OpenWRT WireGuard Client Setup guide using LuCi

Latest iteration can be found at: https://github.com/egc112/OpenWRT-egc-add-on/tree/main/notes
Version 9

Introduction

These are my notes for setting up WireGuard as a Client.

In essence WireGuard is a peer -to-peer protocol but because of differences in setup we still make a distinction between setting it up as a Client or as a Server, but a WireGuard interface can be setup to function as a Client and Server at the same time.

This guide was made on a NetGear R7800 running OpenWRT 24.10.0, screenshots are made with OpenWRT2020 theme which is not much different from the default theme.

My notes are using the easy way with a simple setup using LuCi although the corresponding config files are also listed.

This simple setup is done by importing a config file (.conf) from your VPN provider with necessary settings (see: config file).

Importing a config file is possible if you installed the *wg-installer-client* package (see <u>Install WireGuard</u>). But just adding the settings manually will also do the trick.

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Install WireGuard

LuCi > System > Software: click *Update Lists*

Install: luci-proto-wireguard, wireguard-tools and wg-installer-client.

Download configuration

Download a WireGuard configuration file from your provider or WireGuard Server.

In this example we are going to download a WireGuard configuration file from Proton which is free but it will expire after a week or so:

Create an account on https://protonvpn.com/

Login

Go to Downloads and scroll to the bottom for the WireGuard configuration.

Give a name to your config and choose router for your Platform :

| WireGuard configuration | | | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| These configurations are provided to work with WireGuard routers and official clients. | | | | | | |
| 1. Give a name to the config to be generated | | | | | | |
| Device/certificate name ① | | | | | | |
| wg_proton_nl | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| 2. Select platform | | | | | | |
| Android iOS Windows macOS GNU/Linux Router | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| 3. Select VPN options | | | | | | |
| NAT-PMP (Port Forwarding) Learn more | | | | | | |
| NATE FINE (FOLLY Of Warding) | | | | | | |
| VPN Accelerator Learn more | | | | | | |
| 4. Select a server to connect to | | | | | | |
| Use the best server according to current load and position: NL-FREE#70 | | | | | | |
| Ose the best server according to current load and position. NL-FREE#/U | | | | | | |
| Create | | | | | | |
| Or select a particular server: | | | | | | |
| Standard server configs Free server configs Secure Core configs | | | | | | |

Scroll down to the server you want to connect to and Choose Create:



Download the config file to your computer, the config file (wg_proton_nl-NL-FREE-1.conf) looks like this: [Interface]

Key for wg_proton_nl # Bouncing = 3

NAT-PMP (Port Forwarding) = off

VPN Accelerator = on

PrivateKey = UJmovcwC7KQ/vfgnradTHoHD30WJ6SonkvXYg23ex0A=

Address = 10.2.0.2/32

DNS = 10.2.0.1

[Peer]

NL-FREE#1

PublicKey = vH2i8RY1qc66XfqwrixBpvH4K9GYJatkugJj0GHgoUQ=

AllowedIPs = 0.0.0.0/0

Endpoint = 217.23.3.76:51820

Add the 'PersistentKeepAlive' so that the connection stays open:

PersistentKeepalive = 25 and if you use IPv6 add `::0/0` to allowed IPs:

AllowedIPs = 0.0.0.0/0, ::/0

The result:

[Interface]

Key for wg_proton_nl

Bouncing = 3

NAT-PMP (Port Forwarding) = off

VPN Accelerator = on

PrivateKey = UJmovcwC7KQ/vfgnradTHoHD30WJ6SonkvXYg23ex0A=

Address = 10.2.0.2/32

DNS = 10.2.0.1

[Peer]

NL-FREE#1

PublicKey = vH2i8RY1qc66XfqwrixBpvH4K9GYJatkugJj0GHgoUQ=

AllowedIPs = 0.0.0.0/0, ::0/0

Endpoint = 217.23.3.76:51820

PersistentKeepalive = 25

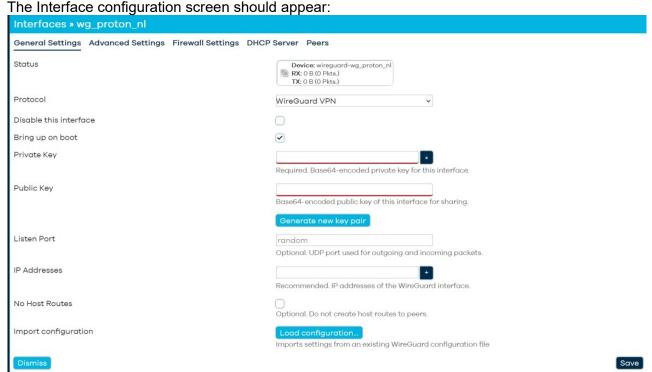
Create WireGuard interface

Network > Interfaces on the bottom click: Add New interface



Name: give a descriptive name, hyphens are not allowed and the name has to be less than 15 characters! **Protocol**: *WireGuard VPN*

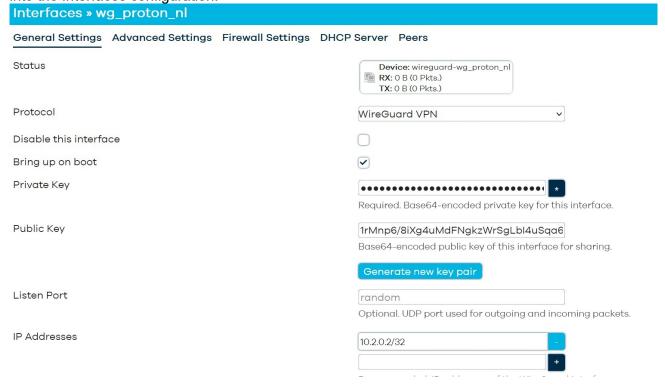
Click: Create interface



As the *wg-installer-client* is installed we can import our configuration file by clicking the button *Load* configuration

Click: Load configuration

Drop the configuration file from the file manager into this box and automagically the settings should appear into the Interfaces configuration:



MTU (Maximum Transmission Unit)

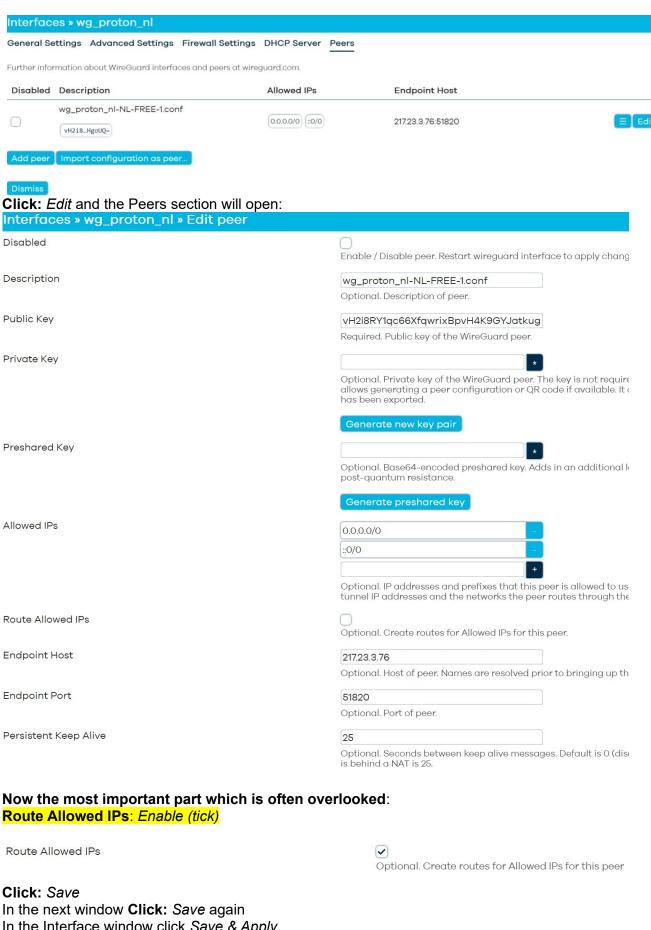
| Interfaces » w | g_proton_nl | | | | |
|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------|--|-----|
| General Settings | Advanced Settings | Firewall Settings | DHCP Server | Peers | The |
| Force link | | | Set inte | erface properties regardless of the link carrier (If rs). | sel |
| MTU | | | 1420 Options | al. Maximum Transmission Unit of tunnel interfac | ٠۵ |

MTU setting on the Advanced Settings tab can usually be left at its default setting (1420 or 1412 for PPPoE). On occasion if you have slow or hanging connections especially when streaming you have to lower the MTU, start lowering to 1280, but sometimes you have to go even lower. For some further explanation see MTU size problems at the end of this guide.

Note that you also have to enable MSS clamping (option mtu_fix '1') on the firewall zone the WireGuard interface is added to.

Create WireGuard Peers section

Network > Interfaces > wg_proton_nl : **click** *edit* Go to *Peers* section:



In the Interface window click Save & Apply

/etc/config/network: config interface 'wg_proton_nl' option proto 'wireguard'

OpenWRT Client setup guide by egc 25. May. 2025

```
option private_key 'UJmovcwC7KQ/vfgnrasdfggdfgdfgdgddsgfdc='
list dns '10.2.0.1'
list addresses '10.2.0.2/24'

config wireguard_wg_proton_nl
    option description 'wg_proton_nl-NL-FREE-1.conf'
    option public_key 'vH2i8RY1qc66XfqwrixBpvH4K9dsfge4egdfgdfger='
    option endpoint_host '217.23.3.76'
    option endpoint_port '51820'
    list allowed_ips '0.0.0.0/0'
    list allowed_ips '::/0'  # leave in place for PBR
    list allowed_ips '::/1'
    list allowed_ips '8000::/0'
    option route_allowed_ips '1'
    option persistent keepalive '25'
```

Note for IPv6 add :::/1` and `8000::/1` as Allowed IPs to create a default route, or disable Source routing (Interface wan6 > `option sourcefilter '0'`) and set appropriate metrics on WG interface and higher metrics on default route in wan and wan6

After a few moments the interface appears and should be up and traffic should flow, both Tx and RX indicating the setup is correct:



Protocol: WireGuard VPN Uptime: Oh 1m 37s RX: 300 B (5 Pkts.)

TX: 8.87 KB (30 Pkts.) **IPv4**: 10.2.0.2/32

However this is depending on your default firewall setting with OUTPUT Accept, if not there will not be traffic yet.

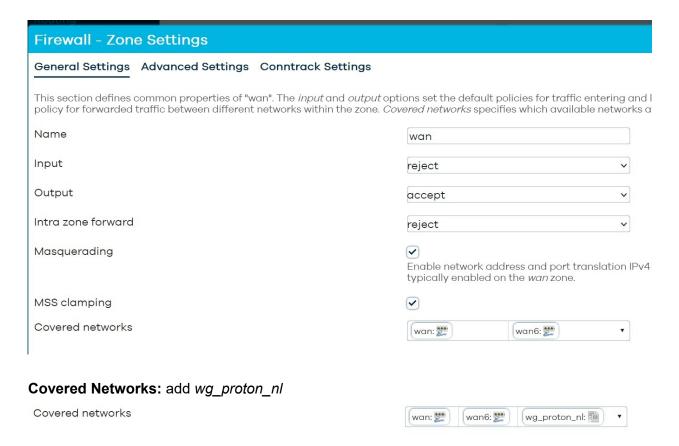
Next up Firewall

Firewall

Easy method

Easiest method is to just add the wg_proton_nl interface to the WAN zone

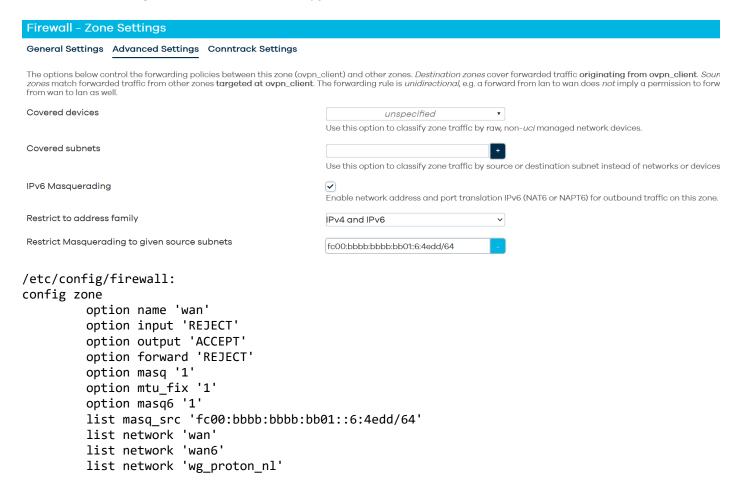
Network > Firewall > WAN zone > Click: edit:



For IPv6 enable IPv6 Masquerading on the WireGuard firewall zone:

Advanced settings > Enable IPv6 Masquerading

but restrict this to the IPv6 subnet of the WireGuard interface, this is the IPv6 IP/List Addresses in the WireGuard interface but with a /64 netmask



Click: Save and click Save & Apply

This should give you a working WireGuard Client

Check from the routers console with curl ipinfo.io and/or from your LAN clients with ipleak.net

Alternative Method

The Alternative method is to make a separate firewall zone for the VPN interface.

This can be useful if you want to make a killswitch (prevent traffic going out of the wan) or setup a Wireguard client on a Bridged AP.

Note that a killswitch is not really necessary as the wireGuard interface stays up even if there is no connection but it will add an extra layer of security and guards against mis-configuration. Furthermore a killswitch is not compatible with Policy Based Routing (PBR).

Network > Firewall > Click: Add:

Name: vpn client Input: reject Output: accept

Intra zone forward: reject Masquerading: enabled MSS clamping: enabled

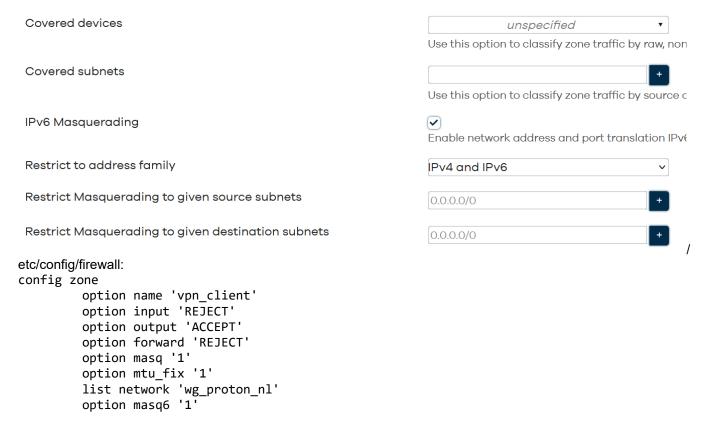
Allow forward from source zone: lan

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 describes the policy for forwarded traffic between different networks within the zone. Covered networks specifies which available I Name vpn_client Input reject Output accept Intra zone forward reject Masquerading ~ Enable network address and port translation IPv4 (NA typically enabled on the wan zone. MSS clamping ~ Covered networks wg_proton_nl: 🛅 • The options below control the forwarding policies between this zone (this new zone) and other zones. Destination zones cover forw zones match forwarded traffic from other zones targeted at this new zone. The forwarding rule is unidirectional, e.g. a forward fro from wan to lan as well. Allow forward to destination zones: unspecified • Allow forward from source zones: lan lan: 🕬

If your VPN provider also supports IPv6 (with ULA addresses) then on Advanced tab: IPv6 Masquerading: enable

General Settings Advanced Settings Conntrack Settings

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



To prevent traffic going out of the wan (the Killswitch) **Edit** the *lan* firewall zone and disable forwarding to *wan* and only allow forwarding to the *vpn_client* zone

Firewall - Zone Settings

General Settings Advanced Settings Conntrack Settings

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

| Name | lan | | | |
|--|---|--|--|--|
| Input | accept | v | | |
| Output | accept | v | | |
| Intra zone forward | accept | v | | |
| Masquerading | | Enable network address and port translation IP typically enabled on the <i>wan</i> zone. | | |
| MSS clamping | | | | |
| Covered networks | lan: | • | | |
| The options below control the forwarding policie | s hetween this zone (lan) and other zones. Destination zo | ones cover forwards | | |

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

Allow forward to destination zones:



/etc/config/firewall:

option dest 'vpn_client'

DNS Leak

On a typical phone (Android, iOS) or Windows the DNS is just set on the WireGuard interface and the DNS set is used after the tunnel is up.

On the OpenWRT router things are much more complicated (in contrast to other third party firmwares which handles this much better)

For some background reading: https://github.com/egc112/OpenWRT-egc-add-on/tree/main/stop-dns-leak

Be very careful with using the DNS server from your VPN provider as sole DNS server if that DNS server is not publicly available as you might end up in a catch 22 situation because the router must have the correct time (more or less) before it can connect and to get the correct time it needs DNS resolving which is not available.

So in that case instead of a domain for time server use IP addresses (System > Time Synchronization)

Of course if you stop the tunnel you do not have DNS resolution in that case you need a <u>scripting solution</u> to use the VPN DNS server after the tunnel is up.

WireGuard Client on a BridgedAP

If you want to setup a WireGuard Client on a BridgedAP, then be aware that normal traffic from your clients just bypasses your BridgedAP, so will not use the WireGuard tunnel unless you point the gateway of your clients to the BridgedAP (by using DNSMasq tagging with option 3 or iptables redirect) or setup a Guest Wifi on the BridgedAP.

In case of using a Guest wifi all clients using your Guest wifi will automatically use the WireGuard tunnel, so this is the more easier option.

First double check that you have setup your BridgedAP correctly see:

https://openwrt.org/docs/guide-user/network/wifi/wifiextenders/bridgedap

For a Guest Wifi see:

https://openwrt.org/docs/guide-user/network/wifi/guestwifi dumbap

Setup the Guest wifi and check that it is working without WireGuard!

Note: do not forget to Enable Masquerading on the LAN zone

Setup a WireGuard client the regular way as described, but for firewall settings I recommend to use a separate zone for the WireGuard Interface (<u>Alternative Method</u>) as you need to enable MSS Clamping and then make a Forward rule to Forward from *guest* zone to *vpn_client* zone.

If you then remove the forwarding from guest zone to lan zone you will have an effective killswitch.

For IPv6 make sure your lan has an IPv6 with prefix delegated, the Guest interface will then gets its own IPv6 address from Lan

Clients directly connected to the main router will bypass this router anyway but you can deal with this by manually setting the gateway on the client to point to your BridgedAP.

A second method is to have DNSMasq hand out a different gateway, this can be done per client with DNSMasq tagging with option 3(gateway), etc/config/dhcp"

The third method is by using policy based routing on the main router:

Create a routing table with default route via the BridgedAP and also local route for br-lan e.g.:

```
ip route add default via 192.168.0.9 table 2 #192.168.0.9 is my BridgeAP ip route add 192.168.0.0/24 dev br-lan table 2
```

For IPv6 routing you need the IPv6 address of the br-lan interface of the BridgedAP see: <u>Setup IPv6 on a bridgedAP</u>, you can get the address with `ifstatus lan 6 | grep address` or with ifconfig, you need the IPv6 address in the same subnet as the main router

This will get you a route like:

```
ip -6 route add default via 2001:8b11:234:1a33:a697:33ff:dcab:a3f2 dev br-lan table 2
```

Create a rule adding the lan clients involved to use this routing table 2 e.g.:

```
ip rule add 192.168.0.80 table 2 #192.168.0.80 is the lan client I want to use the VPN
```

For IPv6 create the same rule with the IPv6 address of your client, unfortunately Windows uses its Temporary IPv6 address unless this is disabled and as it is temporary this is not a solid solution so disable the use of private IPv6 addresses e.g.:

```
ip -6 rule add from 2001:1ba2:236:a100::6f1 table 2
```

Make sure "Invalid traffic" is allowed or SNAT traffic from the LAN clients (e.g. 192.168.0.80) coming out of br-lan otherwise traffic can be blocked as there is asymmetric routing.

Asking for Help

You can ask for help at the OpenWRT forum.

If you do, it helps if we can have a look at your configs, so please connect to your OpenWRT device <u>using</u> <u>ssh</u> and copy the output of the following commands and post it on the forum using the "Preformatted text </> " button



Remember to redact keys, passwords, MAC addresses and any public IP addresses you may have:

ubus call system board cat /etc/config/network cat /etc/config/wireless cat /etc/config/firewall wg show

To view the log for errors:

logread | grep -E -i 'netifd|wireguard'

References

https://openwrt.org/docs/guide-user/services/vpn/wireguard/start https://openwrt.org/docs/guide-user/services/vpn/wireguard/basics https://openwrt.org/docs/guide-user/services/vpn/wireguard/client

https://protonvpn.com/support/openwrt-wireguard

Miscellaneous

Setup IPv6 on a bridgedAP

```
/etc/config/network:
config interface 'lan6'
    option ifname '@lan'
    option proto 'dhcpv6'
    #option reqprefix 'no'
```

option reqprefix '62' #for ipv6 guest interface #option sourcefilter '0' # disable source routing for WG server routing of IPv6

Prevent Mullvad from hijacking your DNS

https://schnerring.net/blog/use-custom-dns-servers-with-mullvad-and-any-wireguard-client/

Port forwarding via Proton VPN with natpmpc

https://protonvpn.com/support/port-forwarding-manual-setup/

https://forum.openwrt.org/t/openwrt-protonvpn-and-pmp-port-forwarding-for-remote-ssh-access/229367

MTU size problems (no traffic, hang, slow loading, no streaming media, bad VoiP, slow RDP)

The MTU (Maximum Transmission Units) is the maximum datagram size in bytes that can be sent unfragmented over a particular network path, so to have the highest throughput you want the highest value without fragmentation.

But if the MTU is too high and the packets fragment this will manifest as connections which hang during periods of active usage, or does not load the whole page when browsing. Or you can connect but not see or use streaming media (like an IP Camera) or your connection is unexpected slow, VoIP can also be affected.

In the log you can see messages like: read UDP [EMSGSIZE path-MTU=1388]: Message too long (code=90) but that is not always present.

To test for the highest value basically use ping from a client on your local LAN, search for the maximum packetsize which can be send unfragmented, add 28 and that is your MTU value, see: https://hamy.io/post/000c/how-to-find-the-correct-mtu-and-mru-of-your-link/

ICMP blackhole test to see if PMTUD is working:

http://icmpcheck.popcount.org or http://icmpcheckv6.popcount.org/

Packet loss test: https://packetlosstest.com/

Android, Windows and iOS can use their own defaults so when having problems connecting from Windows, Android or iOS try to delete the MTU entry in the conf file and let the OS itself decide what to use.

WireGuard Watchdog

https://github.com/egc112/OpenWRT-egc-add-on/tree/main/wireguard-watchdog

Purpose: WireGuard watchdog with fail-over, by pinging every x seconds through the WireGuard interface, the WireGuard tunnel is monitored.

In case of failure of the WireGuard tunnel the next tunnel is automatically started.

When the last tunnel has failed, the script will start again with the first tunnel.

So in case you have only one tunnel this is just a watchdog which restarts the one tunnel you have.

with prioritizing:

https://forum.openwrt.org/t/bash-script-for-automatic-change-between-2-wireguard-tunnels/228696/11

WireGuard Companion

https://github.com/egc112/OpenWRT-egc-add-on/tree/main/wireguard-companion

Purpose: Toggle WireGuard tunnels on/off, show status and log.

Custom user files for Azure, AWS etc

https://forum.openwrt.org/t/policy-based-routing-pbr-package-discussion/140639/2051?u=egc