

CS325 – OpenVPN Lab

Learning experience

There was no difficulty overall for this lab where all of the published steps were followed. After presenting about public key infrastructure, it was a surprise to see how simple it is to create self-signed certificates, keys and directories.

There were a few steps that look a lot of processing power such as in step 5 when we generate server certificate, key and encryption files. The VM took at least 10 minutes to complete the process. It is possible that the resources we have provided the VM are not enough to act as a host.

Then on step 11 when we are asked to generate a client certificate it was interesting to have to send the configuration files to the device i.e. the other machine. From my own use of VPN for personal use or school use, it would be to install a program that would create a tunnel and be used for encryption. I am not sure if this is the equivalent of the same process.

Lastly, on step 13 to test the VPN connection, since both VM are on the same host, the method described was not very helpful to see if the connection was made. I had to clone it to my laptop and run the VM from there to test if it would be working properly. There was no issue when connecting to the VPN server and thus I concluded that the setup was working as intended.