

OpenVPN Configuration Whitepaper



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- Initial document release	October 2012

Table 1 - Document Revision History



Note: Before performing the instructions in this guide, please ensure that you have the latest firmware version on your router. Visit http://www.netcommwireless.com/products/m2m-wireless to find your device and download the latest firmware.



Introduction

A VPN (Virtual private network) is a secure connection between two or more endpoints. It can also be seen as an extension to a private network.

There are two key types of VPN scenarios:

- Site to Site VPN
- Remote Access VPN.

In a site to site VPN, data is encrypted from one VPN gateway to the other, providing a secure link between two sites over a third party insecure network like the Internet.

In a remote access VPN scenario, a secure connection would be made from an individual computer to a VPN gateway. This would enable a user to access their e-mail, files and other resources at work from wherever they may be, providing they have an Internet connection.

Many NetComm M2M Seriers routers support three types of Virtual Private Network (VPN) technologies:

- Point-to-Point Tunnelling Protocol (PPTP) VPN
- Internet Protocol Security (IPsec) VPN
- OpenVPN.

OpenVPN is an open source virtual private network (VPN) program for creating point-to-point or server-to-multi-client encrypted tunnels between host computers. NetComm Wireless M2M routers support three different OpenVPN modes:

- OpenVPN Server
- OpenVPN Client
- OpenVPN Peer-to-Peer VPN connection.

This document describes how to configure the different OpenVPN types on NetComm Wireless M2M routers.



Important notes about OpenVPN on NetComm Wireless M2M Series Routers

- When using two NetComm Wireless M2M routers in a Server-Client scenario, you should change the LAN IP Address of the devices so that they are on different subnets, otherwise you may find it impossible to access the web-interface of one of the routers when an OpenVPN connection is established.
- A NetComm Wireless M2M router acting as a Server must be connected to an APN that provides a publicly routable IP address.
- OpenVPN Certificates and Secret Keys are dependent on the time on each router being in synchronisation. If the time is not correct on the router due to NTP not working or for any other reason, the certificate or secret key timestamp may be expired and hence will not be useable.
- If both the OpenVPN Server and OpenVPN Client are in a private network, please ensure that the server is routable to the client and vice-versa before establishing the VPN connection.



OpenVPN Server Mode

In OpenVPN Server Mode, a NetComm Wireless M2M Series Router acts as a host allowing M2M Routers in client mode or Windows/Linux software clients to establish a virtual private network connection. In order to establish a secure communications channel, a cryptographic key is exchanged between the server and the client using the Diffie-Hellman method of key exchange. Once a shared secret is established, certificates identifying each client node are issued which can be used as a means of authentication.

OpenVPN authentication is achieved through first establishing a public key infrastructure. The public key infrastructure includes:

- 1. A public and private key for the server and each client
- 2. A master Certificate Authority (CA) certificate and the key used to sign each of the server and client certificates.

This authentication method results in several benefits:

- The server only needs its own certificate and key. It does not need to have every certificate of every client that may connect to it.
- The server will only accept clients with certificates that were signed by the master certificate authority.
- If the security of a client certificate is compromised, that individual certificate can be revoked without requiring a new public key infrastructure to be generated.
- The server can enforce access rights for specific clients based on the certificate fields.

While certificate authentication is the more secure and desirable means of authentication, it is also possible to use a username and password for authentication. Username and password authentication is not used in conjunction with certificates.

An OpenVPN Server allows for one or many client routers to establish secure communication tunnels as illustrated below:

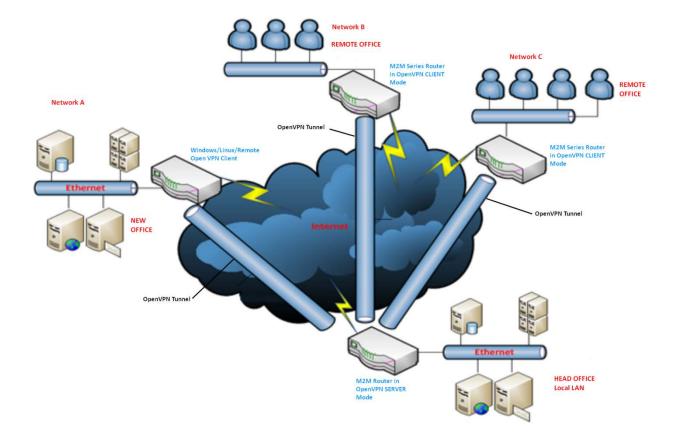


Figure 1 - OpenVPN Server Mode Diagram



Configuring an OpenVPN Server

- 1. Login to your NetComm Wireless M2M Series Router using the "root" account.
- 2. Click on Internet Settings, VPN, then OpenVPN. The OpenVPN List is displayed.

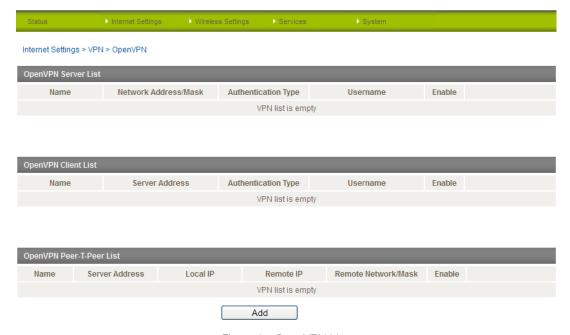


Figure 2 - OpenVPN List

3. Click the **Add** button. The configuration window is displayed.



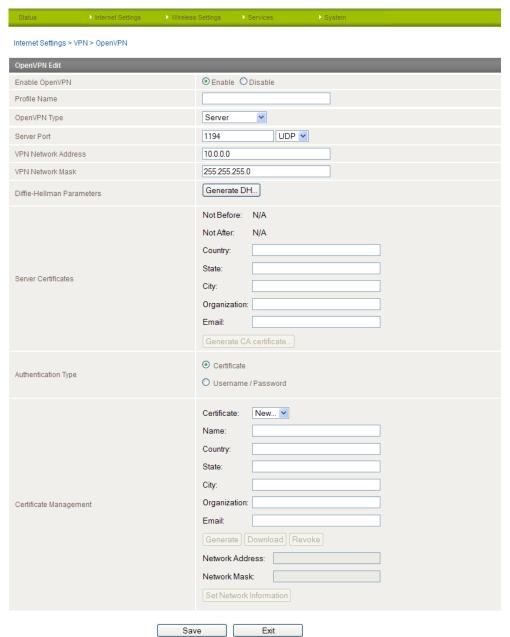


Figure 3 - OpenVPN Server configuration page

- 4. Set OpenVPN to Enable.
- 5. Type a name for the OpenVPN Server profile you are creating.
- 6. From the OpenVPN Type drop down list, select Server.
- 7. Select a port number and packet type to use for your OpenVPN Server. The default OpenVPN port is 1194 and default packet type is UDP.
- 8. In the VPN Network Address and VPN Network Mask fields, enter the IP address and network mask to assign to your VPN. This is ideally an internal IP address which differs from your existing address scheme. The default settings may be used if you wish.
- Next to Diffie-Hellman Parameters, click the Generate DH button. This will create an encryption key to secure your OpenVPN connection.



Note: The Diffie-Hellman parameters can take up to 10 minutes to generate. Please be patient.



- 10. Under Server Certificates, enter the required details. All fields must be completed. The Country field must consist of two characters only. When the details have been entered, click the **Generate CA certificate** button to generate the Certificate Authority (CA) certificate based on this information.
- 11. Select the Authentication Type that you would like to use for the OpenVPN Server.

Certificate Authentication

a) In the Certificate Management section, enter the required details to create a client certificate. All fields are required. When you have finished entering the details, click the **Generate** button. The certificate should only take a moment to generate.

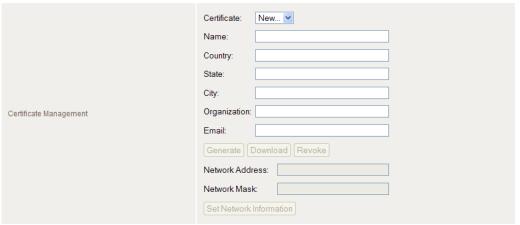


Figure 4 - OpenVPN Server - Certificate Management section

- b) When it is done, you can click the **Download** button to save the certificate file. If for some reason the integrity of your network has been compromised, you can return to this screen and use the Certificate drop down list to select the certificate and then press the **Revoke** button to disable it.
- c) Optional: To inform the OpenVPN Server of the network address scheme of the currently selected certificate, enter the Network Address and Network Mask in the respective fields. If you do not enter the remote subnet here, any packet requests from the server to the client will not be received by the client network because it is not aware of the remote client's subnet.

Username / Password Authentication

a) In the username/password section, enter the username and password you would like to use for authentication on the OpenVPN Server. Click the **Download CA certificate** button to save the **ca.crt** file. This file will need to be provided to the client.



Note: If you wish to have more than one client connect to this OpenVPN Server, you must use Certificate Authentication mode as Username/Password only allows for a single client connection.



Figure 5 - OpenVPN Server - Username/Password section



- b) Optional: To inform the OpenVPN Server of the network address scheme of the currently selected certificate, enter the Network Address and Network Mask in the respective fields. If you do not enter the remote subnet here, any packet requests from the server to the client will not be received by the client network because it is not aware of the remote client's subnet.
- 12. When you have finished entering all the required information, click Save to finish configuring the OpenVPN Server.

Verifying the OpenVPN Connection Status

Open a command prompt and ping a client in the remote subnet and the OpenVPN Gateway address assigned to the remote router. See the screenshot below for an example.

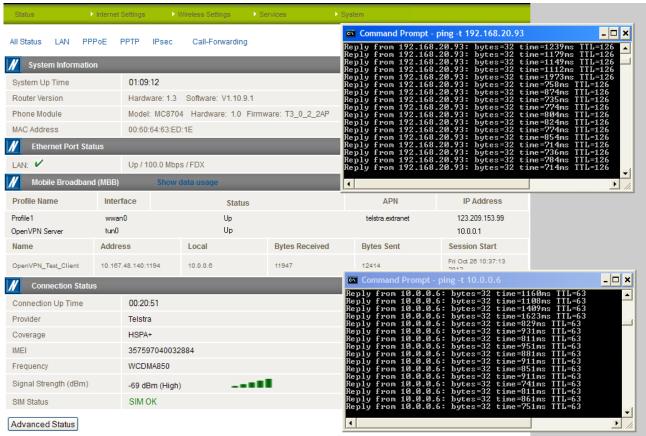


Figure 6 - OpenVPN Server connection verification



OpenVPN Server Examples

OpenVPN Server Mode - Certificate Authentication

Status Internet Settings Wireless	s Settings → Services → System		
Internet Settings > VPN > OpenVPN			
OpenVPN Edit			
Enable OpenVPN	● Enable O Disable		
Profile Name	OpenVPN Server		
OpenVPN Type	Server v		
Server Port	1194 UDP <u>•</u>		
VPN Network Address	10.0.0.0		
VPN Network Mask	255.255.255.0		
Diffie-Hellman Parameters	Generate DH Generating DH parameters, 1024 bit long safe prime, generato r 2 This is going to take a long time+**+*** Done. DH parameters generated successfully.		
Server Certificates	Not Before: Oct 18 23:13:43 2012 GMT Not After: Oct 16 23:13:43 2022 GMT Country: AU State: New South Wales City: Sydney Organization: NetComm Wireless Email: server@netcommwireless.com Generate CA certificate		
Authentication Type	Certificate Username / Password		
Certificate Management	Certificate: OpenVPN Test Client Name: OpenVPN Test Client Country: AU State: New South Wales City: Sydney Organization: NetComm Wireless Email: client@netcommwireless.com Revoked N Generate Download Revoke Network Address: 192.168.20.0 Network Mask: 255.255.255.0 Set Network Information		

Figure 7 - OpenVPN Server - Certificate Authentication Example page



OpenVPN Server Mode – Username / Password Authentication

Status	Internet Settings	▶ Wireless Settings	▶ Services ▶ System		
Internet Settings > VP	N > OpenVPN				
OpenVPN Edit					
Enable OpenVPN		● Enable	le ODisable		
Profile Name		OpenVP	OpenVPN Server		
OpenVPN Type		Server	▼		
Server Port		1194	1194 UDP v		
VPN Network Addres	S	10.0.0.0	1		
VPN Network Mask		255.255.2	255.255.255.0		
Diffie-Hellman Paran	neters	Generat r 2 This is	Generate DH) Generating DH parameters, 1024 bit long safe prime, generato r 2 This is going to take a long time++*++* Done. DH parameters generated successfully.		
Server Certificates		Not After Country: State: City: Organiza Email:			
Authentication Type		CertificUsern	ricate		
Username / Passwo	rd	Network Network	oad CA certificate k Address: 192.168.20.0		
		Save	Exit		

Figure 8 - OpenVPN Server - Username / Password Authentication Example page

Head



OpenVPN Client Mode

NetComm M2M Series Routers may be configured to operate as an OpenVPN Client and connect to an OpenVPN Server running on another NetComm Wireless M2M Series Router or a software OpenVPN Server on a computer.

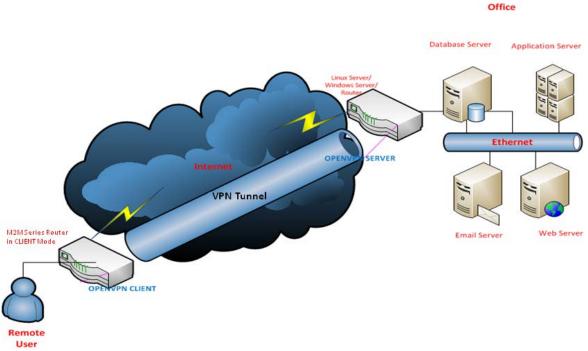


Figure 9 - OpenVPN Client Diagram

Certificate Files

When using two NetComm Wireless M2M Routers to establish an OpenVPN connection, the certificate generated by the server will be recognised by the client and will not require modification.

In situations where you are using another third-party OpenVPN Server to generate certificates, the NetComm Wireless M2M Router will expect a tar archive compressed using GZip. There are three files that the OpenVPN client in a NetComm Wireless router will expect to see within a .tgz file:

- The master Certificate Authority (CA) certificate file named ca.crt
- Client certificate file (e.g., OpenVPN Test Client.crt)
- Client key file (e.g., OpenVPN Test Client.key)

If you have used a third-party OpenVPN Server to generate certificates and keys, you will need to archive these three files in a .tgz file to provide the OpenVPN Client on your NetComm Wireless M2M Router.

You can perform this in Linux by using the command:

tar -zcvf netcommclient.tgz netcommclient.crt netcommclient.key ca.crt

 $For more information on creating .tgz files, please refer to \\ \underline{http://www.cs.duke.edu/\sim ola/courses/programming/tar.html}$



Configuring an OpenVPN Client

- 1. Login to your NetComm Wireless M2M Series Router using the "root" account.
- 2. Click on Internet Settings, VPN, then OpenVPN. The OpenVPN List is displayed.

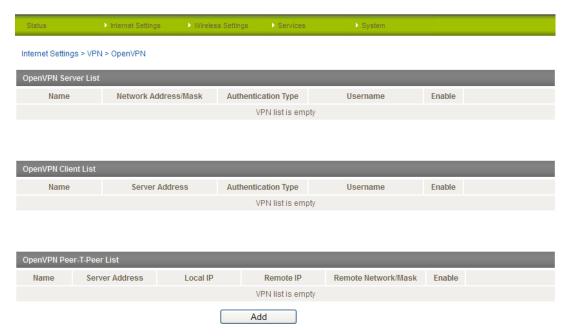


Figure 10 - OpenVPN List

3. Click the **Add** button. The configuration window is displayed.



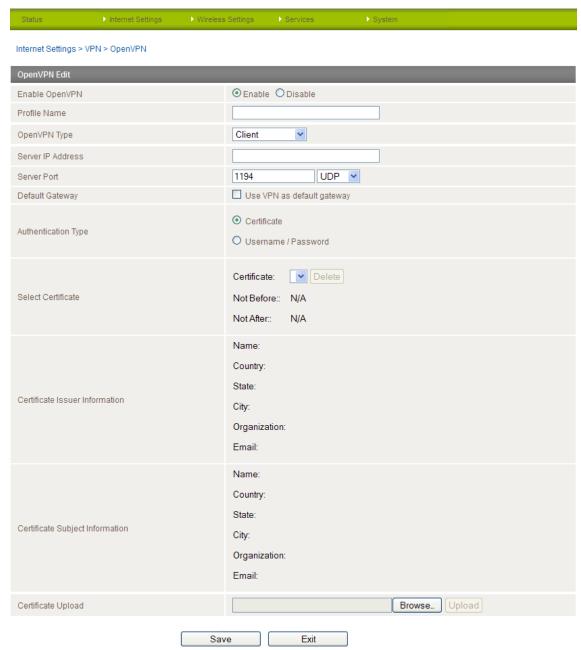


Figure 9 - OpenVPN Client - Configuration page

- 4. Set OpenVPN to Enable.
- 5. Type a name for the OpenVPN Client profile you are creating.
- 6. From the OpenVPN Type drop down list, select Client.
- 7. Type the WAN IP address of the OpenVPN Server.
- 8. Enter the Server Port and packet type to use for the connection.
- 9. If "Use VPN as default gateway" option is applied on the OpenVPN Client page, the OpenVPN Server will enable connections to be made to other client networks connected to it. If it is not selected, the OpenVPN connection allows for secure communication links between the remote office and the head office only.
- 10. Select the Authentication Type that you would like to use for the OpenVPN Client.



Certificate Authentication

a) In the Certificate Upload section at the bottom of the screen, click the **Browse** button and locate the certificate file you downloaded when you configured the OpenVPN Server. When it has been selected, click the **Upload** button to send it to the router.

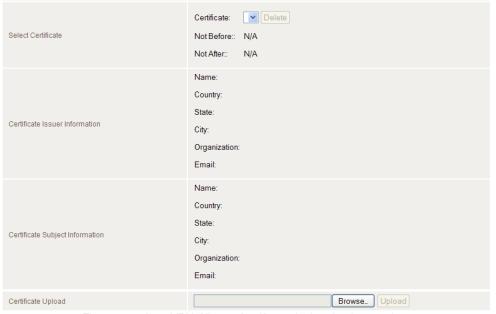


Figure 11 - OpenVPN Client - Certificate Authentication section

Username / Password Authentication

a) Enter the username and password to authenticate with the OpenVPN Server.

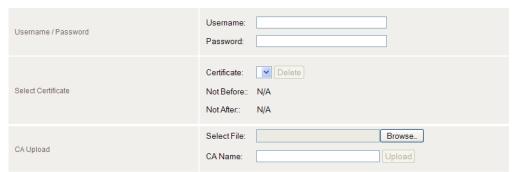


Figure 12 - OpenVPN Client - Username/Password section

- b) Use the **Browse** button to locate the CA certificate file you saved from the OpenVPN Server and then press the **Upload** button to send it to the router.
- 11. Click the ${\bf Save}$ button to complete the OpenVPN Client configuration.



Verifying the OpenVPN Connection Status

Open a command prompt and ping the OpenVPN Gateway address assigned to the remote router. See the screenshot below for an example.

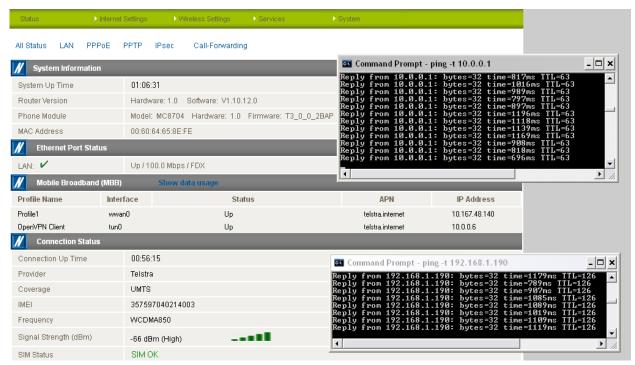


Figure 13 - OpenVPN Client verification of connection



OpenVPN Client Example

OpenVPN Client - Certificate Authentication

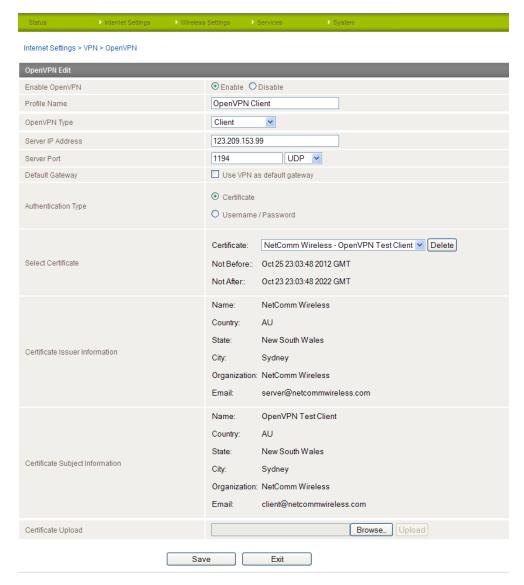


Figure 14 - OpenVPN Client Mode - Certificate Authentication Example



OpenVPN Client - Username / Password Authentication

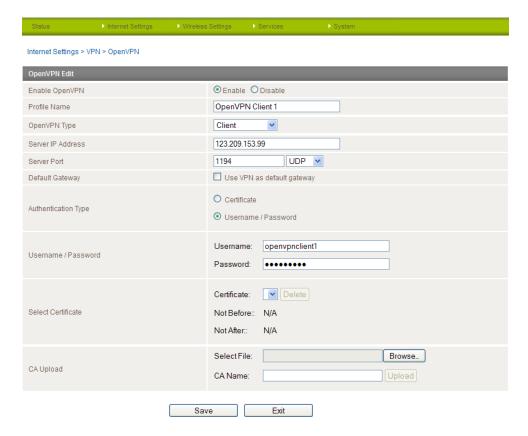


Figure 15 - OpenVPN Client Mode - Username / Password Authentication Example



OpenVPN Peer-To-Peer Mode

OpenVPN Peer-To-Peer Mode is the quickest and easiest way to establish a secure connection between two points. In Peer-To-Peer Mode one node acts as a master and accepts a single connection from a slave.

In OpenVPN Peer-To-Peer mode, both the master and the slave generate a secret key which is then passed on to the other for authentication. This is the only form of authentication available in Peer-To-Peer mode.

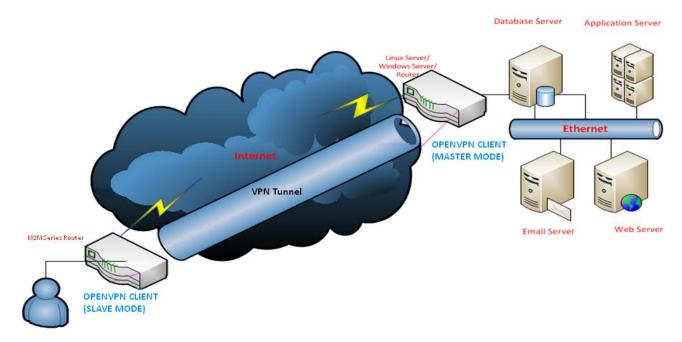


Figure 16 - OpenVPN Peer-To-Peer Mode Diagram



Configuring an OpenVPN Peer-To-Peer Connection

Perform the following steps on two NetComm Wireless M2M Series Routers:

- 1. Login to your NetComm Wireless M2M Series Routers using the "root" account.
- 2. Click on Internet Settings, VPN, then OpenVPN. The OpenVPN List is displayed.

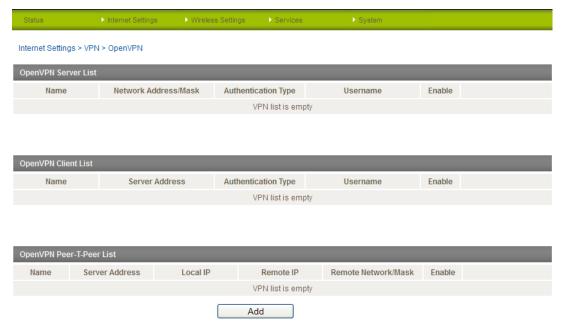


Figure 17 - OpenVPN List

3. Click the Add button. The configuration window is displayed.

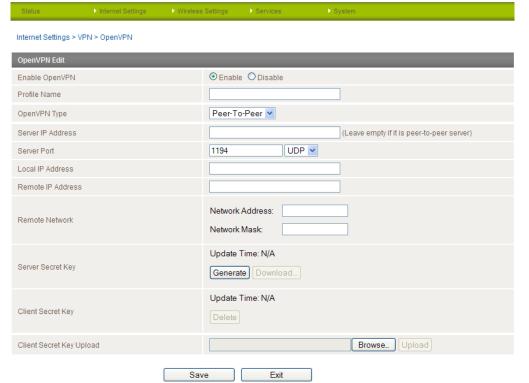


Figure 9 - OpenVPN Peer-To-Peer Mode

4. Set OpenVPN to Enable.



- 5. Type a name for the OpenVPN Peer-To-Peer profile you are creating.
- 6. For OpenVPN Type, select Peer-To-Peer
- 7. On the router designated as the master, leave the Server IP Address field empty. On the router designated as the slave, enter the WAN IP Address of the master.
- 8. Enter the Server Port and packet type to use for the connection.
- 9. Enter the local and remote IP addresses to use for the OpenVPN tunnel. The slave should have the reverse settings of the master.
- 10. Under the Remote Network section, enter the network address and network mask. The Network Address and Network Mask fields inform the Master node of the LAN address scheme of the Slave.
- 11. Press the **Generate** button to create a secret key to be shared with the slave. When the timestamp appears, you can click the **Download** button to save the file to exchange with the other router.
- 12. When you have saved the secret key file on each router, use the **Browse** button to locate the secret key file for the master and then press the **Upload** button to send it to the slave. Perform the same for the other router, uploading the slave's secret key file to master.
- 13. When they are uploaded click the Save button to complete the Peer-To-Peer OpenVPN configuration.

OpenVPN Peer-To-Peer Example OpenVPN Peer-To-Peer Master

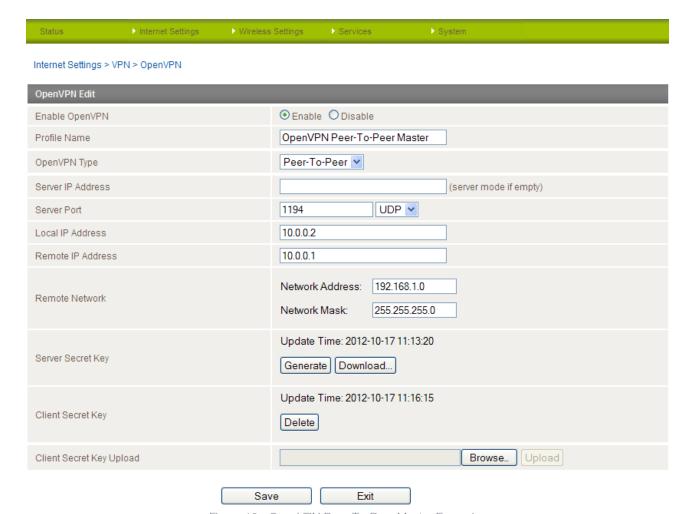


Figure 18 - OpenVPN Peer-To-Peer Master Example



OpenVPN Peer-To-Peer Slave

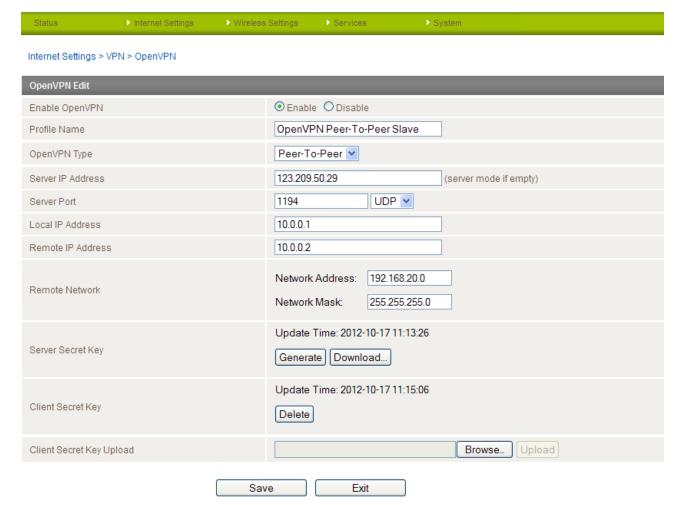


Figure 19 - OpenVPN Peer-To-Peer Slave Example



Verifying the OpenVPN Peer-To-Peer Connection Status

Open a command prompt on either the master or the slave and ping the OpenVPN Gateway address assigned to the remote router. See the screenshots below for an example.

OpenVPN Peer-To-Peer Master

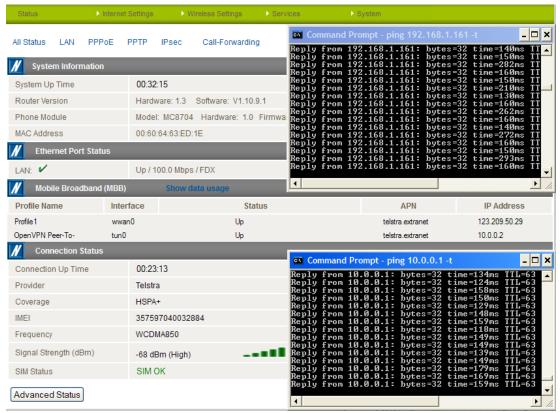


Figure 20 - OpenVPN Peer-To-Peer Master connection verification

OpenVPN Peer-To-Peer Slave

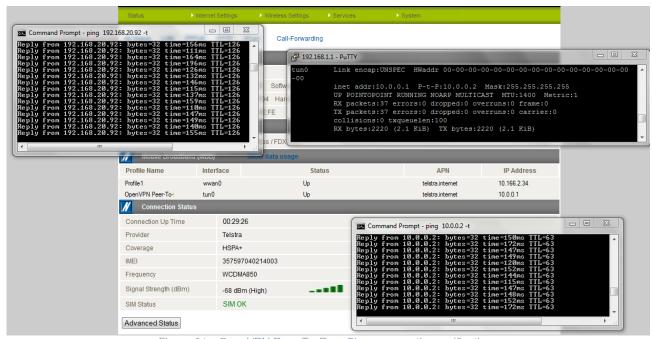


Figure 21 - OpenVPN Peer-To-Peer Slave connection verification