I2P *monerod* Hidden Service

Hiding *monerod* IP Address with a VPN

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author: prefers to remain anonymous

Introduction

This paper extends the content of the paper titled “Configure *monerod* as an I2P Hidden Service” located at:

https://gateway.ipfs.io/ipfs/QmfZNK8sxLw5EodSpDs1vanYHEgZUnAv7hQwyodkJEXf8W

Document IPFS hash: QmfZNK8sxLw5EodSpDs1vanYHEgZUnAv7hQwyodkJEXf8W

In that paper it was mentioned that the computer hosting the I2P monerod hidden service risks exposing its IP address since it needs to connect to the global Monero network. One option for mitigating this risk is to place the running Monero daemon behind a VPN. This brief paper will discuss this option.

VPN Option

I have installed an openvpn server on a VPS machine running Ubuntu 16.04.2 LTS. The version of openvpn installed is:

OpenVPN 2.3.10 x86_64-pc-linux-gnu [SSL (OpenSSL)] [LZO] [EPOLL] [PKCS11] [MH] [IPv6] built on Jun 22 2017

An .ovpn file generated from the openvpn server mentioned above was placed on my I2P monerod hidden service machine along with the openvpn client software to provide an operational VPN connection for the Monero daemon enabling the I2P monerod hidden service.

The hidden service machine was configured to prevent DNS leaks (checked with: https://www.dnsleaktest.com/).

The Monero daemon on the hidden service machine is started as:

```
cd monero-v0.13.0.2
./monerod –p2p-bind-ip 10.8.0.3
```

In my present setup, the Monero daemon doesn’t support incoming connections on port 18080. I’m in the process of determining how to correct that. This lack of incoming connections still allows for the use of Monero, but it doesn’t allow others to connect to the node to help synchronize their nodes.

Results

Placing the I2P monerod hidden service machine behind a VPN provides another layer of plausible deniability. The Monero daemon’s access to the global Monero network now exposes the IP address of the VPN server rather than the IP address of the hidden services machine.

The risk exposure involves running a Monero full node that allows external client connectivity. All external client wallets that interact with the I2P monerod hidden service still do so anonymously through the I2P network.

If you wish to take this option, you will need to gain access to a VPN service that you can connect your hidden service machine to as a VPN client.

If you have difficulty you can request my assistance by sending a message via I2P-Bote. Use I2P-Bote email destination:

iVCMAA149vlVByA0DfoTnboySJvfQl3d0nv~fmhkPH~qmlOl6VrNqMKYd3gpw4kLMDhWmc~aTs07z9UlSd1fkO

All the documents in this series will be consolidated into one document and republished once the series is complete.