

## Connecting to Cisco VPN From Ubuntu Linux 12.04 LTS i386/amd64

Revised Jun 10, 2012 by r.a.parks.

### Introduction

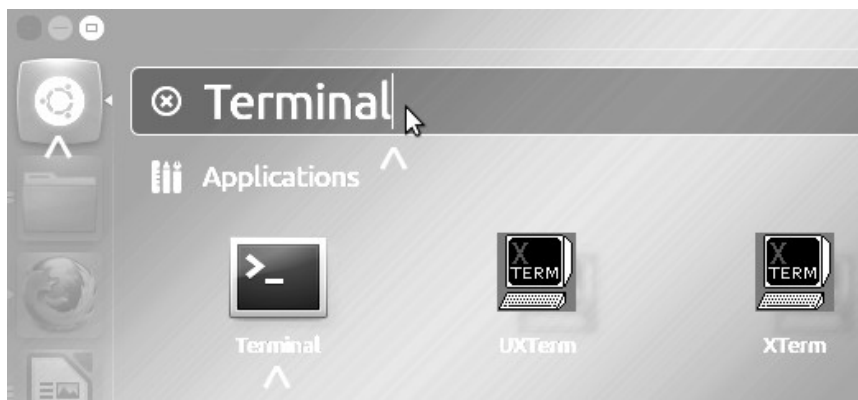
The following document was created for the purpose of connecting to a Cisco VPN via Ubuntu Linux 12.04, either 32 or 64-bit. This information is provided "as is" without warranty of any kind, either expressed or implied.

### Prerequisites

- You've successfully installed Ubuntu Desktop Linux 12.04, 32 or 64-bit (or a Server version, and added the graphical desktop). Ubuntu is available for download via <http://www.ubuntu.com/>. Installing it is outside the scope of this document.
- These steps were performed on a fully-patched Ubuntu system with *Software Sources* set to **Server for United States** by default. If you're performing it on an unpatched system or from another part of the world, your results may vary.
- You have the credentials for an 'Administrator' level account, typically the account created when installing Ubuntu.
- You have connectivity to the public Internet, via Wi-Fi or Ethernet.

### Installing Packages

1. Log in to the system as an Administrator if you haven't already.
2. Launching the Terminal is a little different in Ubuntu since the Unity interface shell became the default with version 11.04. Click on the Dash Home button with the white concentric circles (the Ubuntu logo) in the upper left. Then type the word **Terminal**. Finally, click on the Terminal icon.



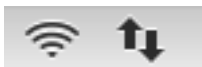
3. A black box with a \$ prompt will appear if you launched Terminal successfully. Within this box, type the following commands, one line at a time, followed by the Enter key at the end of each line. You can't cut and paste them from this PDF file, as the necessary dashes will be omitted. If prompted for your password, type it, and press Enter. If you're told that a package "is already the newest version," ignore it and continue with the next command. If asked to "continue [Y/n]," press Y, followed by Enter.

```
sudo apt-get install network-manager-pptp
sudo apt-get install network-manager-vpnc
sudo apt-get install network-manager-openvpn
exit
```

\*In at least once instance, it was necessary to reboot 32-bit Ubuntu at this point before options required in the next section would appear.

### Configuring VPN Settings

4. Depending on whether you are connected via WiFi or an Ethernet cable, your network connections icon will look like one of the following icons respectively. The icon is located along the top edge near the right side.



5. Left-click on your network connections icon (shown above). From the pop-up menu, look down and choose **VPN Connections**, followed by **Configure VPN**. You should be taken to a Network Connections window with the VPN tab highlighted as shown below. Choose **Add**.

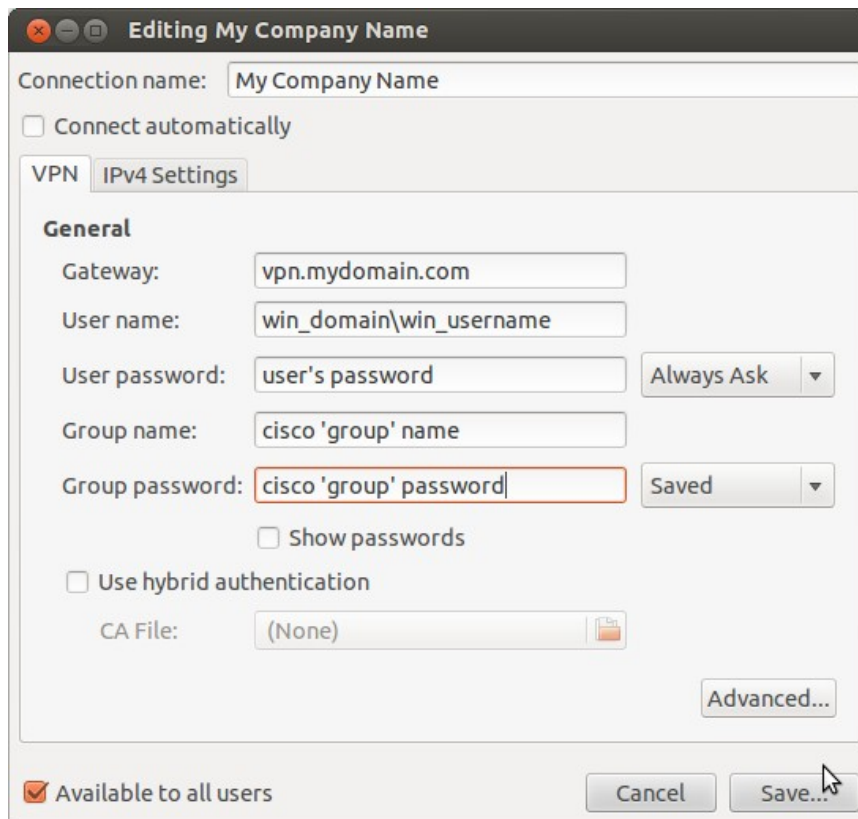


6. Select **Cisco Compatible VPN (vpnc)**, followed by **Create**.



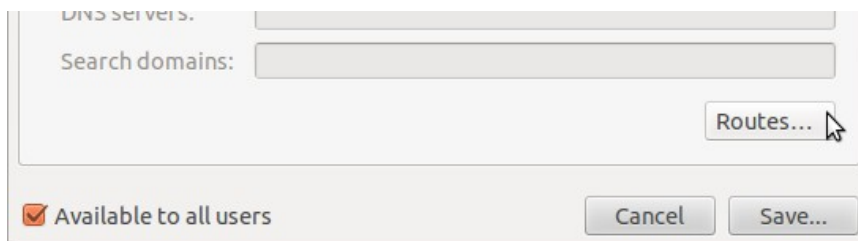
7. Let's talk for a moment about the values shown pictured at the bottom of this page.

- The *Connection Name* can be any descriptive name that you'll recognize when launching a VPN session again in the future. Typically one names it after the company they're connecting to.
- The *Gateway* is the Internet domain name or TCP/IP address that your VPN session will connect to.

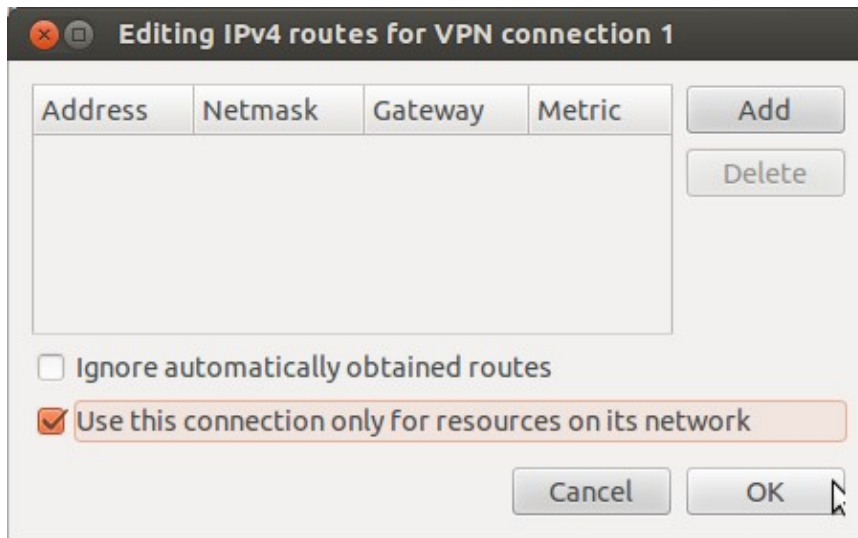


- Carrying on from the illustration at the bottom of the previous page, your *User name* may take a couple of different formats, depending on your network. Some – typically smaller – organizations may offer Cisco VPN credentials that are stored directly in their router, and consequently may be different than your Windows user name or password. Most organizations integrate their Windows users with their Cisco VPN so that you'll use the same credentials for both. I've heard that it's necessary to specify one's user name in the format of **domain\username** in certain organizations, while it's not in others. My current employer's Cisco ACS VPN accepts the user name with or without the domain name and backslash as a prefix. To complicate matters further, there's also a *Domain* field under *Advanced*. Some experimentation may be necessary.
- The *User password* is unique to you, of course. You have the option for the system to **Always Ask** your password, or have it **Saved**. Generally, it's never a good idea to save your password. The only exception might be if the system is only used by you, and it is extremely well protected including with full disk encryption (that's only available on Ubuntu's *alternate installer* CDs.)
- Next you'll be asked for your *Group name*. This is written into your company's Cisco VPN configuration. It is the same for everyone in your organization, or at least everyone with similar VPN privileges. Because this value is often already built into Windows VPN clients prior to deployment, even your IT Helpdesk may not be familiar with it. Both the Group name and the *Group password* are needed most often when configuring Linux, Mac OS, iOS and other non-Windows clients. If you're having trouble finding someone in your company who seems to know the Group name and Group password, try to track down someone with the title of Network Administrator, Network Engineer, etc. Feel free to save the Group password, as it's something that your company would rather you not commit to memory anyway.
- On systems where multiple users sign in, you can elect to make the connection *Available to all users* with the checkbox.

8. Let's not get ahead of ourselves. Before using the Save button, let's switch over to the **IPv4 Settings** tab. Now click on **Routes** toward the bottom of the window.



9. Select **Use this connection only for resources on its network**. Then click **OK**. (By making this selection, your extra-curricular surfing of the public Internet won't route back through your company's network, even while connected to their VPN.)



10. Now it's time to **Save** our VPN configuration. Also click **Close** on the *Network Connections* box, if it's still open.
11. Historically it's always been a good idea to reboot Ubuntu prior to launching your first VPN connection. That no longer seems to be necessary. However, should you later encounter any VPN difficulties, you might consider rebooting as an early troubleshooting step. So let's connect...

## Using VPN

12. Left-click on your network connections icon at the upper right. (It looks like one of the two icons shown below, only without the lock at this point.) From the pop-up menu, choose **VPN Connections**, followed by the name of your newly-created VPN. If successful, you'll briefly see, "VPN Login Message | VPN connection has been successfully established." Your network icon will now show a lock next to it, as illustrated here.



13. Use your company's network resources as desired, in keeping with their acceptable use policies.
14. When you later complete your work, you may disconnect by left-clicking on the network icon again, and choosing **VPN Connections**, followed by **Disconnect VPN**.

15. In the future, you may connect and later disconnect from your VPN, just as you've done in steps 12 and 14 today.



Need Help?



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