NETWORK SECURITY

HOMEWORK-5

BYPASSING FIREWALLS USING VPN

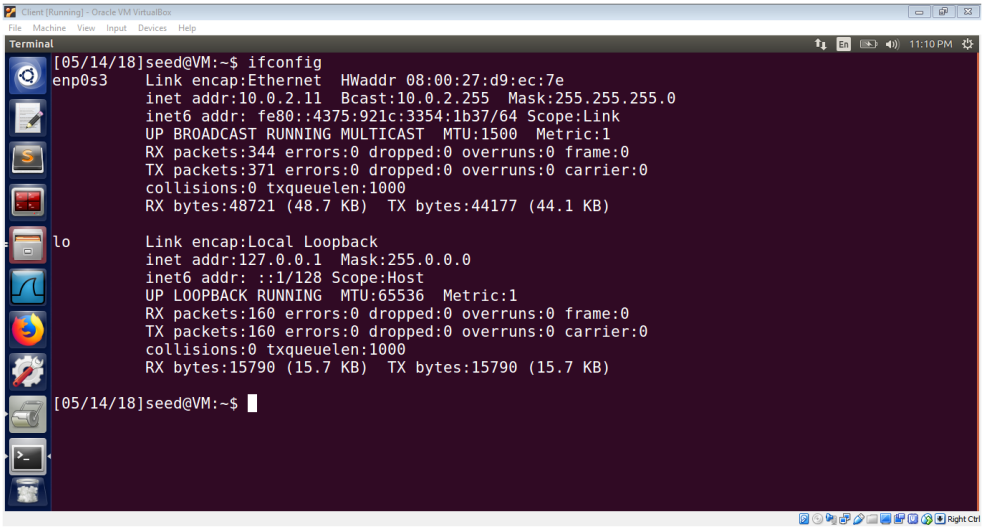
ANIMESH JAIN

UIN – 669653208

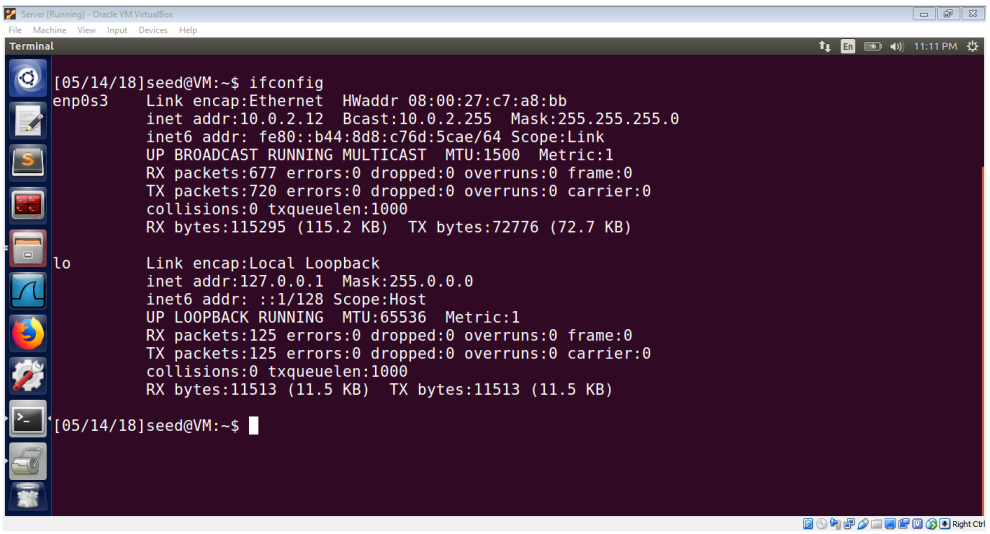
ajain65@uic.edu

2.1 TASK 1: VM SETUP

VM1 = CLIENT MACHINE (inside the firewall)



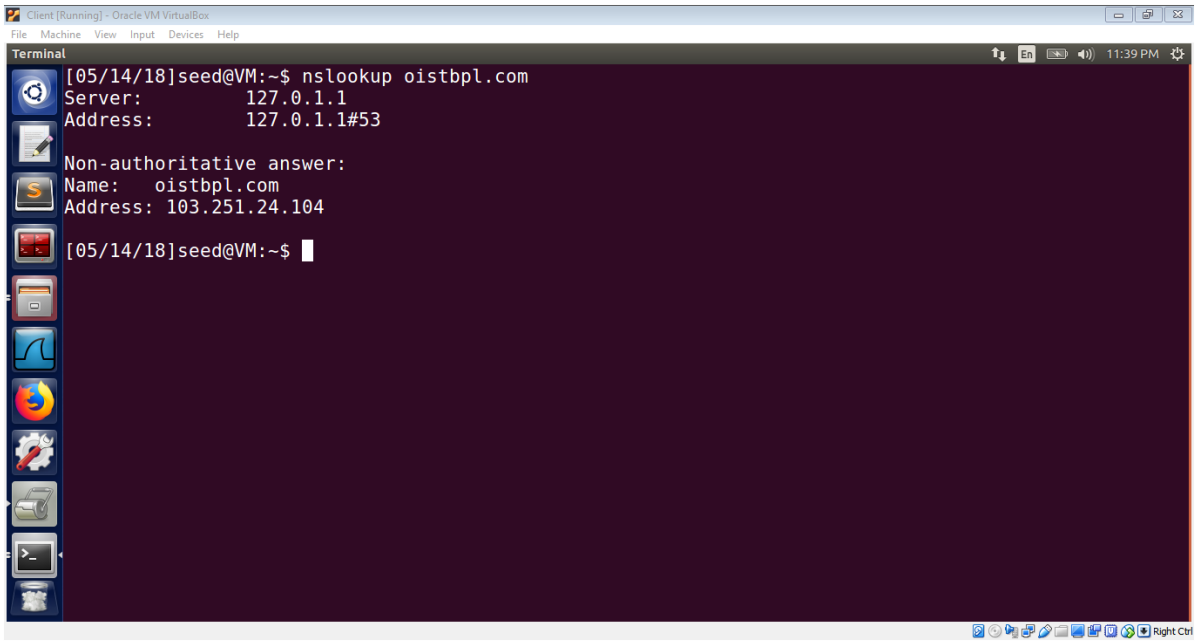
VM2 = SERVER MACHINE (outside the firewall)



2.2 TASK 2: SET UP FIREWALL

In this task we will setup a firewall on the "Client" machine to block the access to a website. The target website in this lab is **"oistbpl.com"**, which is the webpage of "ORIENTAL INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, Bhopal, India. In the below screenshot we have given a command to look for the IP address of our target website. Command that we will use for this is

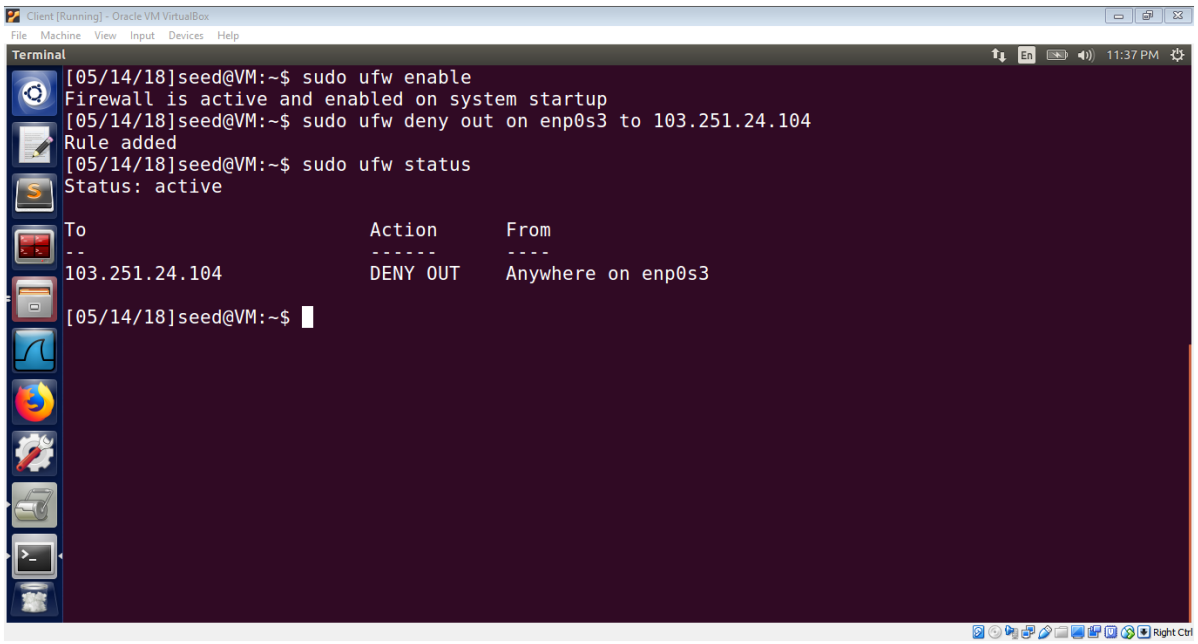
- nslookup oistbpl.com



Now for setting up the firewall rules we will use the **ufw** program. The command that we will use to block "oistbpl.com" is

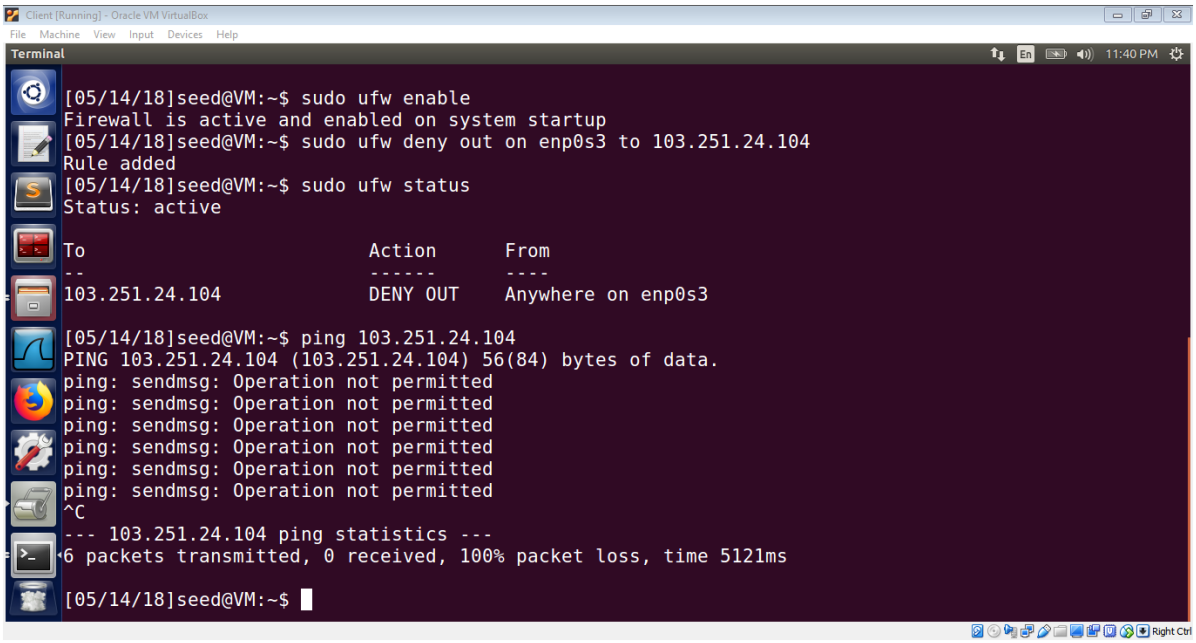
- sudo ufw deny out on enp0s3 to 103.251.24.104

All the commands that we use to setup firewall are mentioned in the below screenshot.



Now to check whether the firewall is working properly or not we will make use of ping command.

- ping 103.251.24.104



On pinging the “oistbpl.com” website we are getting the following response

- **ping: sendmsg: Operation not permitted** (in the above screenshot)

Also, few packets are transmitted but none of them were received. So, this confirms that our **firewall setup was successful**.

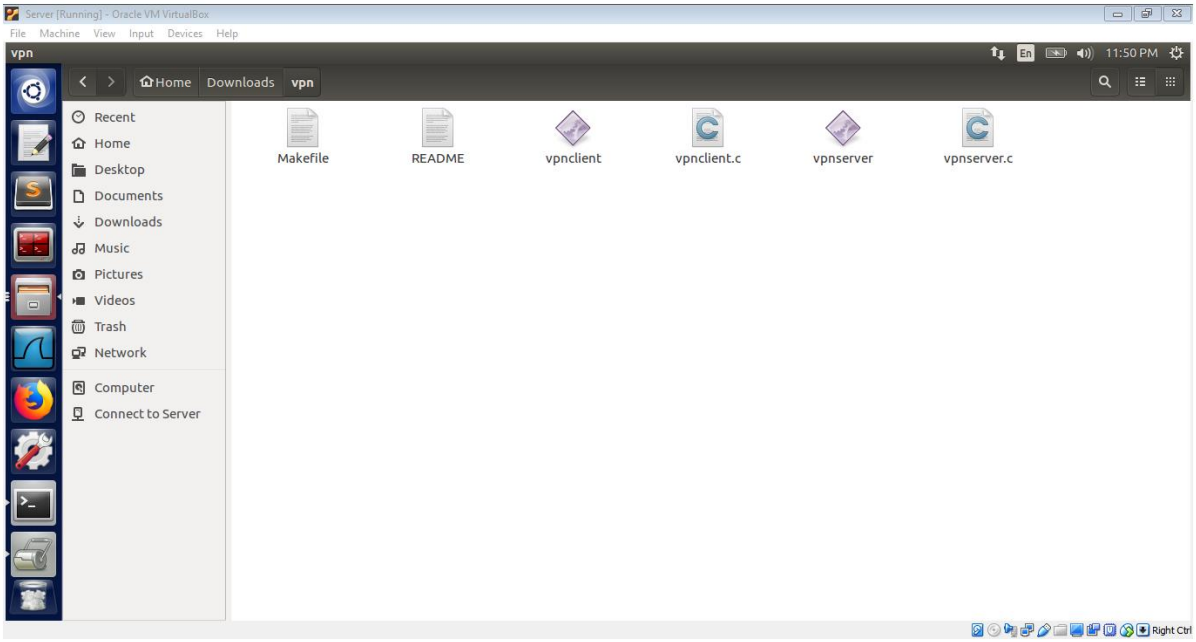
2.3 TASK 3: BYPASSING FIREWALL USING VPN

Earlier we saw that we are no longer able to access “oistbpl.com” because we have blocked it using firewall. Now if we want to access the blocked site then we must first establish a VPN tunnel through which the packets from “Client” machine will reach the “Server” machine. Now from the “Server” machine the packet will be directed to the destination i.e. the target website. The response packets also follow the similar process.

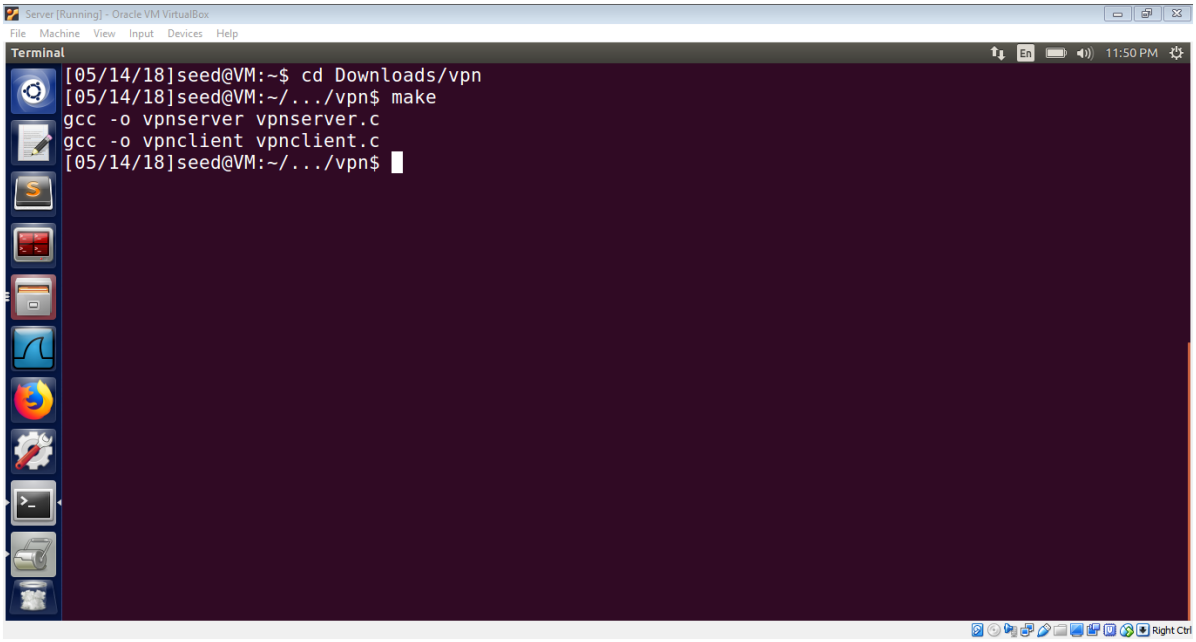
Now we will run the VPN server and VPN client program, both of which can be downloaded from the SEED labs website. **After running the server and client program a tunnel will be established between the “Client” and the “server” machine.**

Step 1: Run VPN server

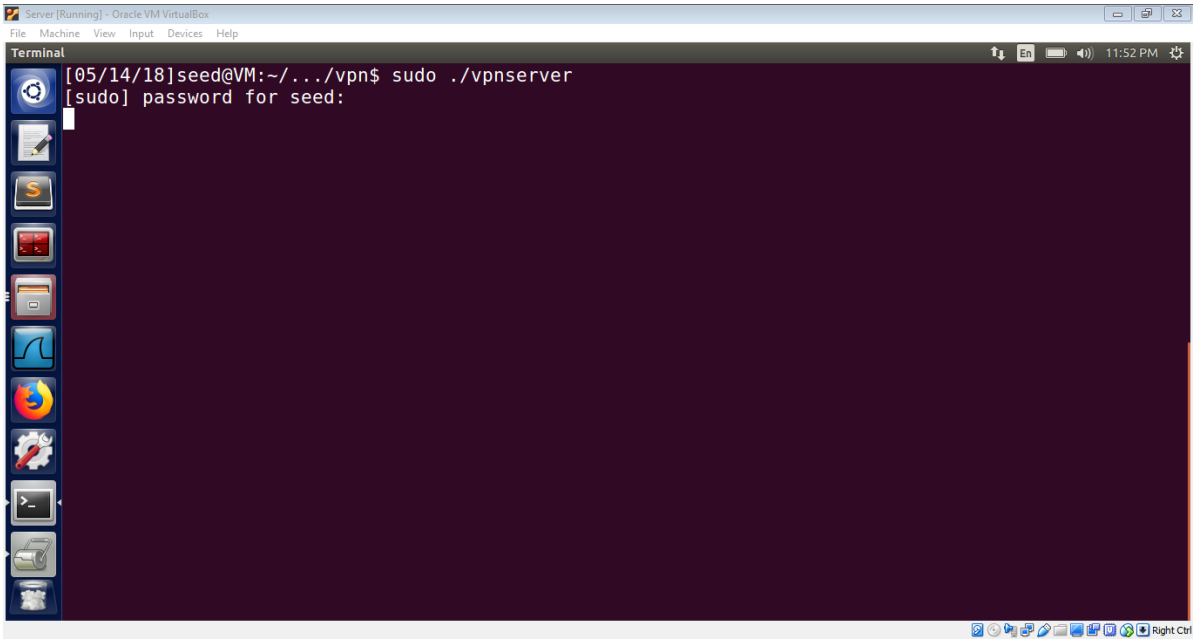
After downloading the VPN server and client program from SEED labs website, we will extract all the files from the ZIP folder.



Now, to compile the VPN server and client program we will give the make command to run the make file. It is demonstrated in the below screenshot.



Now we will start the server program.



After the program runs we will give the following command

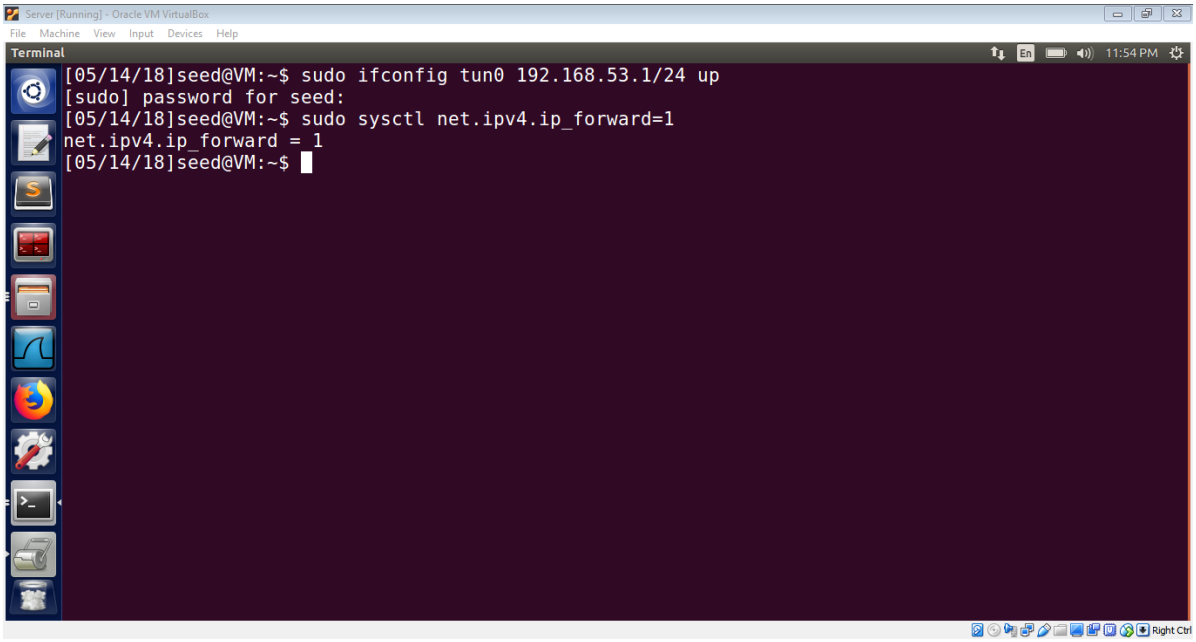
- ifconfig -a

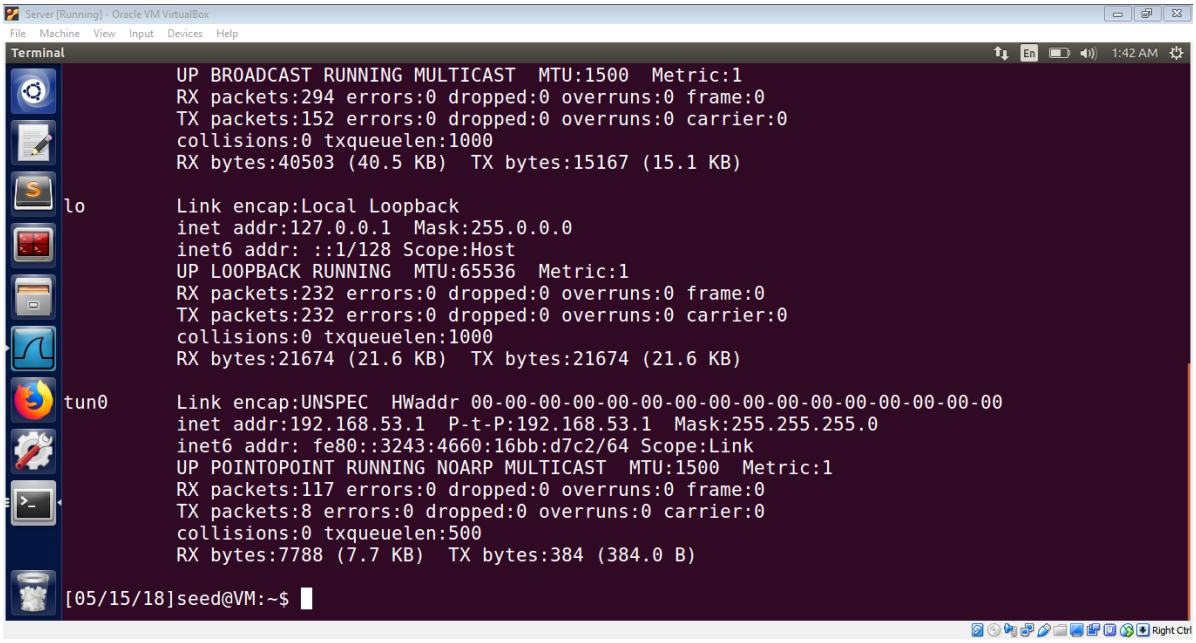
We will observe that a virtual interface is created called “tun 0”. Now we will move onto another terminal and will give a command to assign an IP address to the “tun0” interface on the server side and to initiate the tunnel. Command that we use is

- sudo ifconfig tun0 192.168.53.1/24 up

Now since the server also must forward the packets to other destination we will enable the IPv4 packet forwarding on the server side. To do this we will use the following command

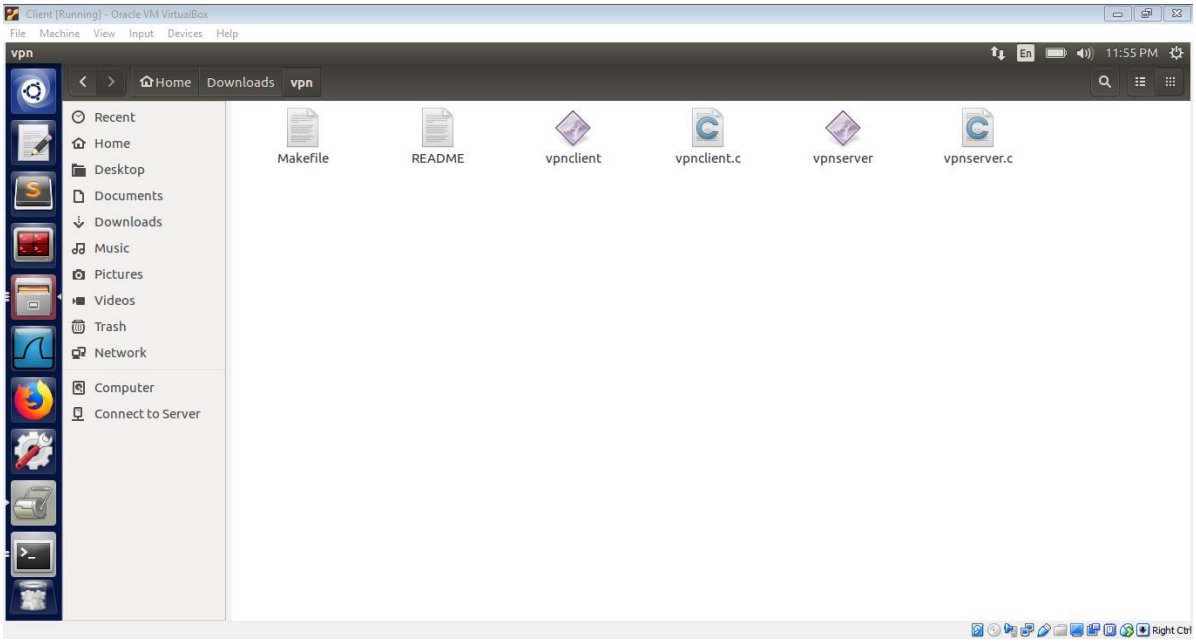
- sudo sysctl net.IPv4.IP_forward=1





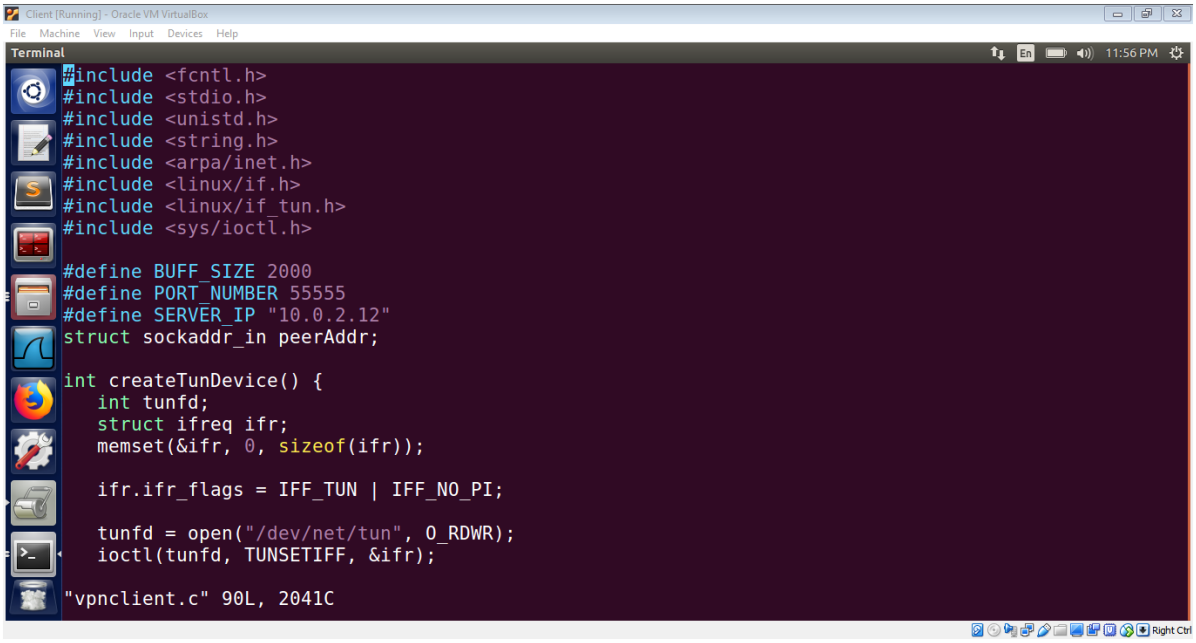
Step 2: Run the client side

After downloading the VPN server and client program from SEED labs website, we will extract all the files from the ZIP folder.

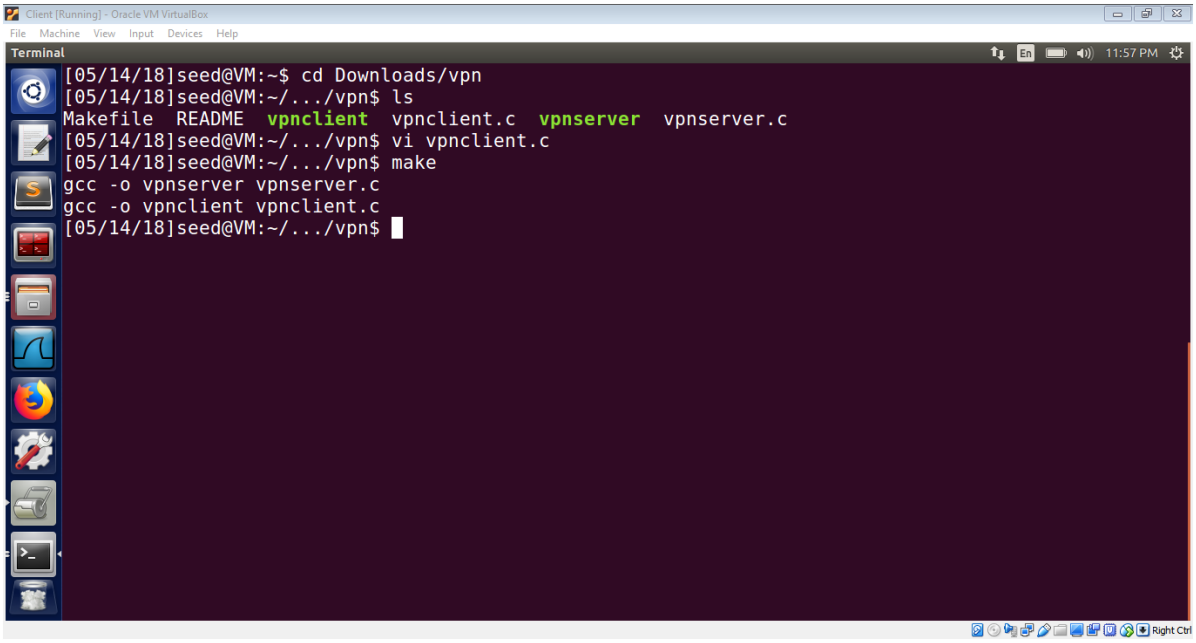


Now we will run the VPN client program which in turn will connect this VPN client program with VPN server program running on “10.0.2.12”.

But before that we will open the vpnclient.c file. Once we get access to the file we will update the SERVER_IP as 10.0.2.12 which is our “Server” machine IP address. Once we are done with this we will save and close the file.



Now to compile the VPN client program we will first run the make file.

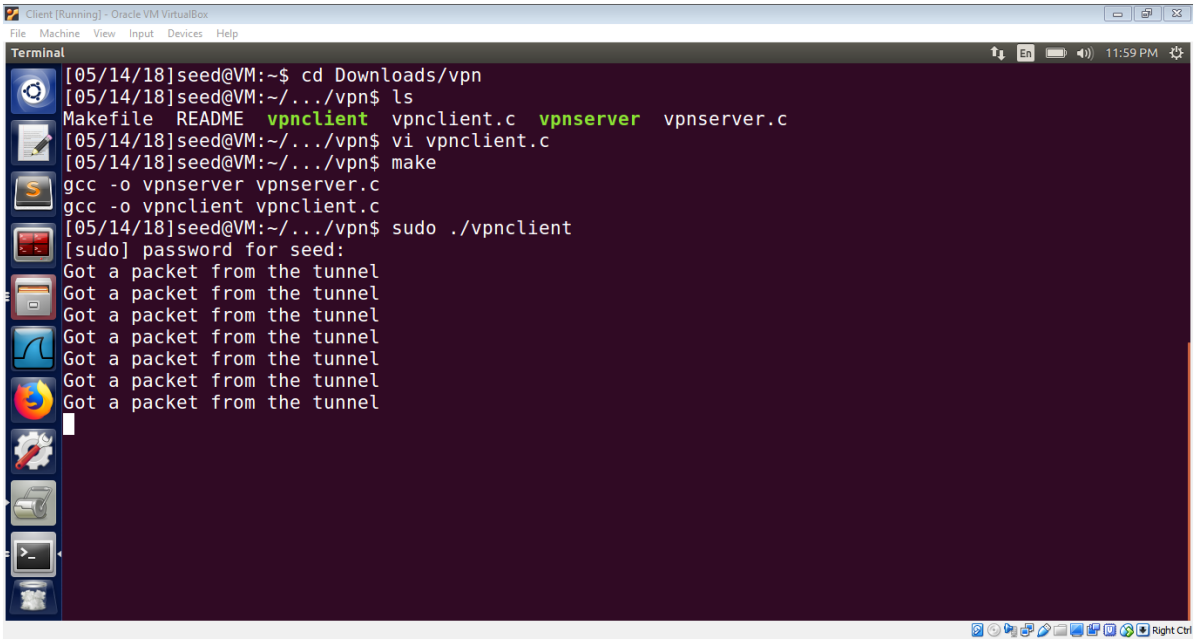


Now we will run the client program. To do this we will give the following command

- sudo ./vpnclient

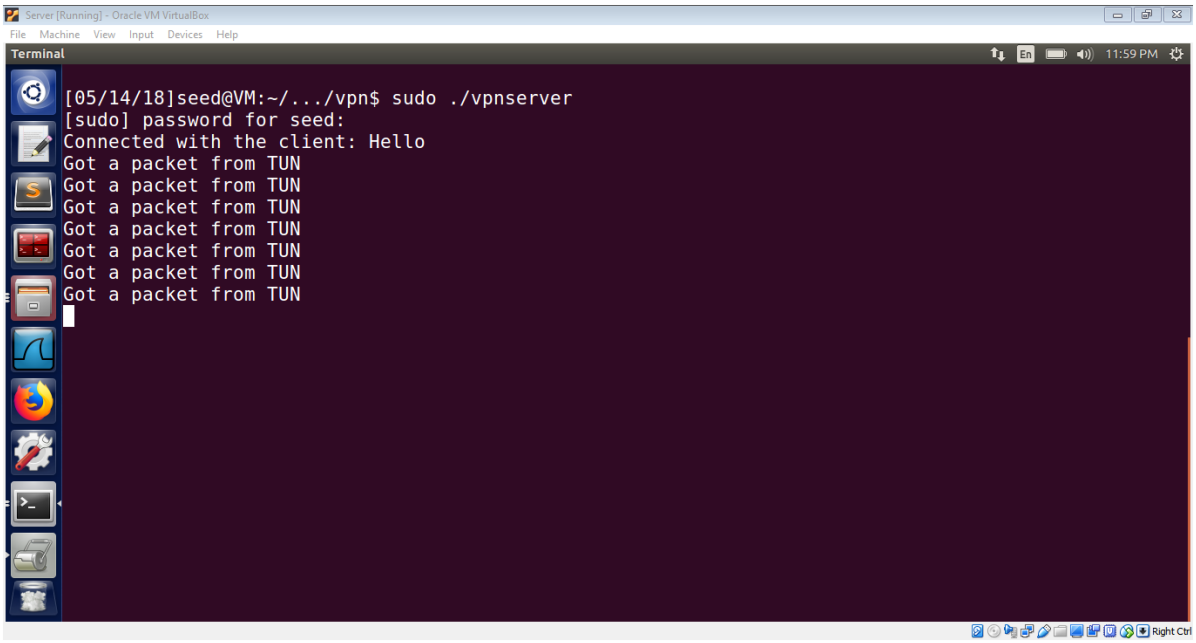
And again, in another terminal we will give a command to assign an IP address to “tun0” interface.

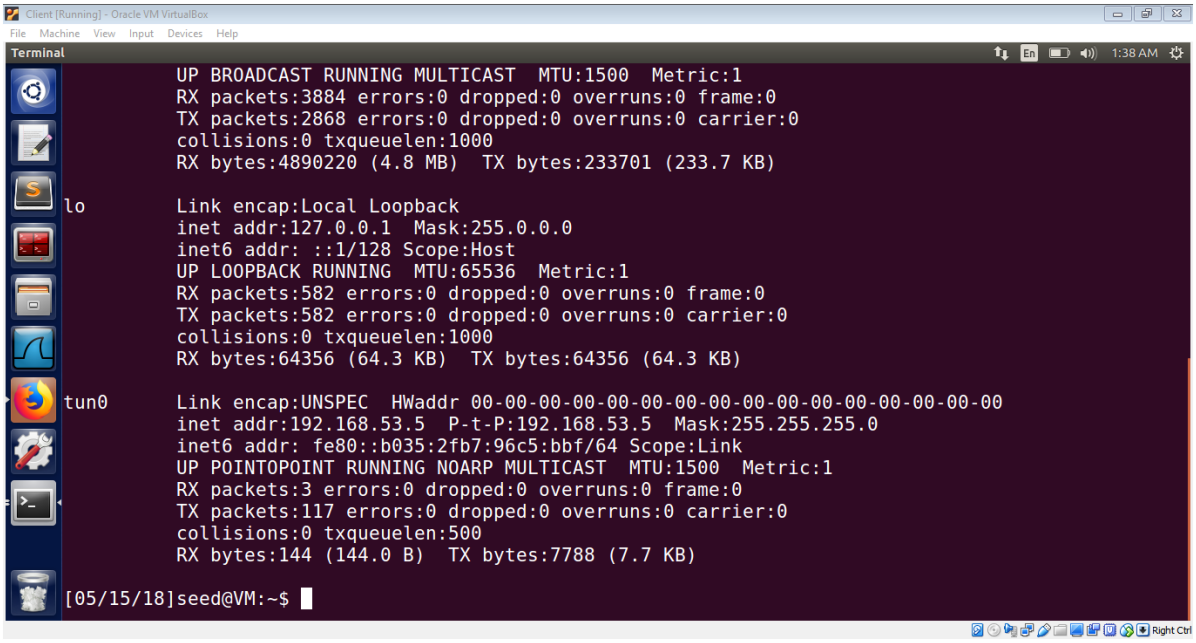
- Sudo ifconfig tun0 192.168.53.5/24 up

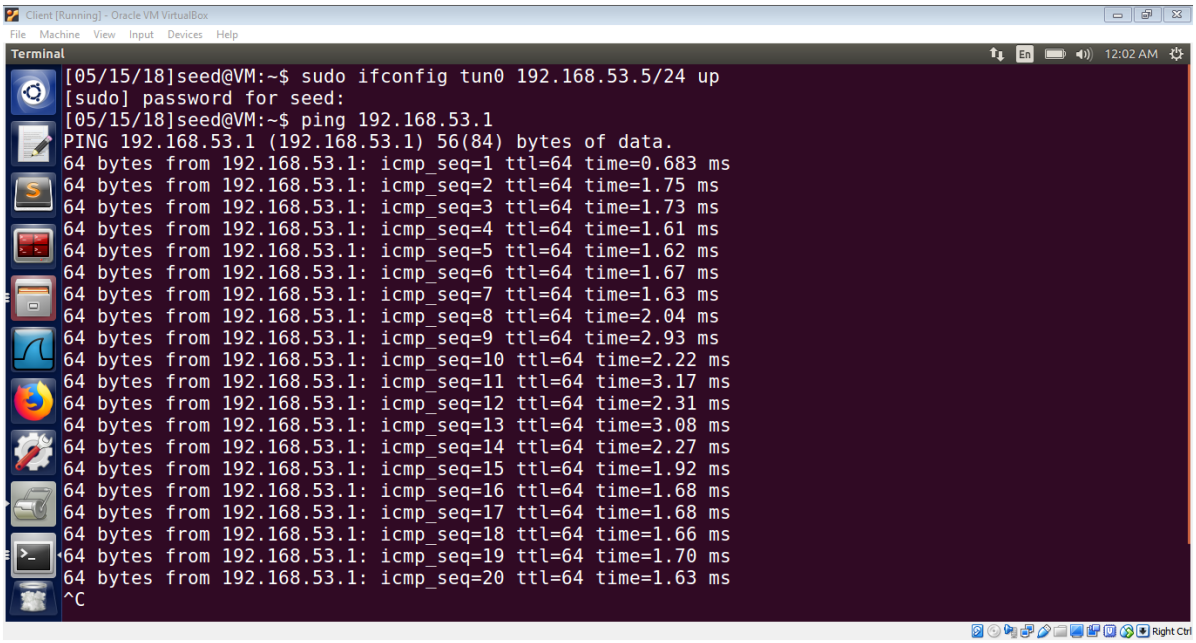


From the above screenshot we can observe that as soon as we run the VPN client program**, we see that the tunnel is established, and few packets are going from the client to the server side.**

On the server side (see the below screenshot), we see that it shows the message **"Connected with the client: Hello", and it is receiving packets from the server. It confirms that the tunnel is created.**



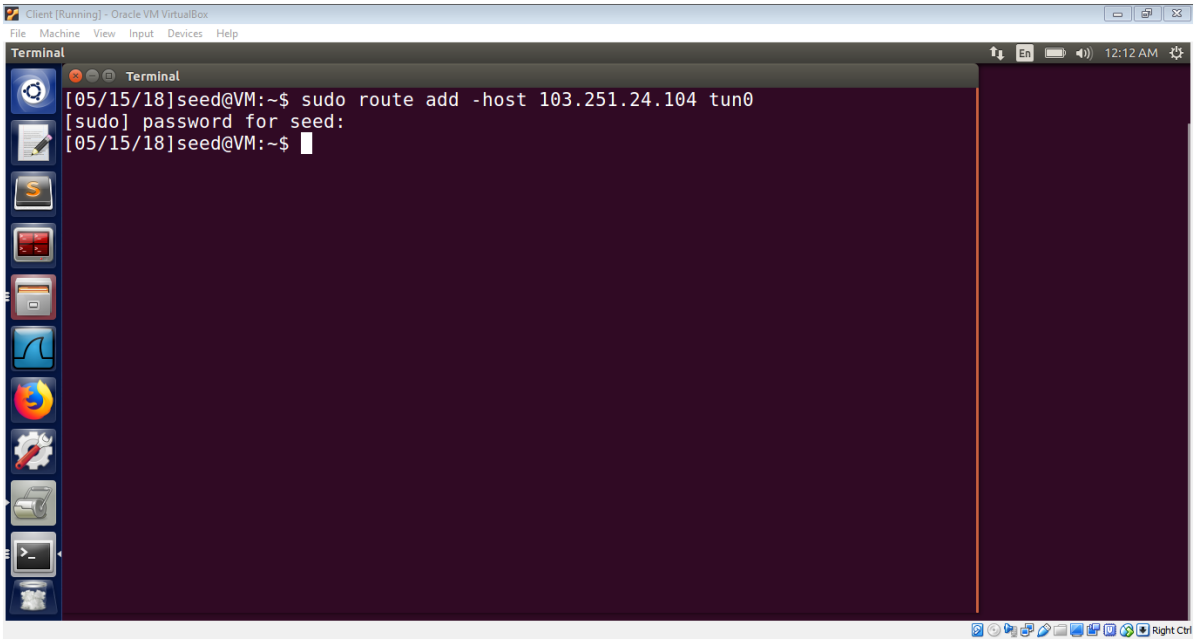




The above screenshot shows commands that we use to assign IP address to the tunnel interface on the client side. Also**, we will use the ping command** to check whether the packets are going through tunnel or not. After pinging we see that packet are being transmitted that means **the tunnel is successfully established between the VPN client and VPN server**.

Step 3: Set up Routing on Client VM

After the tunnel is established we will set up a routing path on the Client VM so that the traffic we want to pass through the tunnel can pass through it**. We want the packet destined to "103.251.24.104" to pass through the interface "tun0"**. The below screenshot demonstrates the command we use to do this.

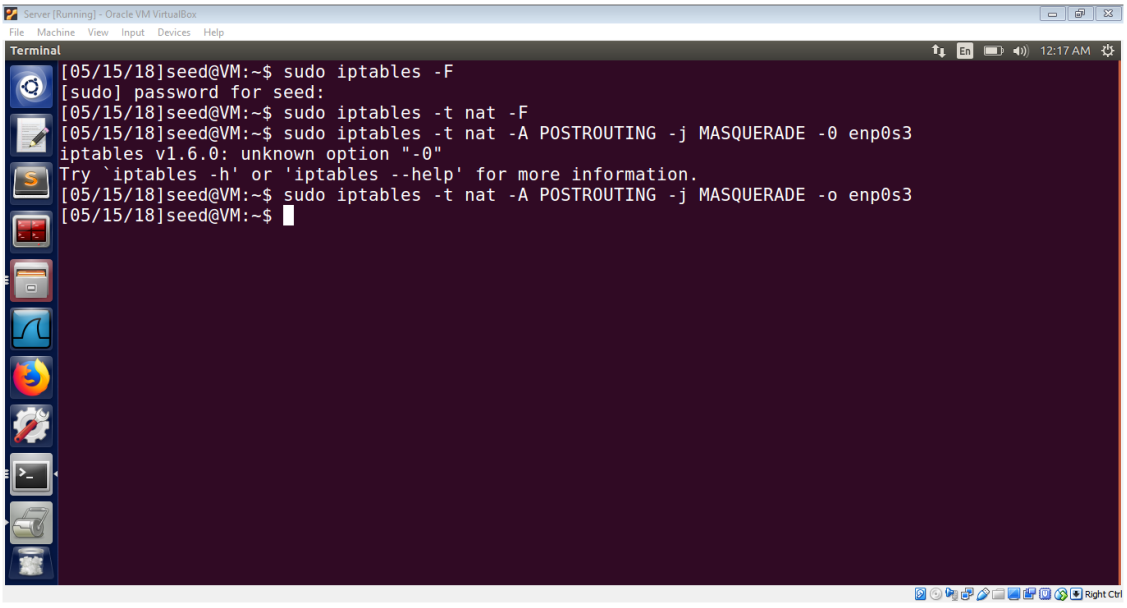


Step 4: Setup NAT on server VM

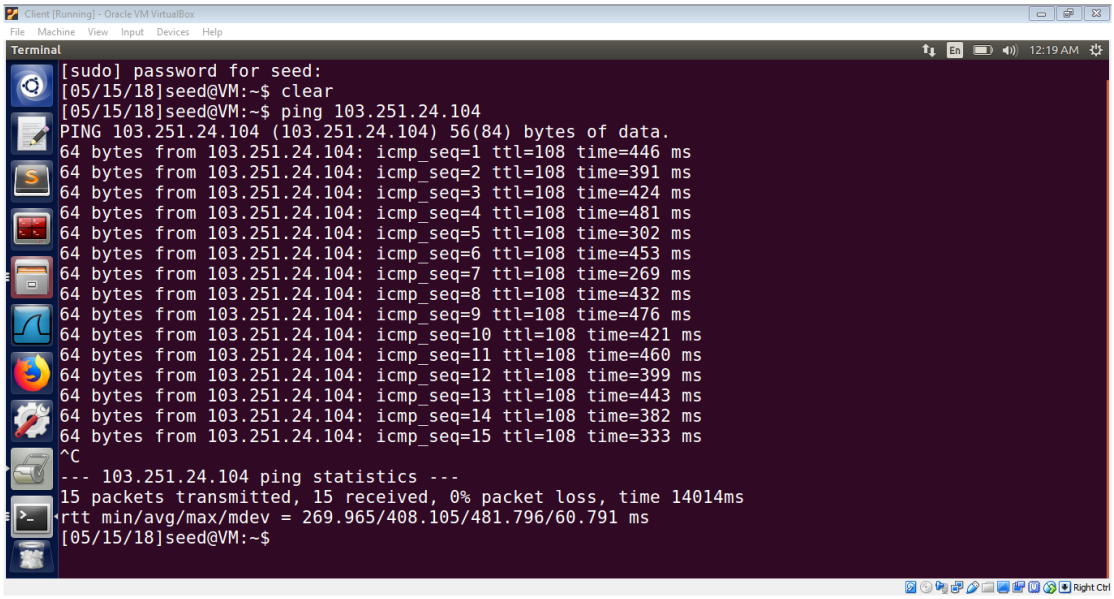
Why the packet will reach the VPN server first?

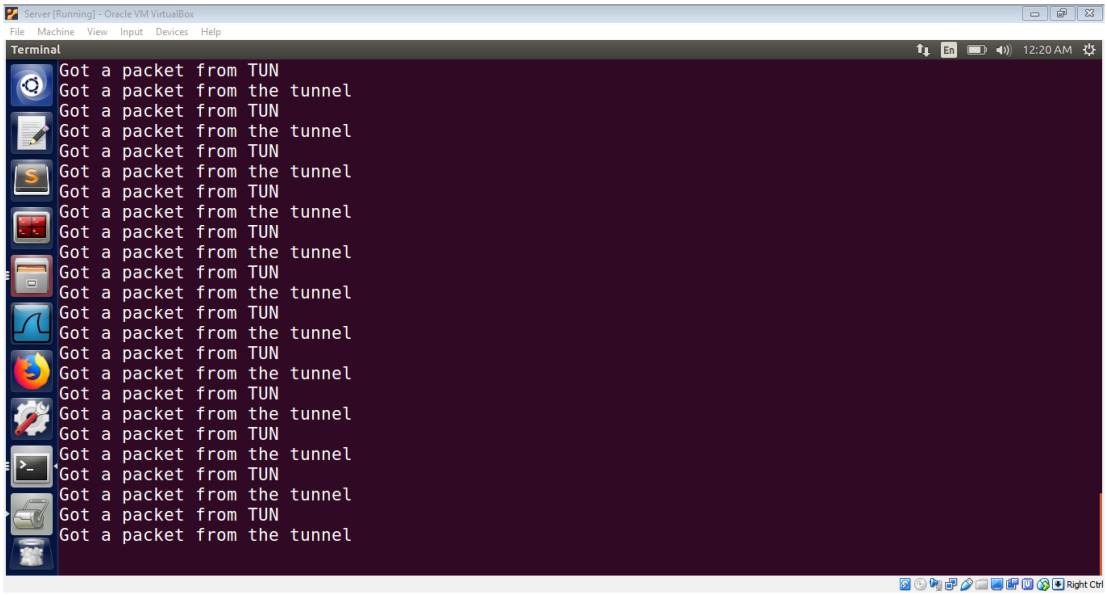
Because we will enable the NAT on the “Server” machine. So, when the packet is sent to destination from the server as it leaves the server because of NAT, its private IP is changed to Public IP address, which is the IP address of the server. So now whenever the response from the website will come then it will be directed to the public IP address of the “Server” machine. Now as it passes the NAT again the response packet will be directed to the private address of VPN server.

Now we will give the following commands (shown in the below screenshot) to enable the NAT on the server VM. Using this we won’t require to fool the NAT anymore by using the ARP cache poisoning.



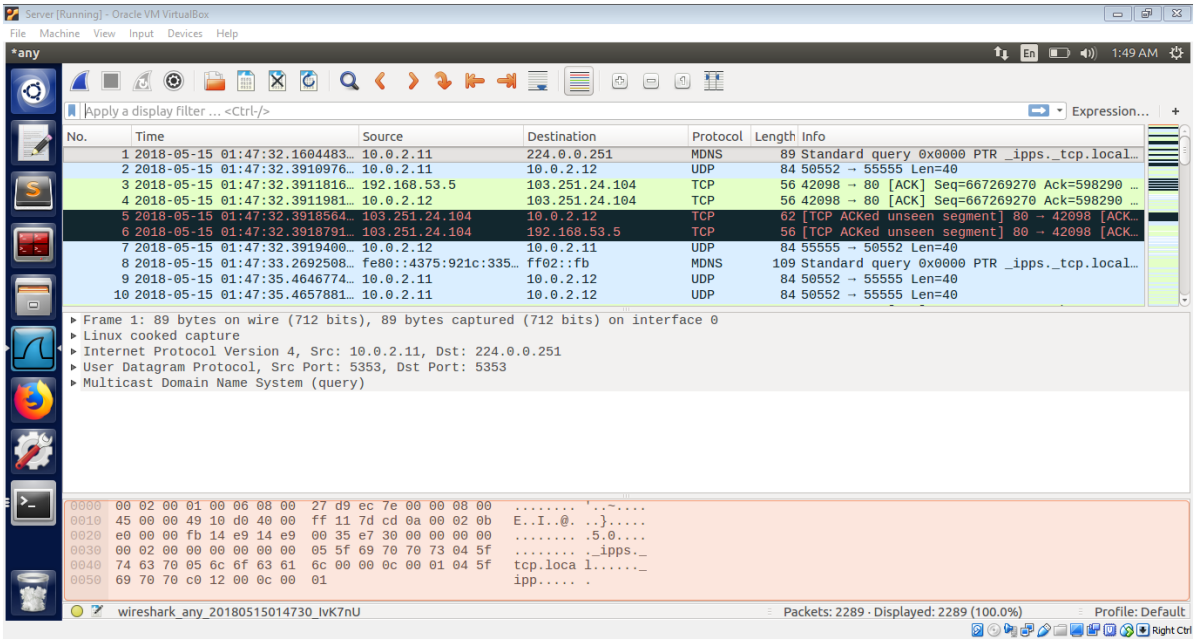
Now, the tunnel is successfully created, and all the required routes are added. Now we will check whether we are able to bypass the firewall by using VPN server. For this we will ping the “oistbpl.com” again



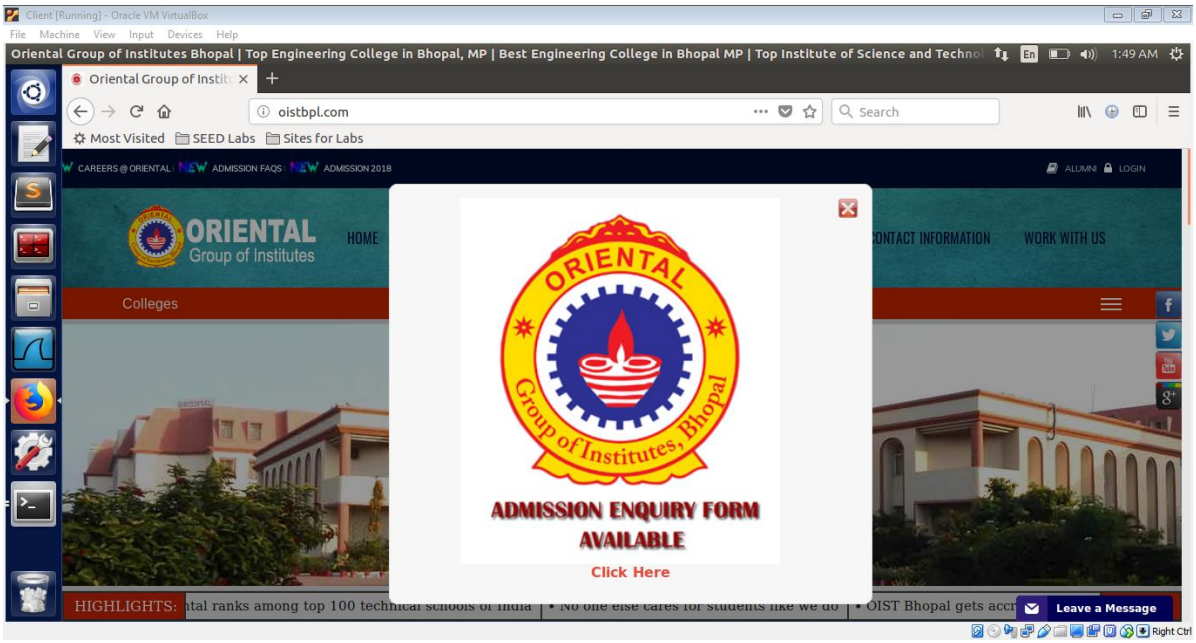


From the above two screenshot we can say that the firewall has been bypassed successfully through the VPN tunnel, as on the “Client” machine when we ping the target website, on the “Server” machine we are receiving the packets from the tunnel.

We can also showcase that the traffic went through the tunnel only and not through any side door by capturing the packets through Wireshark.



From the above screenshot we can see that the packet is going from “192.168.53.5” i.e., from client to “oistbpl.com”. First it goes to the “Server” VM and then to the target website. The response packet from the website first goes to the “Server” VM and from there it comes to the Client tunnel interface. So, the firewall is bypassed using tunnel itself and not through any side door.



Now, when we try to access the webpage of “oistbpl.com” we see that we can access it. Although the firewall rules are still enabled on the “Client” machine which blocks the access to the webpage we requested in the above screenshot, but we successfully evaded the firewall by using the IP tunneling technology of VPN and therefore we are able to access the target website.