

Migration Guide: OpenVPN Marketplace Hourly → BYOL (Bring Your Own License)

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Summary

You are currently paying for OpenVPN Access Server via AWS Marketplace hourly licensing. This guide shows how to migrate to a BYOL license on a new EC2 instance (zero-downtime technique), reduce instance size, and terminate the Marketplace instance to stop hourly charges.

Prerequisites

- OpenVPN BYOL license key (purchase from OpenVPN: <https://openvpn.net>)
- AWS IAM permissions to create EC2, Security Groups, Elastic IPs.
- SSH key pair created in the target region.
- Decide AMI for Ubuntu 22.04 (set AMI ID in Terraform variable `ami`).

Step-by-step

1. Purchase BYOL license

- Buy appropriate license (50 devices) from OpenVPN and save the license key.

2. Launch new EC2 (recommended method)

- Use Terraform (provided) or AWS Console.
- Choose `t3.small` or `t3.medium`.
- Assign an Elastic IP (Terraform creates one).
- Open ports: 943 TCP, 1194 TCP/UDP, 443 TCP.

3. Install OpenVPN Access Server on new instance

- SSH to instance:

...

```
sudo apt update && sudo apt upgrade -y
wget https://openvpn.net/downloads/openvpn-as-latest-ubuntu22.amd_64.deb
sudo apt install ./openvpn-as-latest-ubuntu22.amd_64.deb -y
sudo passwd openvpn
...
```

- Admin UI: `https://:943/admin`

4. Apply BYOL license

- Admin UI → Configuration → License → Enter License Key → Save.
- Restart service:

...

```
sudo systemctl restart openvpnas
...
```

5. Migrate configuration & users

- On old Marketplace server:

...

```
sudo /usr/local/openvpn_as/scripts/confdba -o - > backup.conf
...
```

- Copy `backup.conf` to new server (`scp`).

- On new server:

...

```
sudo /usr/local/openvpn_as/scripts/confdba -i - < backup.conf
sudo systemctl restart openvpnas
...
```

6. Swap Elastic IP (zero-downtime)

Option A (recommended):

- Detach Elastic IP from old instance and attach to new BYOL instance.

Option B:

- Update DNS records to point to new IP and lower TTL before migration.

7. Test & verify

- Connect a subset of users and validate VPN connectivity, routes, and authentication.
- Check CPU, memory, and network throughput.

8. Terminate old Marketplace instance

- After verification, terminate the Marketplace EC2 to stop hourly billing.

Optional: Scaling & Savings

- Use Reserved Instances or Savings Plans if long-term.
- For HA, deploy two BYOL nodes behind an NLB with health checks.
- Consider community OpenVPN or WireGuard if commercial features are not required.

Terraform

A sample Terraform file `openvpn_byol_terraform.tf` is included next to this document.

Notes & Troubleshooting

- If using LDAP/AD authentication, reconfigure LDAP settings in Admin UI.
- Keep a copy of `backup.conf` offline.
- If license activation fails, contact OpenVPN support with your license key and server FQDN/IP.

Included files:

- openvpn_byol_terraform.tf (Terraform example)
- openvpn_byol_migration.md (this guide)