wg-client

Release 5.3.0

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CONTENTS:

CHAPTER

ONE

WG-CLIENT

1.1 Overview

Linux wireguard client tools make it simple to start and stop wireguard. Comes with command line tool, *wg-client*, and a convenient GUI tool which uses it.

This is a companion to the wireguard server config tools wg-tool.

Also offers an option to invoke ssh which creates a remote listening port connected back to local ssh daemon.

This can be useful to facilitate remote ssh back to client computer if it's needed. For example; it can be used to provide access to a git repo on the client, or for remote backups of laptop, or even for admin to login to client should the need arise.

There is a command line program (*wg-client*) and for user convenience there is a GUI program (*wg-client-gui*) which is available via a *.desktop* file.

The graphical tool invokes the command line tool, and the command line tool does all the real work. The GUI provides user convenience.

1.2 Why I made wg-client

After building wg-tool which simplified administering wireguard servers, I needed a simple way for non-tech users to connect their laptops to the server.

Thus wg-client was born. The gui client makes it simple for non-tech users, though I find it convenient too.

1.3 Key features

- Graphical tool makes it simple for any user to get VPN running.
- Standalone tool makes it easy to test and also keeps sudo outside of gui to minimize any security implications. The gui relies on command line to do the real work.

1.4 New or Interesting

- Auto fix of resolv.conf (new option *–fix-dns-auto-start*)

  Network refresh often happens after sleep/resume (e.g. laptop lid close/open) or when a DHCP lease expires. If VPN is up and running when this occurs the /etc/resolv.conf file can be reset and then DNS will no longer use the vpn DNS but will then use whatever resolver DHCP provided by default. Earlier versions of wg-client offered a manual fix available by clicking the *VPN Start* button again or by using wg-client on command line.

  This is now done automatically using a daemon which can be started/stopped from command line using the new options *–fix-dns-auto-start* and *–fix-dns-auto-stop*

  The GUI app starts up the monitor daemon when it starts wireguard and so no manual intervention is needed after that.

- *–version*

  Display wg-client version

- NB version 5 has 2 additional dependencies:
  - openssl library for wg-fix-resolv.c
  - python-pynotify library available via Pynotify Github and Pynotify AUR

- dns resolv.conf fix now uses capabilities

CHAPTER

TWO

GETTING STARTED

2.1 wg-client application

2.1.1 Usage

To use run from a terminal. For example to start wireguard from a terminal, use:

```
wg-client --wg-up
```

To get a list of options run it with *-h*. Options are also documented in config section *config-sect* below.

2.1.2 DHCP refresh & sleep / resume

When laptop sleeps, from lid close for example, and then woken up - the vpn will continue working as normal and likewise the ssh provided the sleep time is not *too long*. However, on wake the networking is typically re-initialized and part of that may re-install the dns resolver file */etc/resolve.conf*.

This is handled automatically by the resolv monitor daemon. See the option *–fix-dns-auto-start* for more information.

2.1.3 Configuration

wg-client reads its configuration from

```
/etc/wg-client/config
```

Please copy the sample config and edit appropriately. The format is in *TOML* format. This config file provides:

- iface - required

  Wireguard interface; defaults to *wgc*. It is <*iface*> of */etc/wireguard/*<*iface*>*.conf*

- ssh_server - optional

  Hostname of the remote ssh server accessible over the vpn; this is where the ssh listening port is run. Hostname must be accessible over the wg vpn.

- ssh_pfx - used with ssh_server

  1 or 2 digit number to be used as ssh listening port number prefix. The port number is of the form PPxxx, with *PP* the prefix and *xxx* is taken from the last octet of the wireguard vpn internal IP address.

  The prefix can also be given as a range of numbers (*'n-m'*). In this case the prefix used is randomly chosen from that range

The port number chosen will be written to the log file.

The remote ssh host will then listen on *127.0.0.1:<port>*. It will also listen on *<remote-ip-address>:<port>* provided the remote ssh server permits it by having the sshd option set:

```
GatewayPorts yes
```

2.1.4 Options

Summary of available options for wg-client.

- Positional argument : Optional

  wireguard client interface name. Default taken from 'iface' in config file. The config is looked for first in *./etc/wg-client/config* (for development purposes) and then in */etc/wg-client/config*. If not found the wg interface defaults to *wgc*

- Options:
  - (*-h, –help*)

    Show this help message and exit

  - (*–wg-up*) and (*–wg-dn*)

    Start and stop wireguard client

  - (*–ssh-start*)

    ssh to remote server over vpn and listen on remote port. Port number used is described above in Overview section *config-sect*.

  - (*–ssh-stop*)

    End ssh to remote server

  - (*–ssh-pfx*)

    Set the ssh port prefix. Can be 2 digits: "nn" or a range "nn-mm". If using a range, then prefix will be randomly drawn from the range

  - (*–fix-dns*)

    This has been automated by the monitor daemon. See *–fix-dns-auto-start*

    Restore wireguard dns resolv.conf. Typical use is after sleep resume when the network is set up it can mess up the resolv.conf file - this restores the correct version.

    This will also be done by GUI, if needed, by simply clicking the Start VPN button.

    wg-client relies on *wg-fix-resolv* program which is granted CAP_CHOWN and CAP_DAC_OVERRIDE capabilities to enable it to restore the right /etc/resolv.conf file.

  - (*–fix-dns-auto-start*)

    Auto fix of resolv.conf

    Network refresh happens after sleep/resume (e.g. laptop lid close/open) or when a DHCP lease expires. If VPN is up and running when this occurs the /etc/resolv.conf file can be reset and then DNS will no longer use the vpn DNS. Earlier versions of wg-client offered a manual fix available by clicking the *VPN Start* button again or by using wg-client on command line.

    When wg-client starts the vpn, it saves the current */etc/resolv.conf* and installs one that uses the vpn tunnel and this is what gets broken on resume.

This is now done automatically using a daemon which can be started/stopped from command line using the new options *–fix-dns-auto-start* and *–fix-dns-auto-stop*

The GUI app does this whenever it starts wireguard.

The monitor daemon watches */etc/resolv.conf* and auto restores the correct one when needed. It uses inotify whereby the kernel notifes us when the file changes - this is very efficient and allows the monitor to sleep waiting for the kernel to wake it up when there's something to do.

Wireguard will continue to work even if the laptop is taken to a new wifi location. The monitor checks and saves any newly found resolv.conf and restores the wireguard one. Of course on closing down, the original saved resolv.conf is restored as well. Note that ssh will not survive changing networks but it can easily be restarted.

– (*–fix-dns-auto-stop*)

  Stops the monitor daemon.

– (*–show-iface*)

  Report wireguard interface name is used.

– (*–show-ssh-server*)

  Report the ssh server name

– (*–show-ssh-running*)

  Report if ssh is active

– (*–show-wg-running*)

  Report if wireguard is active

– (*–show-info, –status*)

  Report all info

– (*–test-mode*)

  Test mode - print what would be done rather than doing it.

2.2 wg-client-gui application

2.2.1 GUI Usage

The gui is installable using the provided wg-client.desktop file and can be added to launchers in the usual way. For example in gnome simply search applications for wg-cliient and right click to pin the launcher. The gui uses PyQt6 which in turn relies on Qt6.

The gui has buttons to start and stop wireguard and a button to run ssh to set up the listener on the host configured in the config file.

The gui should be left running while the vpn is in use. Pressing quit in the gui will shutdown wireguard and shutdown the ssh listener as well.

2.2.2 GUI Options

wg-client-gui has no command line options. It invokes *wg-client*, and thus the configuration described above *config-sect* is used:

```
/etc/wg-client/config
```

2.3 Log files

Each application has it's own log file. These are located in users home directory :

```
${HOME}/log/wg-client
${HOME}/log/wg-client-gui
```

Each of the log files are rotated with companion log suffixed with *.1*

2.4 Sudoers

wg-client uses *wg-quick* from wireguard tools to start and stop the vpn. and since this requires root to do it's job, any non-root user will need a NOPASSWD sudoers entry.

You can keep all local sudoers in a single file or in separate files. If in single file, make this one come after any group wheel ones. This is to ensure this one is chosen becuase sudo uses the last matching entry.

Simply add this sample line replacing WGUSERS whatever user or users are permitted. If more than one use comma separated list.

```
User_Alias WGUSERS = alice, bob, sally
WGUSERS   ALL = (root) NOPASSWD: /usr/bin/wg-quick
WGUSERS   ALL = (root) NOPASSWD: /usr/lib/wg-client/wg-fix-dns
```

If using separete files, then care is need to ensure this entry comes after any wheel group entries. Where WGUSERS is 1 or more usernames or a group such as *%wgusers*.

Then,

```
visudu /etc/sudoers.d/100-wireguard
```

Replace *WGUSERS* as above.

visudo enforces the correct permissions which should be '0440'. If permissions are too loose, sudo will ignore the file.

Why the prefix number? Because sudo uses the **last** matching entry and we need to be sure the NOPASSWD wg-quick entry comes after any group wheel lines.

For example if there are 2 files in */etc/sudoers.d* - say wg-quick and wheel, where the wheel entry requires a password for members of group wheel.

Now if user listed in wg-quick is also a member of *wheel* group, since wg-quick is first and wheel is second (files are treated in lexical order) the *wheel* one will prevail and user will be prompted for a password when running *sudo /usr/bin/wg-quick*. Not what we want. To fix this I use numbers ahead of the sudoers filenames. So in this example it would be:

```
/etc/sudoers.d/001-wheel
/etc/sudoers.d/100-wg-client
```

thereby ensuring that wg-client entries follow the wheel ones.

For convenience this is also noted in the sample file:

```
/etc/wg-client/sudoers.sample
```

```
chmod -440 /etc/sudoers.d/wg-client
```

CHAPTER

THREE

APPENDIX

3.1 Installation

Available on:

- Github
- Archlinux AUR

On Arch you can build using the PKGBUILD provided in packaging directory or from the AUR package.

To build manually, clone the repo and do:

```
rm -f dist/*
/usr/bin/python -m build --wheel --no-isolation
root_dest="/" ./scripts/do-install $root_dest
```

When running as non-root then set root_dest a user writable directory

3.2 Dependencies

- Run Time :
  - python (3.11 or later)
  - netifaces
  - PyQt6 / Qt6 (for gui)
  - hicolor-icon-theme
  - psutil (aka python-psutil)
- Building Package:
  - git
  - hatch (aka python-hatch)
  - wheel (aka python-wheel)
  - build (aka python-build)
  - installer (aka python-installer)
  - rsync
- Optional for building docs:

- sphinx
- myst-parser
- texlive-latexextra (archlinux packaguing of texlive tools)

3.3 Philosophy

We follow the *live at head commit* philosophy. This means we recommend using the latest commit on git master branch. This approach is also taken by Google[1][2].

3.4 License

[1] https://github.com/google/googletest
[2] https://abseil.io/about/philosophy#upgrade-support

CHAPTER

FOUR

CHANGELOG

[5.3.0] —— 2024-07-03

```
wg-fix-resolv: chown(root) if write resolv.conf.saved.
  Fixes (benign) bug where owner of the file resolv.conf.saved can be user instead of␣
↪root
update Docs/Changelog.rst Docs/wg-client.pdf
```

[5.2.0] —— 2024-07-02

```
When comparing file digests use strncmp() with known dynamic length not EVP_MAX_MD_SIZE
update Docs/Changelog.rst Docs/wg-client.pdf
```

[5.1.0] —— 2024-07-02

```
wg-fix-resolv.c: Generalize the file hashing and switch to SHA384
  The hash is used to compare two of the resolv.conf files for any changes
Code tidy ups
update Docs/Changelog.rst Docs/wg-client.pdf
```

[5.0.2] —— 2024-07-01

```
Readme - clarify that gui starts the monitor daemon automatically
update Docs/Changelog.rst Docs/wg-client.pdf
```

[5.0.1] —— 2024-07-01

```
  * Auto fix of resolv.conf (new option *--fix-dns-auto-start*)
    Network refresh often happens after sleep/resume (e.g. laptop lid close/open) or
    when a DHCP lease expires. If VPN is up and running
    when this occurs the /etc/resolv.conf file can be reset and then DNS will no longer␣
↪use
    the vpn DNS but will then use whatever resolver DHCP provided by default.
    Earlier versions of wg-client offered a manual fix available
    by clicking the *VPN Start* button again or by using wg-client on command line.
    This is now done automatically using a daemon which can be started/stopped from␣
↪command line
    using  the new options *--fix-dns-auto-start* and *--fix-dns-auto-stop*
    The GUI app does this whenever it starts wireguard.
  * *--version*
    Display wg-client version
  * NB version 5 has 2 additional dependencies:
```

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```
    - openssl library for wg-fix-resolv.c
    - python-pynotify library available via github and AUR
update Docs/Changelog.rst Docs/wg-client.pdf
```

[4.2.0] —— 2024-04-17

```
Package update: "pacman -Qc wg_tool" now shows the Changelog
Move version info to version.py
update Docs/Changelog.rst Docs/wg-client.pdf
```

[4.1.3] —— 2024-02-09

```
Fix github url in PKGBUILD
update Docs/Changelog.rst Docs/wg-client.pdf
```

[4.1.2] —— 2024-02-09

```
update Docs/Changelog.rst Docs/wg-client.pdf
Fix typoe
update Docs/Changelog.rst Docs/wg-client.pdf
```

[4.1.1] —— 2024-02-09

```
Add missing PKGBUILD dependencies as reported on AUR by gwy
        https://aur.archlinux.org/packages/wg-client#comment-955729
update Docs/Changelog.rst Docs/wg-client.pdf
```

[4.1.0] —— 2024-01-17

```
ssh_listener now handles pure IPv6 wg iface to build listening port
update Docs/Changelog.rst Docs/wg-client.pdf
```

[4.0.1] —— 2024-01-08

```
rst fixes for readme as github ignoring some code-blocks
update Docs/Changelog.rst Docs/wg-client.pdf
```

[4.0.0] —— 2024-01-08

```
dns resolv.conf fix now uses c-program with capabilities.
  Now sudu is only needed to run wg-quick.
  Docs updated with info on new /usr/lib/wg-client/wg-fix-resolv program
update Docs/Changelog.rst Docs/wg-client.pdf
```

[3.7.6] —— 2024-01-08

```
bump to 3.7.6
update Docs/Changelog.rst Docs/wg-client.pdf
```

[3.7.5] —— 2024-01-08

```
update Docs/Changelog.rst Docs/wg-client.pdf
update version for installer fix
update Docs/Changelog.rst Docs/wg-client.pdf
```

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```
installer typo fix
update Docs/Changelog.rst Docs/wg-client.pdf
```

[3.7.4] —— 2024-01-08

```
README - document all the options of wg-client
update Docs/Changelog.rst Docs/wg-client.pdf
```

[3.7.3] —— 2024-01-07

```
small readme tweak
update Docs/Changelog.rst Docs/wg-client.pdf
```

[3.7.1] —— 2024-01-07

```
wg-client provides command line and gui tool to start and stop wireguard
```

CHAPTER

FIVE

MIT LICENSE

CHAPTER

SIX

HOW TO HELP WITH THIS PROJECT

Thank you for your interest in improving this project. This project is open-source under the MIT license.

6.1 Important resources

- Git Repo

6.2 Reporting Bugs or feature requests

Please report bugs on the issue tracker in the git repo. To make the report as useful as possible, please include

- operating system used
- version of python
- explanation of the problem or enhancement request.

6.3 Code Changes

If you make code changes, please update the documentation if it's appropriate.

CHAPTER

SEVEN

CONTRIBUTOR COVENANT CODE OF CONDUCT

7.1 Our Pledge

In the interest of fostering an open and welcoming environment, we as contributors and maintainers pledge to making participation in our project and our community a harassment-free experience for everyone, regardless of age, body size, disability, ethnicity, sex characteristics, gender identity and expression, level of experience, education, socio-economic status, nationality, personal appearance, race, religion, or sexual identity and orientation.

7.2 Our Standards

Examples of behavior that contributes to creating a positive environment include:

- Using welcoming and inclusive language
- Being respectful of differing viewpoints and experiences
- Gracefully accepting constructive criticism
- Focusing on what is best for the community
- Showing empathy towards other community members

Examples of unacceptable behavior by participants include:

- The use of sexualized language or imagery and unwelcome sexual attention or advances
- Trolling, insulting/derogatory comments, and personal or political attacks
- Public or private harassment
- Publishing others' private information, such as a physical or electronic address, without explicit permission
- Other conduct which could reasonably be considered inappropriate in a professional setting

7.3 Our Responsibilities

Maintainers are responsible for clarifying the standards of acceptable behavior and are expected to take appropriate and fair corrective action in response to any instances of unacceptable behavior.

Maintainers have the right and responsibility to remove, edit, or reject comments, commits, code, wiki edits, issues, and other contributions that are not aligned to this Code of Conduct, or to ban temporarily or permanently any contributor for other behaviors that they deem inappropriate, threatening, offensive, or harmful.

7.4 Scope

This Code of Conduct applies both within project spaces and in public spaces when an individual is representing the project or its community. Examples of representing a project or community include using an official project e-mail address, posting via an official social media account, or acting as an appointed representative at an online or offline event. Representation of a project may be further defined and clarified by project maintainers.

7.5 Enforcement

Instances of abusive, harassing, or otherwise unacceptable behavior may be reported by contacting the project team at <arch@sapience.com>. All complaints will be reviewed and investigated and will result in a response that is deemed necessary and appropriate to the circumstances. The Code of Conduct Committee is obligated to maintain confidentiality with regard to the reporter of an incident. Further details of specific enforcement policies may be posted separately.

7.6 Attribution

This Code of Conduct is adapted from the Contributor Covenant, version 1.4, available at https://www.contributor-covenant.org/version/1/4/code-of-conduct.html

7.7 Interpretation

The interpretation of this document is at the discretion of the project team.

CHAPTER

EIGHT

INDICES AND TABLES

- genindex
- modindex
- search