fit in the *server route* address space. See figure 3.3 for example.

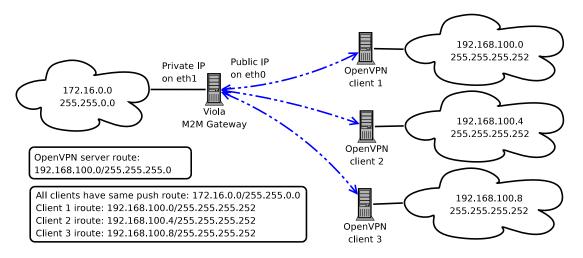


Figure 3.3: OpenVPN routing example 2

In this exemple, the clients are configured to small 192.168.100.x/255.255.255.252 networks that fit inside the larger server route address 192.168.100.0/255.255.255.255.0. The clients tell their addresses to server with iroute parameters. The clients are also told that the eth1 address on the M2M Gateway is reached via the OpenVPN tunnel by defining push route parameters. If the clients would use OpenVPN as their default gateway, push route would not be needed.

See section 2.7 for server route configuration.

3.6 Export client configuration files

Client configuration has to be exported to actual client machine before the OpenVPN connection could be made. This can be done by selecting $Add/list\ clients$ on the server list and then selecting either Export or View text on the client status line.

• Export creates a compressed package with all client files which can be downloaded to client.



Figure 3.4: Export client configuration

• *View* allows user to view individual configuration files for copy-pasting them to client. Select file from dropdown list and press *Show* button to view file.



Figure 3.5: View client configuration files

The actual client configuration is described in the following chapters.

Configuring Windows client

This chapter describes how to configure OpenVPN client running on Windows.

4.1 Requirements

Requirements are

- OpenVPN software installed from download page http://openvpn.net/index.php/downloads.html. It is recommended to use 2.1 version or later because it has better Windows Vista support and it has OpenVPN GUI in the same installation package.
- Network connectivity from client to M2M Gateway.
- OpenVPN client configured to M2M Gateway. See chapter 3.

4.2 Export client configuration

Connect to M2M Gateway user interface from the client. Export client configuration like described in section 3.6. Extract the package to OpenVPN config folder.

With default OpenVPN installation the config folder is C:\Program Files\OpenVPN\Config\

4.3 Connect to server using OpenVPN GUI

Start OpenVPN GUI and select the application icon from the Windows status bar with right-click of the mouse. Select the configuration you want to use and press Connect. If you have only one connection on your client, the screen shows like in figure 4.1.

The log screen appears for a while and displays the connection creation status. The screen closes when the connection is made and the application gives a notification message.

The tunnel should now be up and running.

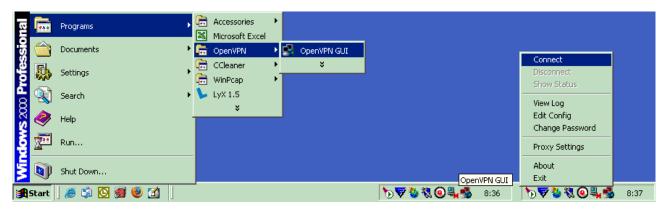


Figure 4.1: Connecting Windows client

Configuring Arctic 3G client

This chapter describes how to configure OpenVPN client running on Arctic 3G product. For more detailed description about Arctic 3G product, refer to Arctic 3G User Manual.

This documentation is written for Arctic 3G firmware version X.Y.

5.1 Requirements

Requirements are

- Configured Arctic 3G Gateway or Router.
- Correct date and time configuration both on Arctic 3G and M2M Gateway.
- Network connectivity from client to M2M Gateway.
- OpenVPN client configured to M2M Gateway. See chapter 3.

Note: Make sure Arctic 3G has date and time set correctly and check that the imported certificates have correct valid from/to dates. Otherwise the OpenVPN connection fails to initialise because of invalid certificates.

5.2 Import Trusted CA

First step is to import a Certificate Authority from M2M Gateway to client. This can be done in the Arctic 3G:

1. Login to Arctic 3G. Navigate to *VPN->Certificates* page (select from left menu). Select *Trusted CA* page. Press *Import New* button to import new certificate. See figure 5.1.

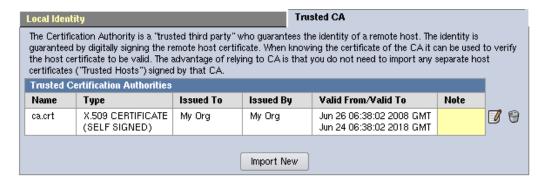


Figure 5.1: Trusted CA page on Arctic 3G

2. Copy and paste certificate (ca.crt) from M2M Gateway to Arctic 3G Certificate screen. See figure 5.2.



Figure 5.2: Import Trusted CA on Arctic 3G

3. Press Submit button to save copied Certificate Authority.

5.3 Import Local Identity

Second step is to import a client certificate from M2M Gateway to client. This can be done in the Arctic 3G:

1. Navigate to *VPN->Certificates* page on Arctic 3G. Select *Local Identity* page. Press *Import New* button to import new certificate. See figure 5.3.

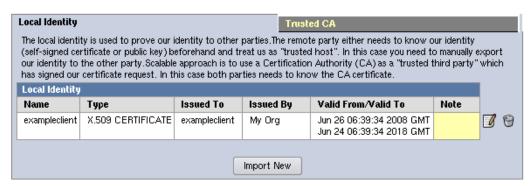


Figure 5.3: Local Identity page on Arctic 3G

- 2. Select Identity type as Complete certificate (PEM).
- 3. Copy and paste certificate (*client.crt*) and key file (*client.key*) from M2M Gateway to Arctic 3G Certificate screen. See figure 5.4.

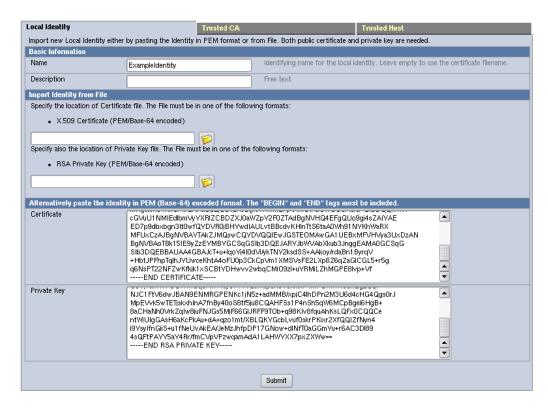


Figure 5.4: Import Local Identity on Arctic 3G

4. Press Submit button to save copied certificate.

Note: If you have troubles importing local identity files, check if they have been created with password enabled. Currently only PKCS#12 certificates have password support.

5.4 Create client settings

Third step is to create client configuration on Arctic 3G:

- 1. Navigate to *VPN->OpenVPN* page on Arctic 3G. Press *Create New* button to create new configuration. See figure 5.5.
- 2. Give name to client (can be any name), set M2M Gateway IP address, select certificate files. If you want to route all traffic thorough the OpenVPN tunnel, set Routing to Default route. See section 3.5 on client routing configuration.
- 3. Press Submit button to save configuration.

Note: If you receive error messages about LZO compression during OpenVPN connection start up, set Limit MSS to no.

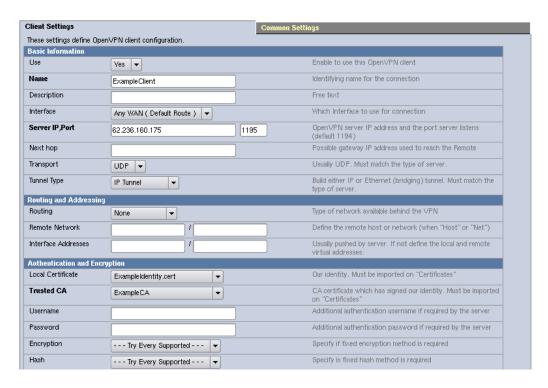


Figure 5.5: OpenVPN client configuration page on Arctic 3G

5.5 Test connectivity

Enable client from the M2M Gateway and restart Arctic 3G. Wait for the connection to come up. Figure 5.6 shows syslog messages from Arctic 3G when the OpenVPN connection is properly configured.

```
Jul 14 09:40:47 localhost daemon.notice ExampleClient[774]: I/UN/TAP device c_tun0 opened
Jul 14 09:40:47 localhost daemon.notice ExampleClient[774]: /sbin/ifconfig c_tun0 192.168.150.2 pointopoint 192.168.150.1 mtu 1500
Jul 14 09:40:47 localhost daemon.notice ExampleClient[774]: /sbin/route add -net 192.168.150.0 netmask 255.255.255.0 gw 192.168.150.1
Jul 14 09:40:47 localhost daemon.notice ExampleClient[774]: GID set to nobody
Jul 14 09:40:47 localhost daemon.notice ExampleClient[774]: UID set to nobody
Jul 14 09:40:47 localhost daemon.notice ExampleClient[774]: litialization Sequence Completed
Jul 14 09:40:47 localhost user.notice openvpnc: primary client ExampleClient up
```

Figure 5.6: OpenVPN client syslog messages on Arctic 3G

OpenVPN connection status can be checked from the front panel LED. See Arctic 3G user manual for more information.

- If the VPN LED blinks, the connection is being initialised
- If the VPN LED is lit, the connection is up and running

When the OpenVPN connection is up, the network status screen on the Arctic 3G shows tun interface. See figure 5.7.

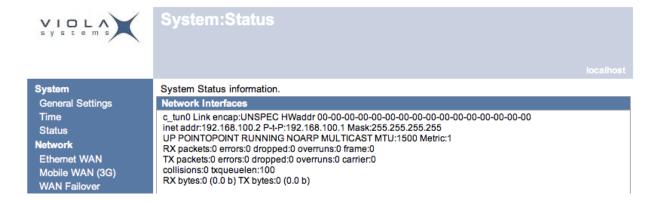


Figure 5.7: Arctic 3G network status screen with OpenVPN connection up

Troubleshooting

6.1 Routing problems

If you want to access the Ethernet address of Arctic 3G, you have to set up routing on the M2M Gateway. See sections 2.7 and 3.5 for more information about routing.

6.2 Client connection problems

If the OpenVPN client fails to connect the server the problem usually pins down to certificate vadility. Check that both the server and the client have correct date and time set up. Also check the certificate for correct validity dates. If the certificate has incorrect dates, it has to be recreated.

If Arctic 3G clients connection fails with LZO compression errors, set Limit MSS to no.

6.3 Certificate handling problems

If you have problems importing local identity files to client, check if you have passwords enabled on certificates. See section 5.3 for more details.

If you have troubles creating new certificate authority on M2M Gateway, see notes on section 2.4.

Technical Support

7.1 Contacting Technical Support

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• E-mail: support@violasystems.com

• On-line http://www.violasystems.com

7.2 Recording Product Information

Before contacting our Technical Support staff, record the following information about your product:

- Product name.:
- Serial no.:

Note the status of your product in the space below before contacting technical support. Include information about error messages, diagnostic test results, and problems with specific applications.