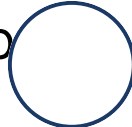Use OpenVPN Connect v3 on Windows in Service Daemon Mode

Use OpenVPN Connect v3 on Windows in Service Daemon Mode 🔗

On Windows, OpenVPN Connect 3.2 and newer includes a method to set up an OpenVPN connection as a system service. You can configure the connection to run right after system boot, even when nobody is logged on. A few example use cases:

✕　　Help

1. A Windows Server with Remote Desktop Services where users need VPN access,

but you can't have each user establish their own connections.

2. A Windows client joined to a domain that requires VPN access for logon.

3. An unattended Windows host providing services or resources to your OpenVPN server or CloudConnexa.

We designed this system service mode for system administrators. Once the connection is running, both admin and unprivileged users on the system can reach VPN resources.

Before you begin %

Ensure you have the following set up:

1. OpenVPN Connect v3.2 or higher installed.

2. Administrator shell (PowerShell or cmd).

3. An autologin-type connection profile (the

service daemon has no interactive capabilities).

4. Closed the OpenVPN Connect app before setting up the service.

5. Run all commands from the program location (as specified below).

Location

[#location_body]

Set up OpenVPN Connect in service daemon mode

[#set-up-openvpn-connect-in-service-daemon-mode_body]

Following these steps to set up OpenVPN Connect to run in service daemon mode:

1. Go to the correct location for your system (for our example, we use an x64 system):

   ```
   cd "%ProgramFiles%\OpenVPN Connect\"
   ```

   > **ⓘ Tip**
   > Ensure you use the correct location for your system.

2. Install the system service:

   ```
   ovpnconnector.exe install
   ```

3. Specify the connection profile to use (optional):

```
ovpnconnector.exe set-config p
rofile <FULL_PATH_AND_FILENAME
_TO_PROFILE.OVPN>
```

> **ℹ Note**
> If you downloaded
> your OpenVPN
> Connect installation
> file from Access
> Server or
> CloudConnexa and it
> came with a bundled
> autologin connection
> profile, you can skip
> step three. It will then
> simply default to the
> bundled connection
> profile. You can find it
> in the program
> location with the

name
"ovpnconnector.ovpn"
— that's the bundled
connection profile.

4 Specify the path to a log file (optional):

```
ovpnconnector.exe set-config l
og <FULL_PATH_AND_FILENAME_TO_
LOGFILE.LOG>
```

> ⓘ **Note**
>   If you skip step four,
>   the service writes to
>   the default log file in
>   the program
>   location with the
>   name,
>   "ovpnconnector.log".

5   Start the service:

```
ovpnconnector.exe start
```

- The service starts the VPN connection and logs output to the log file.

> **ℹ Tip**
> You don't receive any feedback about whether the connection succeeds or not after you start the service. You can check the log file or use the ping command to verify that the connection

is up and running.

> ℹ **Important**
> OpenVPN Connect
> should not be
> running; otherwise,
> service startup
> aborts.

Usage details

[#usage-details_body]

Default connection settings

[#default-connection-settings_body]

Configure additional connector options (3.7.1 and newer)

[#configure-additional-connector-options--3-7-1-

and-newer-_body]

Revert configuration to default

[#revert-configuration-to-default_body]

If you need to undo a configuration setting for the OpenVPN connection profile path or the log file path to revert them to defaults, you can use these commands:

```
ovpnconnector.exe unset-config pr
ofile
ovpnconnector.exe unset-config lo
g
```

Stop or remove the service

[#stop-or-remove-the-service_body]

Use the following commands to stop or remove the service.

Stop the service

```
ovpnconnector.exe stop
```

The service stops, and the active OpenVPN connection terminates. On the

next reboot, the service starts and
reconnects.

Remove the service

```
ovpnconnector.exe remove
```

The system stops and the active
OpenVPN connection terminates. You've
removed the service from the system.

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