How to configure the Cisco VPN client for openSUSE Linux

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1 Download necessary materials

Use the software installer to download the following

- make
- kernel-source
- gcc
- gcc-c++

2 Configure the kernel

Open a terminal and switch to /usr/src/linux. Type the following as root:

- make mrproper
- make cloneconfig
- make prepare-all

3 VPN client installation

The software requires a patch to work properly with Linux, please see [1] for download. You should have already received the VPN client software from your work or through download. Create the directory /vpn and move the compressed VPN Linux client file vpn-client.xxx.tar.gz to /vpn where xxx is the version.

As root, do the following:

- move to /vpn, issue the command:
- tar -zxf vpnclient-linux.xxx.tar.gz

- now move the patch you downloaded to /vpn, issue command where yyy is the version of the patch:
- patch < vpnclient-linux-yyy.patch
- issue the command:
- ./vpn_install
- the install script will ask a few questions and will give you the answers you should input in brackets. At each question simply enter the answer the installer gives you without the brackets of course.
- The last question should ask you if the above is correct, enter y.

4 Setup your VPN profile

You should have already been issued a VPN profile file from your company. It is specific to your company's hardware and has the extension .pcf

- rename your profile to vpn.pcf
- copy vpn.pcf to /etc/CiscoSystemsVPNClient/Profiles

5 Reboot your computer

You must reboot your computer so that the ipsec module can be bound to the kernel.

6 Start the client

You are now ready to start the client. If you do not change the mode of one of the files, then you will only be able to run it as root. To run the client as a normal user switch to /opt/cisco-vpnclient/bin and issue the following command as root:

chmod 4111 cvpnd

Now you may start the client as a normal user. Whenever you want to start the client go to /opt/cisco-vpnclient/bin and issue the command:

./vpnclient connect vpn

You will be asked for your username and password that is provided by your company. That is all!

Most of this document was taken ver batim from a mailinglist archive post by Arash Jalali, see [2].

7 References

[1]http://jason.roysdon.net/?p=754

[2]http://lists.opensuse.org/archive/opensuse/2006-01/msg00854.html