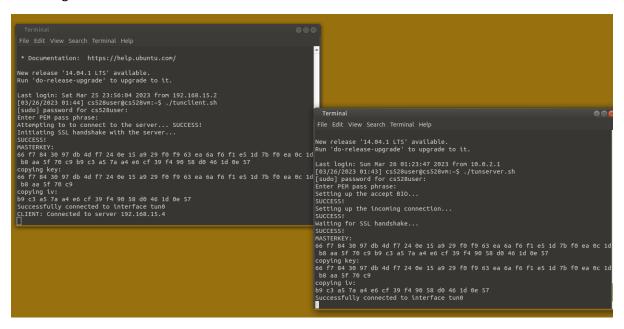
Virtual Private Network

SSL HANDSHAKE

In our SSL VPN tunnel, the SSL handshake occurs first between the client and the VPN gateway server to establish a secure connection. Once the SSL handshake is completed and the SSL/TLS session is established, a virtual tunnel interface is created on the client side to encapsulate and encrypt the VPN traffic. This tunnel interface is used to route the encrypted VPN traffic between the client and the VPN gateway.

Following is the execution of SSL Handshake.



I have captured the packets using Tshark on TCP port 4433 where SSL Handshake is established.

Command: tshark -n -f "tcp port 4433"

UDP TUNNEL

UDP Tunnel Interface tun0 is established by modifying simpletun.c file and turn the TCP tunnel into a UDP tunnel using socket(AF_INET, SOCK_DGRAM, 0) . I have as seen below:

CLIENT:

```
if ( (sock_fd = socket(AF_INET, SOCK_DGRAM, 0)) < 0) {
   perror("socket()");
   exit(1);
}

if(cliserv==CLIENT){
   char *hello="Hello";

   /* Client, try to connect to server */

   /* assign the destination address */
   memset(&remote, 0, sizeof(remote));
   remote.sin_family = AF_INET;
   remote.sin_addr.s_addr = inet_addr(remote_ip);
   remote.sin_port = htons(port);

   /* connection request */
   if (sendto(sock_fd, hello, strlen(hello), 0, (struct sockaddr*) &remote, sizeof(remote)) < 0){
        perror("sendto()");
        exit(1);
   }

   net_fd = sock_fd;
   do_debug("CLIENT: Connected to server %s\n", inet_ntoa(remote.sin_addr));</pre>
```

SERVER:

```
} else {
  if (setsockopt(sock_fd, SOL_SOCKET, SO_REUSEADDR, (char *)&optval, sizeof(optval)) < 0) {</pre>
 memset(&local, 0, sizeof(local));
 local.sin_family = AF_INET;
 local.sin_addr.s_addr = htonl(INADDR_ANY);
 local.sin_port = htons(port);
 if (bind(sock_fd, (struct sockaddr*) &local, sizeof(local)) < 0){</pre>
   perror("bind()");
   exit(1);
 remotelen = sizeof(struct sockaddr_in);
 bzero(buff, 100);
 if ((net_fd = recvfrom(sock_fd, buff, 100, 0,(struct sockaddr *) &remote, &remotelen))< 0){</pre>
   perror("recvfrom()");
   exit(1);
 net_fd = sock_fd;
 do_debug("SERVER: Client connected from %s\n", inet_ntoa(remote.sin_addr));
 printf("Connected with the client: %s\n", buff);
```

After the tunnel is established successfully, now we can access 10.0.2.1 from 192.168.15.4 (and similarly access 10.0.1.1 from 192.168.15.5). Following screenshot shows testing of the tunnel using ping and ssh:

I have captured the ping and ssh packets using Tshark.

Command: tshark -c 30 -i tun0

```
File Edit View Search Terminal Help
[03/25/2023 22:48] cs528user@cs528vm:~$ tshark -D
 2. eth14
 ...
[03/25/2023 22:51] cs528user@cs528vm:~$ tshark -c 30 -i tun0
 Capturing on tun0
0.000000 10
                                                                                                       ICMP 84 Echo (ping) request id=0x5ec4, seq=1/256, ttl=64 ICMP 84 Echo (ping) reply id=0x5ec4, seq=1/256, ttl=64 ICMP 84 Echo (ping) reply id=0x5ec4, seq=2/512, ttl=64 ICMP 84 Echo (ping) reply id=0x5ec4, seq=2/512, ttl=64
                                                                                                       ICMP 84 Echo (ping) reply
ICMP 84 Echo (ping) request
ICMP 84 Echo (ping) reply
     0.001124
                                      10.0.1.1 -> 10.0.2.1
     1.003459
                                      10.0.2.1 -> 10.0.1.1
10.0.1.1 -> 10.0.2.1
                                                                                                       ICMP 84 Echo (ping) request id=0x5ec4, seq=3/768, ttl=64
ICMP 84 Echo (ping) reply id=0x5ec4, seq=3/768, ttl=64
                                     10.0.2.1 -> 10.0.1.1
10.0.1.1 -> 10.0.2.1
     2.010245
                                                                                                        TCP 60 51852 > ssh [SYN] Seq=0 Win=14600 Len=0 MSS=1460 SACK PERM=1 TSval=246572892 TSecr=0
                                      10.0.2.1 -> 10.0.1.1
    6.176774
                                      10.0.1.1 -> 10.0.2.1
                                                                                                       TCP 60 ssh > 51852 [SYN, ACK] Seq=0 Ack=1 Win=14480 Len=0 MSS=1460 SACK PERM=1 TSval=3765515
0.1/67/4 10.0.1.1 -> 10.0.2.1

02 Tsecr=246572892 W5=64

6.176794 10.0.2.1 -> 10.0.1.1

6.190461 10.0.1.1 -> 10.0.2.1

6.190597 10.0.2.1 -> 10.0.1.1

6.191257 10.0.2.1 -> 10.0.1.1
                                                                                                       TCP 52 51852 > ssh [ACK] Seq=1 Ack=1 Win=14656 Len=0 TSval=246572893 TSecr=376551502 SSH 93 Server Protocol: SSH-2.0-OpenSSH_5.9p1 Debtan-15ubuntu1.1\r
TCP 52 51852 > ssh [ACK] Seq=1 Ack=42 Win=14656 Len=0 TSval=246572896 TSecr=376551505 SSH 93 Client Protocol: SSH-2.0-OpenSSH_5.9p1 Debtan-5ubuntu1.1\r
TCP 52 ssh > 51852 [ACK] Seq=42 Ack=42 Win=14528 Len=0 TSval=376551506 TSecr=246572896 SSHv2 1036 Server: Key Exchange Init
SSHv2 1324 Client: Key Exchange Init
TCP 52 ssh > 51852 [ACK] Seq=1026 Ack=1314 Win=17408 Len=0 TSval=376551517 TSecr=246572897 SSHv2 132 Client: Diffie-Hellman Key Exchange Init
TCP 52 ssh > 51852 [ACK] Seq=1026 Ack=1394 Win=17408 Len=0 TSval=376551517 TSecr=246572908 SSHv2 340 Server: New Keys
                                      10.0.1.1 -> 10.0.2.1

10.0.1.1 -> 10.0.2.1

10.0.1.1 -> 10.0.2.1

10.0.2.1 -> 10.0.1.1

10.0.1.1 -> 10.0.2.1
     6.193739
     6.194698
6.236494
                                      10.0.2.1 -> 10.0.2.1

10.0.2.1 -> 10.0.1.1

10.0.1.1 -> 10.0.2.1

10.0.2.1 -> 10.0.2.1

10.0.2.1 -> 10.0.2.1
     6.236519
                                                                                                       SSHv2 364 Server: New Keys

TCP 52 ssh > 51852 [ACK] Seq=1338 Ack=1410 Win=17408 Len=0 TSval=376551531 TSecr=246572912

TCP 100 [TCP segment of a reassembled PDU]

TCP 52 ssh > 51852 [ACK] Seq=1338 Ack=1458 Win=17408 Len=0 TSval=376551531 TSecr=246572912
     6.243946
     6.292188
                                      10.0.2.1 -> 10.0.1.1
10.0.1.1 -> 10.0.2.1
     6.296712
                                                                                                       TCP 100 [TCP segment of a reassembled PDU]
TCP 22 ssh > 51852 [ACK] Seq=1386 Ack=1438 Win=17408 Len=0 T3V8L=370551532 T3CCF-16 T2CF 132 [TCP segment of a reassembled PDU]
TCP 52 ssh > 51852 [ACK] Seq=1386 Ack=1538 Win=17408 Len=0 TSVal=376551542 TSecr=246572923
TCP 116 [TCP segment of a reassembled PDU]
TCP 52 51852 > ssh [ACK] Seq=1538 Ack=1450 Win=18560 Len=0 TSVal=246574187 TSecr=376552786
    6.296750
6.296981
                                      10.0.1.1 -> 10.0.2.1
10.0.2.1 -> 10.0.1.1
                                      10.0.1.1 -> 10.0.2.1

10.0.1.1 -> 10.0.2.1

10.0.2.1 -> 10.0.2.1

10.0.2.1 -> 10.0.1.1

10.0.2.1 -> 10.0.1.1
         .336147
  11.352274
                                                                                                       TCP 196 [TCP segment of a reassembled PDU]
TCP 52 ssh > 51852 [ACK] Seq=1450 Ack=1682 Win=19968 Len=0 TSval=376553874 TSecr=246575264
```

If we monitor eth14 interface, we find UDP packets with source IP address = 192.168.15.5 and destination IP address = 192.168.15.4 as shown in the below screenshot.

Command: tshark-c30-heth14

```
[03/25/2023 23:25] cs528user@cs528vm:-$ tshark -c 30 -i eth14

Capturing on eth14

0.000000 192.168.15.5 -> 192.168.15.4 UDP 170 Source port: 35164 Destination port: 55555

0.000414 192.168.15.5 -> 192.168.15.5 UDP 170 Source port: 55555 Destination port: 35164

0.001141 192.168.15.4 -> 192.168.15.5 UDP 170 Source port: 55555 Destination port: 35164

0.001461 192.168.15.4 -> 192.168.15.2 SSH 206 Encrypted response packet len=136

0.001641 192.168.15.5 -> 192.168.15.2 SSH 206 Encrypted response packet len=136

0.001914 192.168.15.5 -> 192.168.15.5 TCP 60 33846 > ssh [ACK] Seq=1 Ack=273 Win=31680 Len=0

0.002018 192.168.15.5 -> 192.168.15.5 TCP 60 33846 > ssh [ACK] Seq=1 Ack=273 Win=31680 Len=0

0.022018 192.168.15.5 -> 192.168.15.5 TCP 60 57382 > ssh [ACK] Seq=1 Ack=289 Win=31848 Len=0

0.228952 192.168.15.5 -> 192.168.15.2 SSH 174 Encrypted response packet len=280

0.228952 192.168.15.5 -> 192.168.15.2 SSH 174 Encrypted response packet len=40

0.58828 192.168.15.5 -> 192.168.15.2 SSH 94 Encrypted response packet len=40

0.589555 192.168.15.5 -> 192.168.15.5 STCP 60 S9770 > ssh [ACK] Seq=1 Ack=321 Win=32768 Len=0

0.590464 192.168.15.5 -> 192.168.15.2 SSH 94 Encrypted response packet len=40

0.590967 192.168.15.5 -> 192.168.15.2 SSH 94 Encrypted response packet len=40

0.590967 192.168.15.5 -> 192.168.15.5 SSH 94 Encrypted response packet len=40

0.591640 192.168.15.5 -> 192.168.15.5 SSH 94 Encrypted response packet len=40

0.591640 192.168.15.5 -> 192.168.15.5 SSH 94 Encrypted response packet len=40

0.591640 192.168.15.5 -> 192.168.15.5 SSH 94 Encrypted response packet len=120

0.59178 192.168.15.5 -> 192.168.15.5 SSH 94 Encrypted response packet len=120

0.591491 192.168.15.5 -> 192.168.15.5 SSH 94 Encrypted response packet len=120

0.591491 192.168.15.5 -> 192.168.15.5 SSH 94 Encrypted response packet len=120

0.591491 192.168.15.5 -> 192.168.15.5 SSH 94 Encrypted response packet len=120

0.59278 192.168.15.5 -> 192.168.15.5 SSH 94 Encrypted response packet len=120

0.593778 192.168.15.5 -> 192.168.15.5 SSH
```

Question 2.1

Original code simpletun.c code given has tunnel over TCP connectionIt is generally not recommended to use a "TCP over TCP" VPN tunnel, as it can lead to various issues with network congestion, packet loss, and other performance problems. In a "TCP over TCP" scenario, one TCP connection is encapsulated within another TCP connection, which can result in unnecessary overhead, delays, and retransmissions. This can lead to poor performance, especially over long distances or on networks with high latency or packet loss (a problem known as "TCP meltdown"), which is why virtual private network software may instead use a protocol simpler than TCP(Like UDP) for the tunnel connection.

Symmetric Key Encryption and HMAC

To ensure confidentiality of the data going through the tunnel, they must be encrypted, so no eavesdropper can learn the data in the tunnel. Second, the integrity of the data in the tunnel must be preserved. If anybody has tampered with the data, the receiver can detect that, and can thus discard the data. These two objectives can be achieved using the symmetric-key encryption and one-way hash algorithms.

The SSL handshake is a protocol used in the establishment of a secure communication channel between a client and a server using the SSL/TLS protocol. The handshake is the first step in the SSL/TLS protocol, and its purpose is to establish a secure connection before any data is transmitted. During the SSL handshake, the client and server exchange several messages that include.

- 1. ClientHello: The client sends a message to the server indicating the SSL/TLS versions it supports, a random number, and a list of supported ciphersuites.
- ServerHello: The server responds with a message indicating the SSL/TLS version it has selected, a random number, and the ciphersuite it has chosen from the list provided by the client.
- 3. Certificate: The server sends its digital certificate to the client, which contains the server's public key and information about the server's identity.
- 4. ServerKeyExchange (optional): The server sends a message containing additional information needed to establish the key exchange.
- 5. ClientKeyExchange: The client generates a pre-master secret, encrypts it with the server's public key, and sends it to the server.

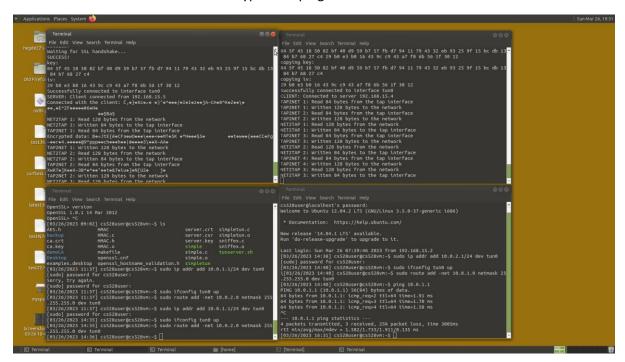
From SSL handshake we get session key which is then used in Encryption and HMAC. The data going through the tunnel is encrypted, so no eavesdropper can learn the data in the tunnel. Second, the integrity of the data in the tunnel must be preserved. If anybody has tampered with the data, the receiver can detect that, and can thus discard the data. These two objectives can be achieved using the symmetric-key encryption and one-way hash algorithms.

Our miniVPN code has two functions, encrypt() and decrypt(), which are responsible for encryption and decryption using AES-256 in CBC mode.

The encrypt() function takes in a plaintext buffer (plaintext), its length (plaintext_len), a key buffer (key), an IV buffer (iv), and a ciphertext buffer (ciphertext).

The decrypt() function takes in a ciphertext buffer (ciphertext), its length (ciphertext_len), a key buffer (key), an IV buffer (iv), and a plaintext buffer (plaintext). It returns the length of the resulting plaintext after decryption.

Below screenshot shows the data encrypted on ping and ssh on tunnel interface tun0:



INTEGRITY USING SSL CERTIFICATION

A typical way to authenticate servers is to use public-key certificates. The VPN server needs to first get a public-key certificate from a Certificate Authority (CA). There are three important steps in server authentication:

- 1. verifying that the server certificate is valid,
- 2. verifying that the server is the owner of the certificate, and
- 3. verifying that the server is the intended server (for example, if the user intends to visit example.com, we need to ensure that the server is indeedexample.com, not another site).

Client authentication using SSL certificates is a mechanism by which a server can verify the identity of a client connecting to it using SSL/TLS protocol. In this mechanism, the client presents a digital certificate to the server during the SSL/TLS handshake process. The server then verifies the authenticity of the certificate and therefore the identity of the client.

Question 2.2

Implementing our own encryption algorithm in an SSL VPN tunnel is not recommended due to the complexity of the field and the risks associated with creating a new algorithm that may have

vulnerabilities. Instead, it is recommended to use established and well-tested encryption algorithms such as AES. Established encryption algorithms such as AES (Advanced Encryption Standard) have been extensively studied and tested by the cryptographic community over many years. They have been proven to be secure and are widely used in SSL VPN tunnels and other cryptographic applications.

Break the Tunnel

On Host U, telnet to Host V. While keeping the telnet connection alive, we break the VPN tunnel. Press Ctrl+C command on the client side, connection was terminated and the telnet session was not responding to the user input.

Below is the code snippet which breaks the tunnel on demand.

```
shutdown:
  /* Shutdown of the SSL connection*/
  r = SSL_shutdown(ssl);
  if (!r) {
    r = SSL_shutdown(ssl);
  switch (r) {
  case 1:
    goto done;
  default:
   perror("shutdown failed\n");
    exit(1);
done:
  /* Close the connection and free the context */
  BIO_free_all(bio);
  SSL_CTX_free(ctx);
  close(net_fd);
  close(tap_fd);
  return(0);
```

Question 2.3

It is important for the server to release resources when a connection is broken because failing to do so can lead to resource exhaustion and denial of service (DoS) attacks. When a client connects to a server, the server allocates resources such as memory, network sockets, file handles, and other system resources to handle the connection. If the server does not release these resources after the connection is broken, they will continue to be held by the server and cannot be used by other clients.

Security Review

The SSL/TLS connection requires the server to present a valid SSL/TLS certificate. Clients should validate the server's certificate to ensure that they are communicating with the intended server and not a man-in-the-middle attacker. Failure to properly validate the certificate can lead to security vulnerabilities. To protect against man-in-the-middle attacks I have done hostname verification where the TLS client has to verify the identity of the server by ensuring that the server certificate was signed for the hostname to which it is trying to connect to. I referred the research paper "Everything You've Always Wanted To Know About Certificate Validation With Openssl" by Alban Diquet. This strategy is implemented in openssl_hostname_validation.c code. Once the certificate chain has been validated, the TLS client has to verify the identity of the server by ensuring that the server certificate was signed for the hostname to which it is trying to connect to.

This implementation of SSL VPN establishes an SSL/TLS encrypted connection between a client and server, and how to encrypt and decrypt data using symmetric encryption. While SSL/TLS encryption and symmetric encryption can provide strong confidentiality and integrity for data in transit, there are other factors that may impact the security of the communication. Below are some additional considerations:

- 1. Certificate validation: The SSL/TLS connection requires the server to present a valid SSL/TLS certificate. Clients should validate the server's certificate to ensure that they are communicating with the intended server and not a man-in-the-middle attacker. Failure to properly validate the certificate can lead to security vulnerabilities.
- 2. Key management: The security of symmetric encryption relies on the secrecy of the key. The keys used for encryption and decryption should be managed carefully, and not shared or transmitted in an insecure manner.
- 3. Security of client and server systems: The security of the client and server systems can also impact the overall security of the communication. If either the client or server systems are compromised, an attacker may be able to intercept or manipulate data in transit.
- 4. Application-level security: The security of the communication is also influenced by the security of the application itself. For example, if the application has vulnerabilities that allow an attacker to execute arbitrary code, an attacker may be able to intercept or manipulate data in transit.

In summary, while SSL/TLS encryption and symmetric encryption can provide strong security for data in transit, there are other factors that may impact the overall security of the communication. Proper certificate validation, key management, and application-level security are also important considerations to ensure the security of the communication.

Reffered from https://github.com/reginbald/IK2206-project-ssl-vpn, this helped me achieve 3 added features to the miniVPN.

- 1. Generate new key
- 2. Change the existing IV and generate new one.
- 3. And Break the vpn on demand

```
2. Change the existing IV and generate new one.
if (FD_ISSET(ssl_fd, &rd_set)) { // from ssl
   int len = BIO_read(bio, session_change, 33);
   do_debug("Message from client!\n");
   if (session_change[0] == 's') {
     do_debug("New session key\n");
     memcpy(key, &(session_change[1]), 32);
     print_hex(key, 32);
    } else if (session_change[0] == 'i') {
    do_debug("New IV\n");
     memcpy(iv, &(session_change[1]), 16);
     print_hex(iv, 16);
    } else if (session_change[0] == 'b') {
     do_debug("Break current VPN\n");
     goto shutdown;
    } else {
     do_debug("unkown message\n");
```