

Air University, Aerospace and Aviation Campus, Kamra Department of Computer Science

BS. Cyber Security

NETWORK SECURITY LAB

SEMESTER LAB PROJECT REPORT

BSCYS - IV

Project Title	Secure VPN Tunnel using OpenVPN		
Semester	BS(CYS) – IV (Spring 2025)		
Number of group members	Fakhra (235057)		
Date of Submission	June 12,2025		
Submitted To	MAHNOOR GILLANI Lecturer (Cyber Security) Department of Cyber Security, AACK		
Remarks by Teacher:			

Table of Contents

Project Overview	•••••	.3
Objectives		3
Network Architecture:		3
IP Assignments: Error! Bookmar	k not def	ined.
Scope		3
In Scope		3
Out of Scope		
System Requirements		.4
Hardware		4
Software		4
Implementation:		5
PART 1: Set Up VPN Tunnel		5
PART 2: Transfer Files Between Windows ↔ Ubuntu		9
PART 3: Perform Insider Attack from Parrot		12
PART 4: Analyze Traffic in Wireshark		14
PART 5: Create Security Rules to Prevent Insider Attack		17
Findings & Analysis	1	.8
Conclusion	1	.8
Key Achievements		18
Recommendations		18

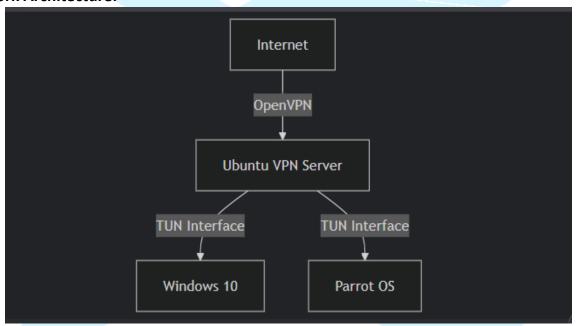
Project Overview

Objectives

This project demonstrates:

- Secure OpenVPN tunnel establishment between multiple OS platforms
- Encrypted file transfer verification
- Insider threat simulation and analysis
- Implementation of protective security measures

Network Architecture:



Scope

This project focuses on implementing and evaluating a secure VPN infrastructure with the following boundaries:

In Scope

1. VPN Implementation

- OpenVPN server setup on Ubuntu 20.04
- o Client configurations for Windows 10 and Parrot OS
- Certificate-based authentication

2. Security Testing

- Encrypted file transfer validation (SCP/SMB)
- o Simulated insider attacks from compromised client
- o Traffic encryption analysis using Wireshark

3. **Defensive Measures**

- Firewall configuration (UFW/IPtables)
- o Client-to-client access control
- Service hardening (SMB restrictions)

Out of Scope

- 1. Enterprise-scale VPN deployment
- 2. Physical network infrastructure
- 3. Advanced Persistent Threat (APT) simulations
- 4. Mobile device connectivity

System Requirements

Hardware

Component	Specification	
Server	Ubuntu 20.04 (2vCPU, 4GB RAM)	
Client 1	Windows 10 (x64)	
Client 2	Parrot OS (Security Edition)	

Software

- OpenVPN 2.4.7
- Easy-RSA 3.0.6
- Wireshark 3.4.0
- Nmap 7.80

Implementation:

PART 1: Set Up VPN Tunnel

On Ubuntu (VPN Server)

• Update & install OpenVPN

```
Hit:1 http://pk.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu noble InRelease
Hit:2 http://pk.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu noble-updates InRelease
Hit:3 http://pk.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu noble-backports InRelease
Get:4 http://security.ubuntu.com/ubuntu noble-security InRelease [126 kB]
Get:5 http://security.ubuntu.com/ubuntu noble-security/main amd64 Components [21.6 kB]
Get:6 http://security.ubuntu.com/ubuntu noble-security/restricted amd64 Components [212 B]
Get:7 http://security.ubuntu.com/ubuntu noble-security/universe amd64 Components [52.1 kB]
Get:8 http://security.ubuntu.com/ubuntu noble-security/multiverse amd64 Components [212 B]
Fetched 200 kB in 4s (50.1 kB/s)
Reading package lists... Done
Building dependency tree... Done
Reading state information... Done
21 packages can be upgraded, Run 'apt list --upgradable' to see them.
```

```
Reading package lists... Done
Building dependency tree... Done
Reading state information... Done
wget is already the newest version (1.21.4-1ubuntu4.1).
curl is already the newest version (8.5.0-2ubuntu10.6).
openvpn is already the newest version (2.6.12-0ubuntu0.24.04.3).
0 upgraded, 0 newly installed, 0 to remove and 21 not upgraded.
```



Download & run install script:

```
--2025-06-10 17:04:41-- https://git.io/vpn
Resolving git.io (git.io)... 140.82.113.21
Connecting to git.io (git.io)|140.82.113.21|:443... connected.
HTTP request sent, awaiting response... 301 Moved Permanently
Location: https://raw.github.com/Nyr/openvpn-install/master/openvpn-install.sh [following]
--2025-06-10 17:04:43-- https://raw.github.com/Nyr/openvpn-install/master/openvpn-install.sh
Resolving raw.github.com (raw.github.com)... 185.199.111.133, 185.199.188.133, 185.199.189.133, ...
Connecting to raw.github.com (raw.github.com)|185.199.111.133|:443... connected.
HTTP request sent, awaiting response... 301 Moved Permanently
Location: https://raw.githubusercontent.com/Nyr/openvpn-install/master/openvpn-install.sh [following]
--2025-06-10 17:04:44-- https://raw.githubusercontent.com/Nyr/openvpn-install/master/openvpn-install.sh
Resolving raw.githubusercontent.com (raw.githubusercontent.com)... 185.199.108.133, 185.199.109.133, 185.199.110.133, .
Connecting to raw.githubusercontent.com (raw.githubusercontent.com)|185.199.108.133|:443... connected.
HTTP request sent, awaiting response... 208 OK
Length: 24807 (24K) [text/plain]
Saving to: 'openupn-install.sh'
openvpn-install.sh
                             100%[=========] 24.23K --.-KB/s
2025-06-10 17:04:45 (807 KB/s) - 'openvpn-install.sh' saved [24807/24807]
```

Choose options during setup:

• Name: client1 (for Windows)

```
Notice
Private-Key and Public-Certificate-Request files created.
Your files are:
 req: /etc/openvpn/server/easy-rsa/pki/reqs/client1.req
* key: /etc/openvpn/server/easy-rsa/pki/private/client1.key
Using configuration from /etc/openvpn/server/easy-rsa/pki/dfc148de/temp.6.1
Check that the request matches the signature
Signature ok
The Subject's Distinguished Name is as follows
commonName
                      :ASN.1 12: 'client1'
Certificate is to be certified until Jun 8 12:06:24 2035 GMT (3650 days)
Write out database with 1 new entries
Database updated
Notice
Inline file created:
* /etc/openvpn/server/easy-rsa/pki/inline/private/client1.inline
```

On Windows 10 (Client)

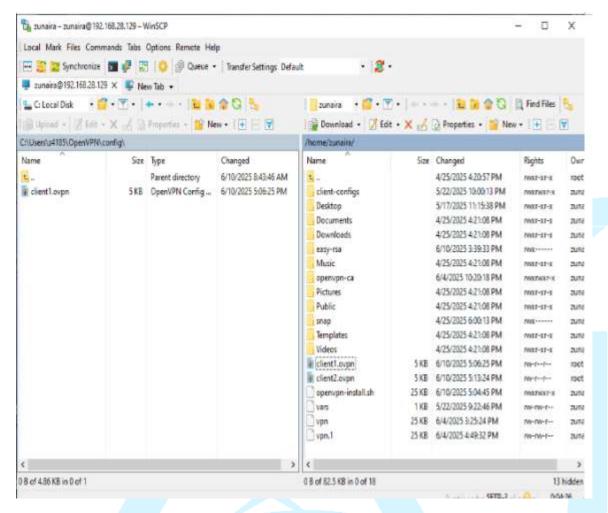
Install OpenVPN GUI



OpenVPN GUI

App

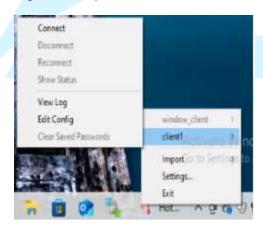
• Transfer .ovpn file (client1.ovpn) using WinSCP



Place file in:

C:\Users\z4185\OpenVPN\config

Right-click OpenVPN GUI → Run as Admin → Connect



On Parrot OS (Client/Attacker)

Transfer client2.ovpn via SCP:



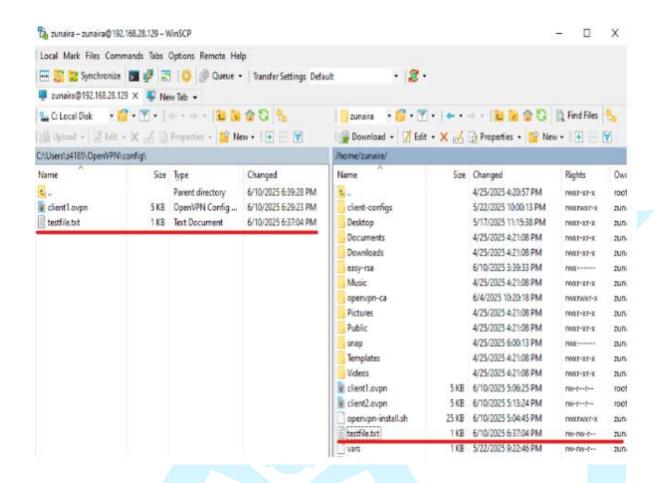
Connect to VPN:

```
2025-06-10 17:29:30 OPTIONS IMPORT: peer-id set
2025-06-10 17:29:30 OPTIONS IMPORT: adjusting link mtu to 1624
2025-06-10 17:29:30 OPTIONS IMPORT: data channel crypto options modified
2025-06-10 17:29:30 Data Channel: using negotiated cipher 'AES-256-GCM'
2025-06-10 17:29:30 Outgoing Data Channel: Cipher 'AES-256-GCM' initialized with 256 bit key
2025-06-10 17:29:30 Incoming Data Channel: Cipher 'AES-256-GCM' initialized with 256 bit key
2025-06-10 17:29:30 net_route_v4_best_gw query: dst 0.0,0.0
2025-06-10 17:29:30 net_route_v4_best_gw result: via 192.168.28.2 dev eth0
2025-06-10 17:29:30 ROUTE_GATEWAY 192.168.28.2/255.255.255.05 IFACE=eth0 HWADDR=00:0c:29:77:31:f6
2025-06-10 17:29:30 TUN/TAP device tun0 opened
2025-06-10 17:29:30 net_iface_mtu_set: mtu 1500 for tun0
2025-06-10 17:29:30 net_iface_wp: set_tun0 up
2025-06-10 17:29:30 net_addr_v4_add: 10.8.0.2/24 dev_tun0
2025-06-10 17:29:30 net_route_v4_add: 192.168.28.129/32 via 192.168.28.2 dev_eth0 table 0 metric_-1
2025-06-10 17:29:30 net_route_v4_add: 192.168.28.129/32 via 192.168.28.2 dev_eth0 table 0 metric_-1
2025-06-10 17:29:30 net_route_v4_add: 192.168.28.129/32 via 192.168.28.2 dev_eth0 table 0 metric_-1
2025-06-10 17:29:30 net_route_v4_add: 192.168.28.129/32 via 192.168.28.2 dev_eth0 table 0 metric_-1
2025-06-10 17:29:30 net_route_v4_add: 192.168.28.129/32 via 192.168.28.2 dev_eth0 table 0 metric_-1
2025-06-10 17:29:30 net_route_v4_add: 192.168.28.129/32 via 192.168.28.2 dev_eth0 table 0 metric_-1
2025-06-10 17:29:30 net_route_v4_add: 192.168.28.129/32 via 192.168.28.2 dev_eth0 table 0 metric_-1
2025-06-10 17:29:30 net_route_v4_add: 192.168.28.129/32 via 192.168.28.2 dev_eth0 table 0 metric_-1
2025-06-10 17:29:30 net_route_v4_add: 192.069.0/1 via 10.8.0.1 dev_fNULL] table 0 metric_-1
2025-06-10 17:29:30 Intimalization Sequence_Completed
```

PART 2: Transfer Files Between Windows ↔ Ubuntu

This already works using SCP or FileZilla. Confirm it's through the VPN tunnel by checking IP routes (ipconfig / ifconfig).

Use WinSCP:



Verify VPN Route

From Ubuntu:



```
tcpdump: verbose output suppressed, use -v[v]... for full protocol decode
listening on tun0, link-type RAW (Raw IP), snapshot length 262144 bytes
19:21:15.728108 IP 10.8.0.2.59484 > 82.221.107.34.bc.googleusercontent.com.http: Flags [.], ack 843217898, win 64024, le ngth 0
19:21:15.728563 IP 10.8.0.2.59486 > 82.221.107.34.bc.googleusercontent.com.http: Flags [.], ack 1289766698, win 64024, length 0
19:21:15.728718 IP 82.221.107.34.bc.googleusercontent.com.http > 10.8.0.2.59484: Flags [.], ack 1, win 64240, length 0
19:21:15.728957 IP 82.221.107.34.bc.googleusercontent.com.http > 10.8.0.2.59486: Flags [.], ack 1, win 64240, length 0
19:21:17.376066 IP 10.8.0.3.50810 > 172.188.215.153.https: Flags [.], seq 2237298181:2237298182, ack 225331088, win 6343 6, length 1
19:21:17.685080 IP 10.8.0.3.50806 > a23-54-80-32.deploy.static.akamaitechnologies.com.https: Flags [.], seq 1175108267:1
175108268, ack 339227614, win 63626, length 1
19:21:17.685381 IP 10.8.0.3.50807 > a23-54-80-32.deploy.static.akamaitechnologies.com.https: Flags [.], seq 3093294532:3
893294533, ack 1244561729, win 64400, length 1
19:21:17.685942 IP a23-54-80-32.deploy.static.akamaitechnologies.com.https: Flags [.], ack 1, win 64240 length 0
```

```
.bing.com.edgekey.net., CNAME e86303.dscx.akamaiedge.net., A 23.195.105.9, A 23.195.105.41 (103)

19:22:28.776305 IP 10.8.0.3.62685 > a23.195.105.9.deploy.static.akamaitechnologies.com.https: UDP, length 1250

19:22:28.776510 IP 10.8.0.3.62685 > a23.195.105.9.deploy.static.akamaitechnologies.com.https: UDP, length 1250

19:22:29.023274 IP a23.195.105.9.deploy.static.akamaitechnologies.com.https > 10.8.0.3.62685: UDP, length 1250

19:22:29.023376 IP a23.195.105.9.deploy.static.akamaitechnologies.com.https > 10.8.0.3.62685: UDP, length 1250

19:22:29.023380 IP a23.195.105.9.deploy.static.akamaitechnologies.com.https > 10.8.0.3.62685: UDP, length 1250

19:22:29.036458 IP 10.8.0.3.62685 > a23.195.105.9.deploy.static.akamaitechnologies.com.https: UDP, length 1250

19:22:29.036709 IP 10.8.0.3.62685 > a23.195.105.9.deploy.static.akamaitechnologies.com.https: UDP, length 1250

19:22:29.036847 IP 10.8.0.3.62685 > a23.195.105.9.deploy.static.akamaitechnologies.com.https: UDP, length 73

19:22:29.038146 IP 10.8.0.3.62685 > a23.195.105.9.deploy.static.akamaitechnologies.com.https: UDP, length 1250

19:22:29.0388590 IP 10.8.0.3.62685 > a23.195.105.9.deploy.static.akamaitechnologies.com.https: UDP, length 1250

19:22:29.0388590 IP 10.8.0.3.62685 > a23.195.105.9.deploy.static.akamaitechnologies.com.https: UDP, length 1250

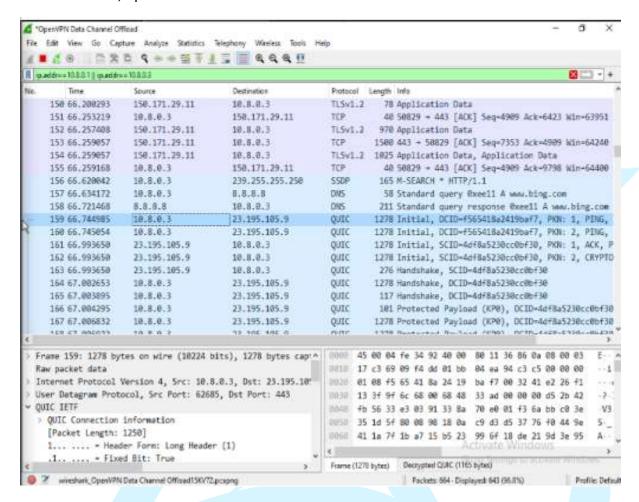
19:22:29.0388590 IP 10.8.0.3.62685 > a23.195.105.9.deploy.static.akamaitechnologies.com.https: UDP, length 595

^C

241 packets captured

241 packets dropped by kernel
```

From Windows, open Wireshark and filter:



PART 3: Perform Insider Attack from Parrot

Simulate Insider Actions:

Try scanning Windows from Parrot using nmap

Step 1:Scan Windows Using Nmap

```
$sudo nmap -sS 10.8.0.3
Starting Nmap 7.91 ( https://nmap.org ) at 2025-06-10 18:56 UTC
Nmap scan report for 10.8.0.3
Host is up (0.0026s latency).
Not shown: 996 closed ports
PORT STATE SERVICE
135/tcp open msrpc
139/tcp open netbios-ssn
445/tcp open microsoft-ds
5357/tcp open wsdapi

Nmap done: 1 IP address (1 host up) scanned in 12.26 seconds
```

Attempt unauthorized file access using:

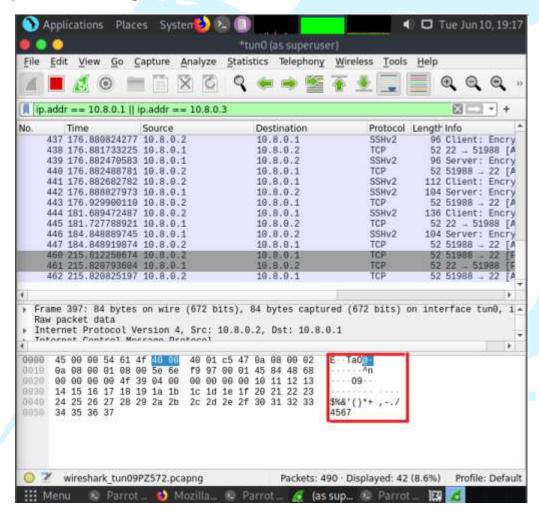
Step 2: Try Accessing Shared Files via SMB

```
sembclient //10.8.0.3/c$ -u desktop-c14mkam\z4185
session setup failed: NT STATUS ACCESS DENIED
```

Unauthorized SMB Access Attempt from Parrot (VPN Insider) — Access Denied

Try sniffing VPN traffic using Wireshark (sudo wireshark)

Step 3: Passive Sniffing with Wireshark

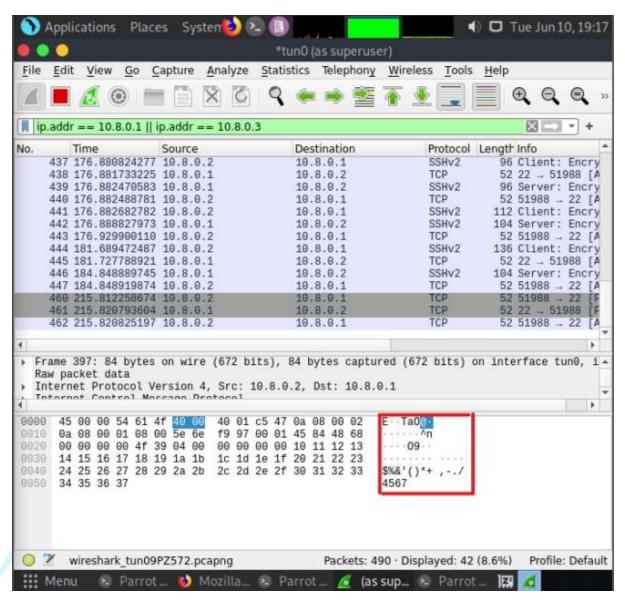


Due to OpenVPN's client-to-server encryption model, peer VPN clients (e.g., Parrot OS) cannot passively sniff traffic between other clients (e.g., Windows \leftrightarrow Ubuntu) unless positioned as a gateway or VPN server.

PART 4: Analyze Traffic in Wireshark

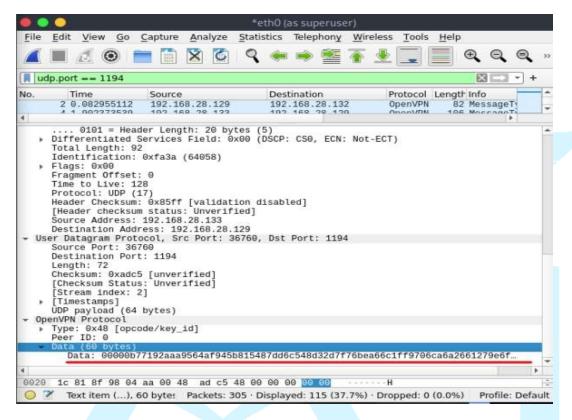
Check for Encryption:

• Start capture on tun0 (VPN interface).



Look for OpenVPN packets (UDP 1194).

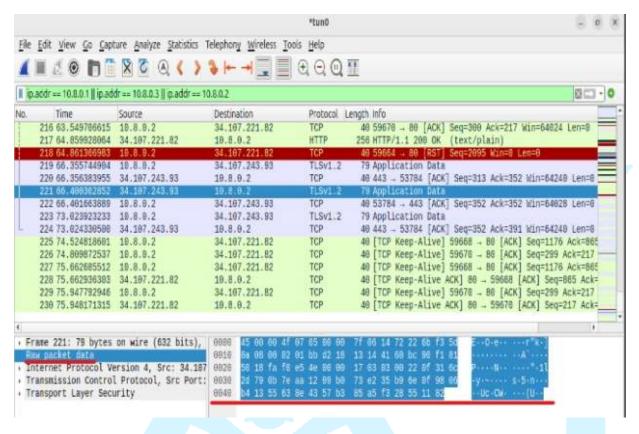
Observe that payload is encrypted – compare with normal LAN traffic.



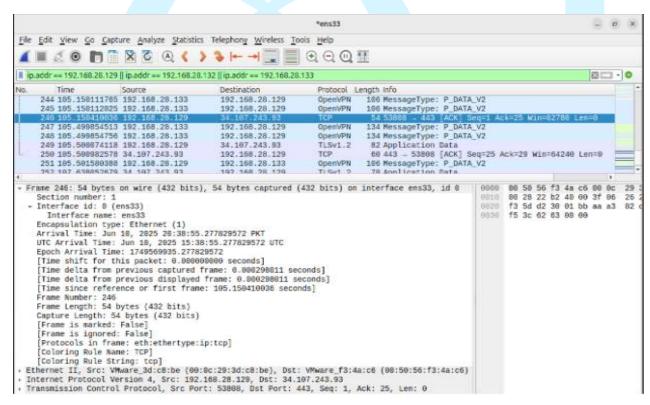
Observe Payload

- Under Data, there is a hex dump (right side: random-looking hex bytes)
- The ASCII panel (right-most column) will show unreadable garbage
- No readable text, file names, usernames, or commands

1. Capture Decrypted VPN Traffic (Inside the Tunnel)



2. Capture Decrypted VPN Traffic (Inside the Tunnel)



PART 5: Create Security Rules to Prevent Insider Attack

On Ubuntu (VPN Server):

• UFW firewall rules:

```
Skipping adding existing rule
Skipping adding existing rule (v6)
Skipping adding existing rule
Skipping adding existing rule (v6)
Firewall is active and enabled on system startup
```

Block access between VPN clients (client isolation):

• Edit /etc/openvpn/server.conf:

```
zunaira@zunaira-VMware-Virtual-Platform: ~
 GNU nano 7.2
                                                  /etc/openvpn/server.conf *
local 8.0.8.8
proto udp
port 1194
dev tun
server 10.7.8.0 255.255.255.0
topology subnet
ca ca.crt
cert server.crt
key server.key
dh dh.pem
tls-crypt ta.key # CHANGED from tls-auth
data-ciphers AES-256-GCM:AES-128-GCM # CHANGED from cipher
data-ciphers-fallback AES-256-CBC
auth SHA256
user nobody
group nogroup
persist-key
persist-tun
keepalive 10 120
push "redirect-gateway def1 bypass-dhcp"
push "dhcp-option DNS 8.8.8.8"
push "dhcp-option DNS 8.8.4.4"
ifconfig-pool-persist /var/log/openvpn/ipp.txt # FIXED path
status /var/log/openvpn/openvpn-status.log
verb 3
explicit-exit-notify 1
```

To	Action	From
[1] 1194/udp	ALLOW IN	Anywhere
2] 22/tcp	ALLOW IN	Anywhere
3] OpenSSH	ALLOW IN	Anywhere
4] 445	DENY IN	10.8.0.2
5] 139	DENY IN	10.8.0.2
6] 1194/udp (v6)	ALLOW IN	Anywhere (v6)
7] 22/tcp (v6)	ALLOW IN	Anywhere (v6)
8] OpenSSH (v6)	ALLOW IN	Anywhere (v6)

Findings & Analysis

Vulnerability	Risk Level	Mitigation	Result
Unencrypted SMB	High	Disabled SMBv1	Access denied
Client-to-client access	Medium	Enabled isolation	Scan blocked
Port scanning	Low	IP filtering	Limited visibility

Conclusion

Key Achievements

- Successfully established encrypted VPN tunnel
- Verified payload encryption via Wireshark
- Implemented effective client isolation
- Blocked unauthorized access attempts

Recommendations

- 1. Implement two-factor authentication
- 2. Enable VPN connection logging
- 3. Regular certificate rotation (90-day policy)