OpenWRT WireGuard Server Setup guide using LuCi

Introduction

WireGuard is an open-source VPN solution written in C by Jason Donenfeld and others, aiming to fix many of the problems that have plagued other modern server-to-server VPN offerings like IPSec/IKEv2, OpenVPN, or L2TP.
It many ways it can be seen as a replacement for OpenVPN.
It has three advantages over OpenVPN, it is much faster especially on lower-spec hardware such as Soho routers (my own R7800 goes from 85 Mb/s on OpenVPN to 300 Mb/s with WireGuard), it is easy to setup if you know how, the guides will help you with that and it has a very small code base (about 4000 lines) so that it can easily be reviewed and checked for vulnerabilities.

Some key points about WireGuard:
- Layer 3 only no bridging
- UDP only punches through firewall
- Like SSH authenticated keys
- Executes in Linux Kernel
- Static routing

This is guide is to setup WireGuard as a server.
A server is the WireGuard interface listening for incoming connections e.g. from your phone/laptop from outside.
A client setup is making an outbound connection to a WireGuard server.
But as WireGuard basically is a point-to-point connection it can be both "client" and "server" at the same time, and if you have this setup between two routers we are talking about a site-to-site setup

This guide is based upon OpenWRT 24.10 but also should work on 23.05 and Main builds and uses LuCi to set things up but the resulting config files are also listed.

General Remarks

The most important parts of WireGuard are the public/private keys and the Allowed IP.

The public key is distributed to the peers.
The Allowed IP serves two roles, the first is that the allowed IP is used to know which of the peers public keys (if there is more than one peer) should be used to encrypt the packets.
Therefore the Allowed IP's must be unique for each peer!
The second one is security, if WireGuard detects a source IP which is not in the Allowed IP's the packets are discarded.
The keys are 32 bytes long and can be easily represented in Base64 encoding in 44 *characters the last character is always an =.*

As WireGuard is a routed solution all three involved subnets have to be different. So the Servers subnet, the WG subnet and the Clients subnet all have to be different!
As you often cannot choose the subnet of the client it is best to avoid using frequently used subnet for your routers IP address of e.g. 192.168.1.1/24 or 192.168.0.1/24

Furthermore proper testing can only be done from outside e.g. with your phone or laptop on cellular data or from a friends/neighbors internet.

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Server setup

Installation

Install WireGuard:
LuCi > System > Software: click `Update Lists` to get the latest packages for your build
Install: `luci-proto-wireguard`, `wireguard-tools` and `wg-installer-client` (only necessary if you later want to install a client)

Create WireGuard Interface

Next up we are going to create the WireGuard Interface:
Network > Interfaces on the bottom click: `Add New interface`

Add new interface...	
Name	wgserver
Protocol	WireGuard VPN

Cancel   Create interface

Name: give the interface a name (hyphens are not allowed and the name has to be below 15 characters!)
Protocol: *WireGuard VPN*
Click: *Create interface* and the Interface configuration screen should appear:

Interfaces » wgserver

General Settings   Advanced Settings   Firewall Settings   DHCP Server   Peers

Status	Device: wireguard-wgserver RX: 0 B (0 Pkts.) TX: 0 B (0 Pkts.)
Protocol	WireGuard VPN
Disable this interface	☐
Bring up on boot	☑
Private Key	*
	Required. Base64-encoded private key for this interface.
Public Key	
	Base64-encoded public key of this interface for sharing.
	Generate new key pair
Listen Port	random
	Optional. UDP port used for outgoing and incoming packets.
IP Addresses	+
	Recommended. IP addresses of the WireGuard interface.
No Host Routes	☐
	Optional. Do not create host routes to peers.

Click: *Generate new key pair*
Listen port: *55443* , you can use any port with is not already taken.
IP Addresses: *172.22.22.1/24*, if you also want IPv6 use a ULA address e.g.: *fd8f:de49::1/64*, you can use an ULA calculator if you want

Interfaces » wgserver

General Settings   Advanced Settings   Firewall Settings   DHCP Server   Peers

Status	**Device:** wgserver **Uptime:** 0h 1m 41s **RX:** 0 B (0 Pkts.) **TX:** 0 B (0 Pkts.) **IPv4:** 172.22.22.1/24 **IPv6:** fd8f:de49:19f1:ffff::1/64
Protocol	WireGuard VPN ⌄
Disable this interface	☐
Bring up on boot	☑
Private Key	●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●● * Required. Base64-encoded private key for this interface.
Public Key	ML5BqgOUmKMklzhXGSXnmFWeTVD1g[Base64-encoded public key of this interface for sharing. **Generate new key pair**
Listen Port	55443 Optional. UDP port used for outgoing and incoming packets.
IP Addresses	172.22.22.1/24 – fd8f:de49::1/64 – + Recommended. IP addresses of the WireGuard interface.

Save and then Save & Apply

---

wgserver 🖥️ wgserver	**Protocol:** WireGuard VPN **Uptime:** 0h 2m 41s **RX:** 0 B (0 Pkts.) **TX:** 0 B (0 Pkts.) **IPv4:** 172.22.22.1/24 **IPv6:** fd8f:de49:19f1:ffff::1/64	Restart Stop Edit Delete

/etc/config/network:
```
config interface 'wgserver'
        option proto 'wireguard'
        option private_key 'MIShxrFJZqAQ4UG/pql2Y+xgs+QP5FyAl57s3M7lhW0='
        option listen_port '55443'
        list addresses '172.22.22.1/24'
        list addresses 'fd8f:de49::1/64'
```

Firewall Setup

The firewall setup consist of three things:
1. Opening up the port (55443 in this example) with a traffic rule
2a. Allowing traffic for the wgserver the interface
3. Allow IPv6 internet for your wgserver clients, Optional if you have implemented IPv6 and want your cleints to have IPv6 internet

1. Opening up the port (55443 in this example) with a traffic rule

Network > Firewall > Traffic Rules
Add new traffic rule
Name: *allow-55443*
Protocol: *UDP*, click drop down button and disable TCP
Source zone: *WAN*
Destination zone: *Device (input)*
Destination port: *55443* , the port the wgserver interface listens on

The traffic rule, by default, applies to IPv4 and IPv6, you can restrict the rule to IPv4 on the Advanced Tab

Firewall – Traffic Rules – Unnamed rule

General Settings Advanced Settings Time Restrictions

Name	allow-55443
Protocol	UDP ▾
Source zone	**wan** wan: 🖧 wan6: 🖧 wg_proton_nl: 🖧 ▾
Source address	-- add IP -- ▾
Source port	any
Destination zone	Device(input) ▾
Destination address	-- add IP -- ▾
Destination port	55443
Action	accept ▾

Save the rule and the result looks like this:

allow-55443	Incoming *IPv4* and *IPv6*, protocol *UDP* From **wan** To `this device` , port *55443*	*Accept* input	☑	☰ Edit Clone🗐 Delete

/etc/config/firewall:
```
config rule
        option name 'allow-55443'
        list proto 'udp'
        option src 'wan'
        option dest_port '55443'
        option target 'ACCEPT'
```

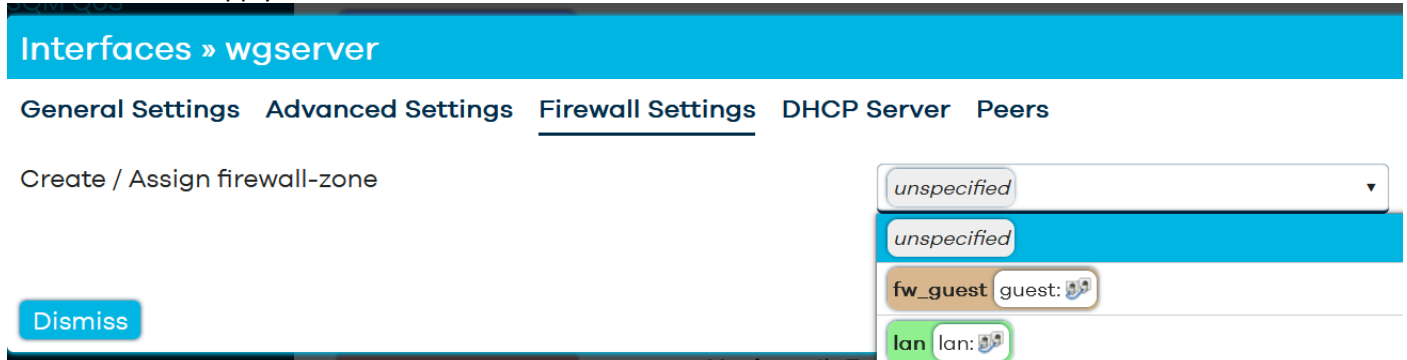## 2a. Allowing traffic for the wgserver's the interface

The easiest method is to edit the wg server interface.
Network > Interfaces and click the *edit* button on the *wgserver interface*

Go to Firewall settings:
Click on the drop down button and click on lan, this will add the wgserver interface to the lan zone
Save and Save & Apply

Interfaces » wgserver

General Settings   Advanced Settings   **Firewall Settings**   DHCP Server   Peers

Create / Assign firewall-zone

unspecified ▼

unspecified

fw_guest guest:

lan lan:

Dismiss

/etc/config/firewall:
```
config zone
        option name 'lan'
        option input 'ACCEPT'
        option output 'ACCEPT'
        option forward 'ACCEPT'
        list network 'lan'
        list network 'wgserver'
```

2b. Alternative setup

```
This can be used if you want a more finer grained control.
Instead of adding the wgserver interface to the LAN zone we crate a separate firewall zone:
Go to Firewall settings and
Click Add
Name: wgserver (or a name to your liking)
Input:  accept (unless you do not want your wgserver clients to have access to your router)
```
Output: *accept (*always set accept)
Intra zone Forward: *accept* (unless yo do not want your wgserver clients to be able to communicate with each other)
Covered networks: *wgserver* (this is the wgserver interface)
allow forward to destination zones:
> *lan zone* (to allow to connect to your lan clients)
> *wan zone* (optional to give your wg server clients internet access via your router)

allow forward from source zones:
> *lan zone* (optional only to allow bidirectional traffic e.g. in case you have a site-to-site setup, ote that your wg server clients als0 have to allow this traffic)

Firewall – Zone Settings

General Settings   **Advanced Settings**   **Conntrack Settings**

This section defines common properties of "this new zone". The *input* and *output* options set the default policies for traffic entering and describes the policy for forwarded traffic between different networks within the zone. *Covered networks* specifies which available netw

Name	wgserver
Input	accept ⌄
Output	accept ⌄
Intra zone forward	accept ⌄
Masquerading	☐ Enable network address and port translation IPv4 (NAT4 o typically enabled on the *wan* zone.
MSS clamping	☐
Covered networks	wgserver: ▾

The options below control the forwarding policies between this zone (this new zone) and other zones. *Destination zones* cover forwarde *zones* match forwarded traffic from other zones **targeted at this new zone**. The forwarding rule is *unidirectional*, e.g. a forward from la from wan to lan as well.

Allow forward to *destination zones*:	lan lan: wan wan: wan6: ▾
Allow forward from *source zones*:	lan lan: ▾

```
/etc/config/firewall:
config zone
        option name 'wgserver'
        option input 'ACCEPT'
        option output 'ACCEPT'
        option forward 'ACCEPT'
        list network 'wgserver'

config forwarding
        option dest 'lan'
        option src 'wgserver'

config forwarding
        option dest 'wgserver'
        option src 'lan'

config forwarding
        option src 'wgserver'
        option dest 'wan'
```

3. Allow IPv6 internet for wgserver clients

If IPv6 is implemented and you want wgserver clients to have internet access via IPv6 then Masquerading should be enabled for the WireGuard subnet out of the WAN.

Network > Firewall > Wan zone : **click** *edit*
goto *Advanced Settings:*
IPv6 Masquerading: *Enable*
Restrict Masquerading to given source subnets: *fd8f:de49::0/64* (WireGuard IPv6 subnet)

Save and **Save & Apply**

Firewall – Zone Settings

General Settings **Advanced Settings** **Conntrack Settings**

The options below control the forwarding policies between this zone (wan) and other zones. *Destination zones* cover forward forwarded traffic from other zones **targeted at wan**. The forwarding rule is *unidirectional*, e.g. a forward from lan to wan doe

Covered devices	*unspecified* ▼
	Use this option to classify zone traffic by raw, nc
Covered subnets	[ ] +
	Use this option to classify zone traffic by source
IPv6 Masquerading	☑
	Enable network address and port translation IP
Restrict to address family	IPv4 and IPv6 ✓
Restrict Masquerading to given source subnets	fd8f:de49::0/64 –
	0.0.0.0/0 +

```
/etc/config/firewall:
config zone
        option name 'wan'
        <>
        option masq6 '1'
        list masq_src 'fd8f:de49::0/64'
```

Furthermore there is no standard default route for IPv6 as "source" routing is used so source routing should be disabled.

Network > Interfaces > WAN6: **click** *edit*
goto *Advanced Settings:*
Disable Source Routing by removing the tick:

IPv6 source routing	☐
	Automatically handle multiple uplink interfaces using source-based policy routing.

Save and **Save & Apply**

```
/etc/config/network:
config interface 'wan6'
        option device 'wan'
        <>
        option sourcefilter '0'
```

Peer Setup

Next setup the peers for the WireGuard server.
Peers are the clients which connects from outside to the wgserver.
There are WireGuard clients for almost operating systems.

We are going to setup one Peer but you can of course add as many as you want, note that you can reuse this one peer for multiple clients but you can only connect one at a time!

Go to Network > Interfaces > wgserver > Peers

Interfaces » wgserver

General Settings   Advanced Settings   Firewall Settings   DHCP Server   Peers

Further information about WireGuard interfaces and peers at wireguard.com.

Disabled	Description	Allowed IPs	Endpoint Host
		No peers defined yet.	

Add peer   Import configuration as peer...

Click: *Add Peer*
Description: give a name for your Peer
Click *Generate new key pair*, the keys for the peer will be filled in.
Allowed IPs: *172.22.22.2/32*, the wgserver has this address 172.22.22.1/24, all peers should have an address in this subnet so for this peer use 172.22.22.2/32, note the /32 mask. Subsequent peers will use .3/32 etc.
For IPv6 you add: *fd8f:de49::2/128*, note the /128 mask
Route Allowed IPs: *Enable*, Always enable this
Endpoint host: Leave blank
Endpoint port: *554433*, this is the listening port of the wgserver, only used to make your config
Persistent keep alive: *25*, most clients are behind NAT so to keep the connection open use persistent keep alive, only used to make your config

Disabled

☐
Enable / Disable peer. Restart wireguard interfa

Description

My Phone

Optional. Description of peer.

Public Key

1/eg09g0LT72ogh2sUC9ySNbbb4yhOo+c

Required. Public key of the WireGuard peer.

Private Key

●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●● ⬛*

Optional. Private key of the WireGuard peer. The
a connection but allows generating a peer conf
can be removed after the configuration has bee

Generate new key pair

Preshared Key

⬛*

Optional. Base64-encoded preshared key. Adds
symmetric-key cryptography for post-quantum

Generate preshared key

Allowed IPs

172.22.22.2/32   –

fd8f:de49::2/128   –

+

Optional. IP addresses and prefixes that this pe
tunnel. Usually the peer's tunnel IP addresses ar
through the tunnel.

Route Allowed IPs

☑
Optional. Create routes for Allowed IPs for this p

Endpoint Host

vpn.example.com

Optional. Host of peer. Names are resolved prior

Endpoint Port

55443

Optional. Port of peer.

Persistent Keep Alive

25

Optional. Seconds between keep alive message
Recommended value if this device is behind a N

Configuration Export

🔳 **Generate configuration...**

Generates a configuration suitable for import o

Save

Open the peer again by clicking on *Edit*.

Click: *Generate configurations*

Connection Endpoint: this is the WAN IP address or DDNS address your wgserver listens on
Allowed IPs: standard 0.0.0.0/0, ::/0, which means all traffic from your wg client will use the tunnel
DNS server: standard your routers IP address, not all clients can deal with this and you router might not listen on the wgserver interface so to be sure that you have got DNS resolution use 1.1.1.1
Addresses: do not change

Interfaces » wgserver » Edit peer » Generate configuration

The generated configuration can be imported into a WireGuard client application to set up a connection towar̲

Connection endpoint
```
my.ddns.nl                    ▾
```
The public hostname or IP address of this system th̲
usually is a static public IP address, a static hostna̲

Allowed IPs
```
0.0.0.0/0                     —
::/0                          —
-- Please choose --  ▾
```
IP addresses that are allowed inside the tunnel. The̲
packets with source IP addresses matching this list
matching destination IP.

DNS Servers
```
192.168.5.1                   —
1.1.1.1                       —
                              +
```
DNS servers for the remote clients using this tunnel
wireguard clients require this to be set.

Addresses
```
172.22.22.2/32                —
fd8f:de49::2/128              —
-- Please choose --  ▾
```
IP addresses for the peer to use inside the tunnel. So̲

```
[Interface]
PrivateKey = iGrogUvTflvHv1y8cZxHVJYzeosjccZSfGiyX64FUko=
Address = 172.22.22.2/32, fd8f:de49::2/128
ListenPort = 55443
DNS = 192.168.5.1, 1.1.1.1

[Peer]
PublicKey = ML5BqgOUmKMklzhXGSXnmFWeTVD1gDn15SEB8f/T5zo=
# PresharedKey not used
AllowedIPs = 0.0.0.0/0, ::/0
Endpoint = my.ddns.nl:55443
PersistentKeepAlive = 25
```

```
/etc/config/network:
config wireguard_wgserver
        option description 'My Phone'
        option public_key '1/eg09g0LT72ogh2sUC9ySNbbb4yhOo+q7kmDaAv1gM='
        option private_key 'iGrogUvTflvHv1y8cZxHVJYzeosjccZSfGiyX64FUko='
        list allowed_ips '172.22.22.2/32'
        list allowed_ips 'fd8f:de49::2/128'
        option route_allowed_ips '1'
        option endpoint_port '55443'
        option persistent_keepalive '25'
```

Setup WireGuard on your Client

Setup WireGuard on your client (phone/laptop etc) by downloading the WireGuard app via play store or apple store.
You can import the settings with the QR code.
Otherwise copy the text and paste in a file, name it *peer-172.22.22.2.conf* which can be used to import in your wg client

Finish by Saving and Applying everything and do a reboot!

Now see if you can connect from outside e.g. with your phone or laptop on cellular.

Note that your LAN clients will not always allow traffic from a foreign subnet, in that case you have to tweak the firewall of said lan clients to allow traffic from 172.22.22.0/24 (the wg servers subnet), or masquerade this traffic

References