

RAK Industrial LPWAN Gateway Remote Management - OpenVPN

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1 Overview

This document introduces a method of remote management of RAK Industrial LPWAN Gateways based on OpenVPN. A virtual private network (VPN) is created where a server is deployed that both the Gateway and any number of customer devices (PC, Phone, etc.) can connect to via a public IP address. This is possible to implement using any of the backhaul connectivity options the Gateway supports (Ethernet, Wi-Fi, LTE).

Thus, by connecting to the server via a remote client the user can remotely manage the Gateway from any point, at any time.

2 Network Topology

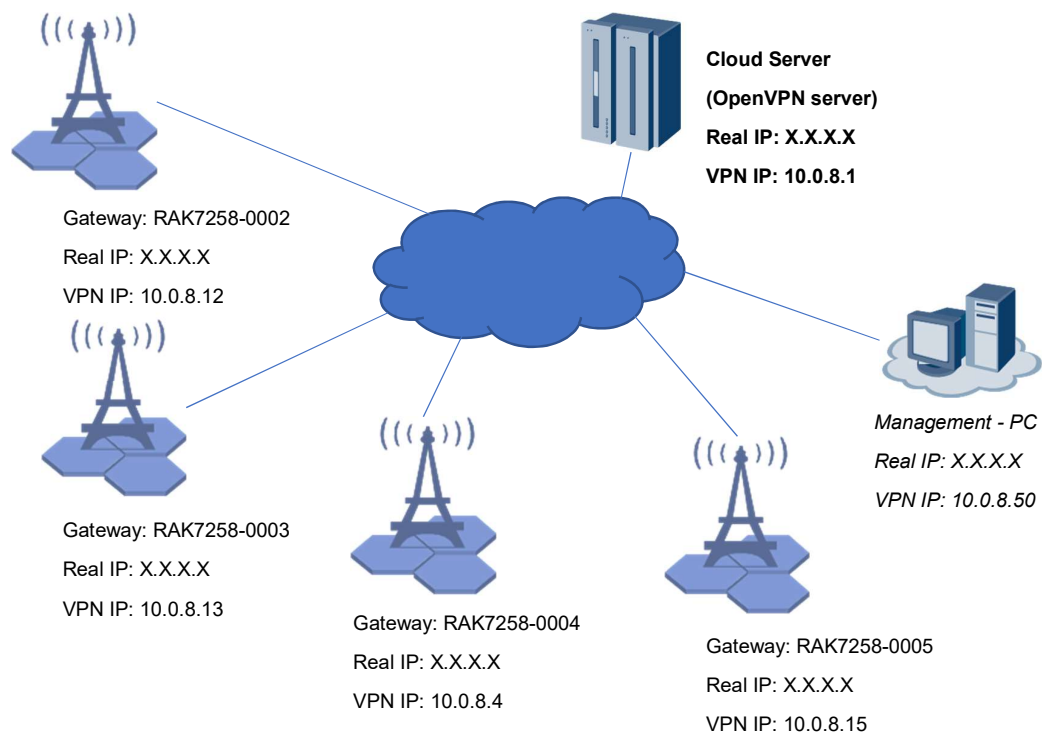


Figure 1 | Network Topology

3 Deploy the OpenVPN Server

This tutorial assumes you already have an AWS EC2 Instance with Ubuntu Server 18.04 LTS running on it. You can find a tutorial on how to deploy one at the link below:

[Deployment and Management of Ubuntu on an AWS EC2 Instance](#)

3.1 Install OpenVPN

First, we need to install the Open VPN package:

```
sudo apt install openvpn -y
```

3.2 Download a certificate management tool suite

We are going to be using Easy RSA:

```
wget https://github.com/OpenVPN/easy-rsa/archive/v3.0.6.tar.gz -O easyrsa.tar.gz
```

3.3 Initialize Easy RSA to generate a CA certificate and a server certificate

step 1. Extract and copy easyrsa to /etc/openvpn/easyrsa/

```
sudo mkdir -p /etc/openvpn/easyrsa  
tar zxvf easyrsa.tar.gz  
sudo cp -rf easy-rsa-3.0.6/easyrsa3/* /etc/openvpn/easyrsa/
```

step 2. Initialize the pki

```
cd /etc/openvpn/easyrsa  
sudo ./easyrsa init-pki
```

step 3. Generate the CA certificate

```
sudo ./easyrsa build-ca
```

Enter the required information according to the prompt.

Note: When asked for a password make sure to write it down as it will be required later on.

step 4. Generate the Server certificate

```
sudo ./easyrsa build-server-full server nopass
```

step 5. Generate the DH parameters file

```
sudo ./easyrsa gen-dh
```

step 6. Generate the crt.pem file

```
sudo ./easyrsa gen-crl
```

3.4 Generate the OpenVPN Server configuration and running files

step 1. Created the OpenVPN server configuration file and fill it in:

Create the folder the file will reside in:

```
sudo mkdir -p /etc/openvpn/server
```

Create the file and open it for editing

```
sudo nano /etc/openvpn/server/config.ovpn
```

Note: Change the **local 123.56.96.211** IP with your private AWS IP.



Figure 2 | AWS Instance Private IP

Note: You have to add an inbound rule in the AWS Security Group for UDP port 1194.

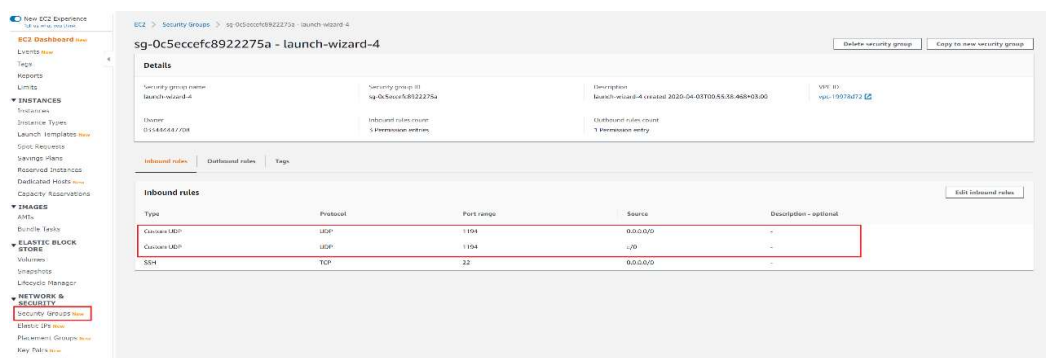


Figure 3 | Security Group Inbound Rules

```
# openvpn server
cd /etc/openvpn/server
daemon
dev tap
proto udp

#local ipaddr to bind. Change it with Server IP.
local 123.56.96.211
port 1194

server-bridge 10.0.8.1 255.255.255.0 10.0.8.11 10.0.8.100
ifconfig-pool-persist ip_pool.txt

up interface-up.sh

client-to-client
keepalive 10 120
comp-lzo
user root
group root
persist-key
persist-tun

ca /etc/openvpn/easyrsa/pki/ca.crt
cert /etc/openvpn/easyrsa/pki/issued/server.crt
key /etc/openvpn/easyrsa/pki/private/server.key
dh /etc/openvpn/easyrsa/pki/dh.pem
crl-verify /etc/openvpn/easyrsa/pki/crl.pem

status /var/log/openvpn-status-server.log
log /var/log/openvpn-server.log
verb 3
script-security 2
```

step 2. Create and fill in the *interface-up.sh*. This is a script that will create the virtual *tap* interface:

```
sudo nano /etc/openvpn/server/interface-up.sh
```

Fill in the content of the file with the lines below:

```
#!/bin/sh
/sbin/ifconfig $1 10.0.8.1 netmask 255.255.255.0 broadcast 10.0.8.0
```

Make the script executable:

```
sudo chmod +x /etc/openvpn/server/interface-up.sh
```

3.5 Start OpenVPN

step 1. Start OpenVPN

Note: If you want to OpenVPN to run on instance startup run the command:

```
sudo systemctl enable openvpn
```

Execute the following in order to get your *tap* interface up:

```
sudo openvpn --config /etc/openvpn/server/config.ovpn
```

Note: If you want OpenVPN to execute the configuration file automatically you should rename the config.ovpn to config.conf and move it to the /etc/openvpn folder.

This way if the Operating System is rebooted, OpenVPN will automatically load the tap interface.

```
cd /etc/openvpn/server  
sudo mv config.ovpn /etc/openvpn/config.conf
```

step 2. Check whether the OpenVPN virtual interface is up:

```
ifconfig tap0
```

You should see a similar output if the *tap0* interface is up and running.

```
tap0: flags=4163<UP,BROADCAST,RUNNING,MULTICAST> mtu 1500  
    inet 10.0.8.1 netmask 255.255.255.0 broadcast 10.0.8.0  
    ether 3a:37:f6:5a:bb:32 txqueuelen 100 (Ethernet)  
    RX packets 45125 bytes 8292906 (7.9 MiB)  
    RX errors 0 dropped 0 overruns 0 frame 0  
    TX packets 16611 bytes 2205218 (2.1 MiB)  
    TX errors 0 dropped 0 overruns 0 carrier 0 collisions 0
```

4 Setup the OpenVPN Management Client

4.1 Generate the OpenVPN Server client certificate for your PC

Note: We use **management** as the name for the client PC.

```
cd /etc/openvpn/easyrsa
# ./easyrsa build-client-full <client_name> nopass
sudo ./easyrsa build-client-full management nopass

# Update certificate control file
sudo ./easyrsa gen-crl
```

4.2 Make the OpenVPN Client profile file.

The **<ca>**, **<cert>**, and **<key>** in the configuration file are the CA certificate, Client certificate and Client secret key.

The CA certificate is located in:

/etc/openvpn/easyrsa/pki/ca.crt

The Client certificate together with the Client secret key we generated in **Section 4.1**.

Client certificate:

/etc/openvpn/easyrsa/issued/<client_name>.crt

Client secret key:

/etc/openvpn/easyrsa/private/<client_name>.key

Open a text editor in your PC and copy this template. Change the remote IP with your Amazon Instance Public IP and add each certificate in its corresponding section by copying the content from the locations mentioned above and replacing the corresponding section in the template.



Figure 4 | AWS Instance Public IP

```
dev tap
client
remote 123.56.96.211 1194
proto udp
nobind
resolv-retry infinite

persist-key
persist-tun

remote-cert-tls server

comp-lzo
verb 3

# copy from openvpn-server /etc/openvpn/easyrsa/pki/ca.crt
<ca>
-----BEGIN CERTIFICATE-----
MIIDNTCCAah2gAwIBAgIJANYEjCM+cqsxMA0GCSqGSIb3DQEBCwUAMBYx
FDASBgNVBAMMClJBSldpcmVsZXNzMB4XDTE5MTEyNTAxMzIyOVoxDTI5
MTEyMjAxMzIyOVowFjEUMBIGA1UEAwLUkFLV2lyZWxlcnMwggEiMA0G
CSqGSIb3DQEBAQUAA4IBDwAwggEKAoIBAQQDZS/8PCehr3TSTvidQLFVY
T5EydKDVidEUm6/yOE0BZs99kZKGn6eFmFQnBfve4mAHZPn3amiuCh
+01kf97P7MDpS/cYTdR9RB9Xng/jyBQqMVVHLbwoGIS7mQmBpV0NdU8
RYKsLCARPN50eRgiL2AS6cPDSjrrj2xsBEydTsjE/95gJ7AvWQRP
RoVTI9S3lmY6tLrs16zydtEXWicDVaRfKvultijCmCiUhfADE81tldQ
xd5jkvwChtmlEBdHjyce7oXa+Og0p2c5EmTb1K2pjHZHG0jINv91Er
C049g/ey7CcddDd+QBm7fqArIaov7kk+U7zKhBrTVH3dmPWEHAgMBA
AGjgYUwgYIwHQYDVR0OBBYEFld+eVD4IqyA84ABBeFupjEV0+bOME
YGA1UdIwQ/MD2AFld+eVD4IqyA84ABBeFupjEV0+bOoRqkGDAWMRQ
wEgYDVQDDAtSQUtXaXJlbGVzcn4IANYEjCM+cqsxMAwGA1UdEwQFMAM
BAf8wCwYDVR0PBAQDAgEGMA0GCSqGSIb3DQEBCwUAA4IBAQAFT6ZgK
7YtM5tZEfEKSCMuXfESJ+4pPN2lryZVskXtD6BfjvKkQpj3A+R6MR
NloOPvZ4spAvH5fFvfi97Ts40rQjWpgPLQDEBcgBi6dzzmMSap/iw9
wLtgqWfVw+LXPMHQngBKfs2HksTlKOhikZlvtGYfxay6kbMU35LX8Wd
Rxx8JNvRNIDL68lLdreXB7vTKQYAvckP0lGuZFqKV2KFxpjxzLgl
BeM3U4X5k4xDQDaOHENKJO4pdWBfMLP3AAyC9wq481POhgA1R8ZAt
+psYxOAB6O3A1SzDJ/df5ciPdsp1Kia0HCB2cGIZ7ZwfzPDNivH8/
bTn7UOb+khvmsD
-----END CERTIFICATE-----
</ca>

# Client certificate PEM
# Copy from server /etc/openvpn/easyrsa/pki/issued/managment.crt
#

<cert>
-----BEGIN CERTIFICATE-----
MIIDTzCCAjegAwIBAgIQVm22YDcNRRzycbFHSEkkfjANBgkqhkiG9w0B
AQsFADAwMRQwEgYDVQDDAtSQUtXaXJlbGVzcn4eFw0yMDAyMDUwMjI
1MzZaFw0yMDAxMjAxMjI1MzZaMBcxFTATBgNVBAMMDFJBSzcyNThfNj
Y2NjCCASIdQYJKoZIhvcNAQEBBQADggEPADCCAQoCggEBAK53T6v1bm
4xVgM5z8fC6u15WsdT3gfEGEOKu0MWcxq4YP0jrhXAwJV20EdUXY
iFIodf9woYvv8ANTFYHIBAT+jZrGhbhph7QSzmb1xzc3g/nGJVJAW
7L10EmQ0mSsi64NTv/8Ou7wZQpzd8+FuIjDbMFJMP24GbqswG6nnh
JCST1b1hfAgijK/dagRFJTcYhJcutwJrpUjhdAwVBG/GuXQwyI82W
XzpqvVyfPgCb4Ek9ehHuA1Zsmgp68ChGFM+WREZ1sETD1xlNAfSON7
hihf3xYZ2iZ/6rq5RpUczJm3P9dx074I8/dxe9TnNcIvqasxGg3jZW4UvQy
ATqnb+z5kCAwEAaAOb1zCB1DAJBGNV
```

**RAK**RAKwireless
Technology Co., Ltd.

```
HRMEAjAAMB0GA1UdDgQWBBRQkqjMkMV4u8R0EKDDG08qjxJb4TBGBgNVHSMEPzA9
gBS3fnlQ+CKsgPOAAQXhbqYxFdPmzqEapBgwFjEUMBIGA1UEAwWLUkFLV2lyZWxl
c30CCQDWBWjPnK67dATBgNVHSUEDDAKBggrBgEFBQCDAjALBgNVHQ8EBAMCB4Aw
DQYJKoZIhvcNAQELBQADggEBAGDGH6+b1EGkVj//EDyJUBISWWcXC8EwmrT25Tga
WDId2lQqatQahriVOFHu0B7DGSJb6kw4Om8Mz+keflv529VIip56wP4I7aVQdcTg
SoVBCc0ToXxGO+EXPWc0jBwPreofMzYeaZ+hZcSheFOYAs05aFSMfk5Z7qwYQfaj
ZQ7AdTj2NcxH92bIv7JUzW6Xh8OcTuTzQd4J2dtJr4ObnRkYrqq27dz1V1dz73hJ
JIs7AXUH4wivehV3VGd95am6eJs4Hedhaw23h+pV91LmG4gdb6EPHm0JPCHbaQAb
JzF75JEh0CLOlDFBK419Dgg10n0gqLkSTcp+CzN1Cx7k+24=
-----END CERTIFICATE-----
</cert>
# Client key PEM
# Copy from server /etc/openssl/easyrsa/pki/private/management.key
#
<key>
-----BEGIN PRIVATE KEY-----
MIIEVQIBADANBgkqhkiG9w0BAQEFAASCBAwggSjAgEAAoIBAQCud0+r5W5uMVYD
Oc/HwurpeVrHU94HxBhDirtDFnMauGD9I64VwMCVdtBHVf2IhSDnX/cKGL7/ADUx
WBYAQE/o2axoW4aYe0Es5m9cc3N4P5xiVSQFuy9dBjKJkrIuuDU7//Dru8GUKan
fPhbiIw2zBSTD9uBm6rMBup54SQkk9W9YXwIioyV3WoERSU3GISXLrcCa6VI4XQM
FQRvxl0MMiPNl186ar1cnz4Am+BJPXoR7gNWbJoKevAoRhTPlqxGdbBEW5cZTQH
7Dje4YoX98WGdomf+q6uUaVH11Ztz/XcTu+CPP3cXvU5zXCL6iIMRoN42VuFLOMg
E6p2/s+ZAgMBAECCgEAGGwPNQra2IYDelQfz+E7LQ+Vy41L6V5j3yCOcie0WSsy
OH1E1ztmOgX1xeZjaXbpUjo2xK0OH3gR+iRRaQqXpQrDfaBCSRoH15cyQ4jNwy10
ZLdyYXMAgE7idderYTD3xBcMgIH+Z63mhk+SHI4SwqDyyFtR6OS3lFpP4sHHY28r
FJFXW7a10M+pxjEX+A8m3UM4VJiLy2Yek1B7laJkQjHcA/Gh+sh/ONjZwCYyWWAi
irATLDSa3z6N7yr3xAO/J4vEZVaGxyyJRvR4qmr0xE15xyCfQQcWdw1DpGT9uBk/
4z/1Tq2sJUekzYebeENliJY3ADVsVS0JszRRHCYwGQKBgQDhRlwvrjvRP8ZCd9th
ssKXGkJBUSqxp8VvFtylMKy2koNq6S2S3yiGmiNwd7JxdGk+77MgMA8kTdpORMcN
L9xSLMWiuMLHGEYf79TkON0ZBqN/wwuPttJG8ICWhqAjL+dDcLoqz8j4d06FwKPo
z+fVjVupXgYKfqlpm9SADlapewKBgQDGQuyhv0Ru7o29MDg5Y20dwj9bV1Kz1Ff
3DAdcX+k4Z48R50e5VhewIedA3eafy+UER63CAWLQru96sbRoGkk8aKBk9AGJPFb
i4NVWWaiUA2A2WVUKkdIQsNrr2xHBTwiFPftTxWRWUT1DKgF+uHvSzbKfn13PreS
KCjxzPis+wKBgQDVeW9yX5GfwOeHpTznYBa2rGFMtDXZFDssAmYkw/NnL4AJ193w
CDjhFNnX3qXiYyOdecYoI/4vy3YbaSTAn+t/29pu9wX/xC0wvjJLF+Yj4nwUExs
a7roLpAsFhc74PEuH2zLlQvFJknBxcONozb2T3ZFESx4VXjcfYdQEzj0cQKBGAnQ
Wbs73p401r0lqcD2E0fkWRJm1QPZ5Ar7txR6xREpFdnB/hHvL4OKW4u36JKPyFkL
pnTOvZG115hg+AXadpU9WghVDitejY3fLGcHAD6hlGn41McLZ2j2RXmQbxQWigAQ
TmkXKK71U7vI+QgJV2UQ7YcLAMxSEBrjeDkaJ9qLAoGAEisjuv5X0PbZpiyH6/GX
YuMhFYWZnk/IwoxQW4alBIRuI7EQ+flvrFUXikMOIsLKtKrcVLjJBgFSz4hIE9YE
YnaQ5Vx+RMzTwakRJtPook55pS1HpdK7Y/0oiUosJGCEzVj8P/e/WrhFqWPGalIJ
ENCGBuhos/YdITFeKQ381zk=
-----END PRIVATE KEY-----
</key>
```

Save the file with the name *management_client.ovpn*

4.3 OpenVPN PC client

Download the OpenVPN Client from [here](#) and install it.

Start the OpenVPN GUI Client. You will see an icon in the taskbar.



Figure 5 | Open VPN Taskbar Icon

Right click → Import file. Navigate to the *management_client.ovpn* file and open it.

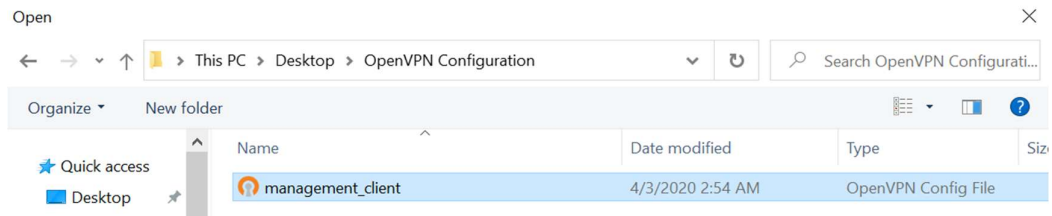


Figure 6 | Importing OpenVPN client file

Make sure to go into the OpenVPN menu again and press Connect (it will not initiate automatically).

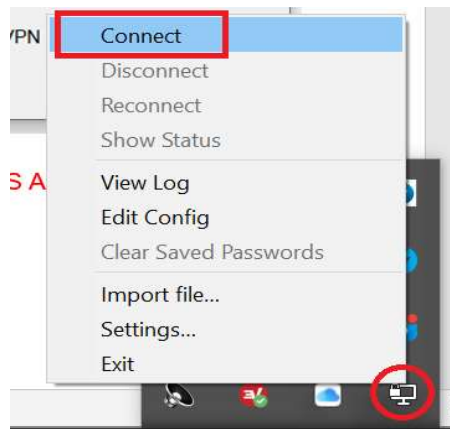


Figure 7 | Open VPN Connection initiation

If everything is set up properly there will be a connection log window that will disappear after the procedure runs through (refer to Figure 8).

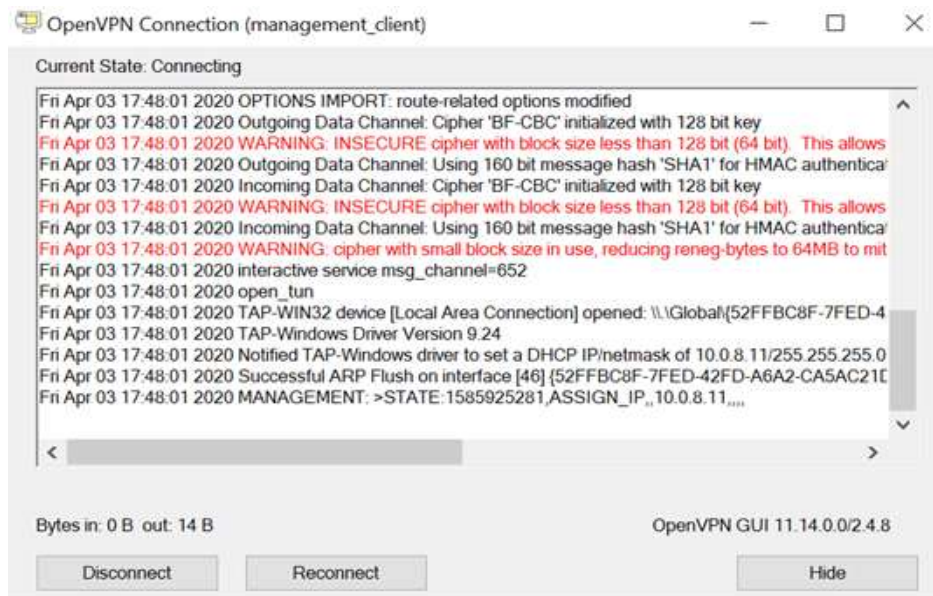


Figure 8 | Open VPN Connection log

The OpenVPN should now be in green (Figure 9), meaning the connection has been successful.

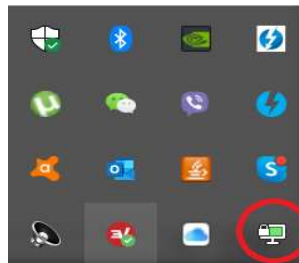


Figure 9 | Open VPN Connection log

You can check which clients are currently connected to the OpenVPN Server and their corresponding IP addresses by executing the following command in your Ubuntu console:

```
sudo nano /etc/openvpn/server/ip_pool.txt
```

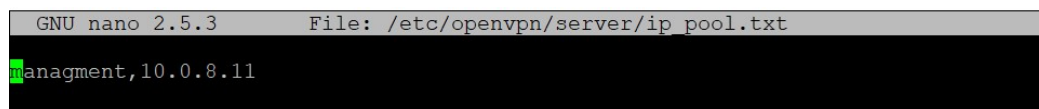


Figure 10 | Open VPN connected clients 1

There should be only one client and its IP address visible now. This is the PC connected to the OpenVPN Server. Later the Gateway also should be visible.

5 Setup OpenVPN client on LoRa gateway

The procedure for generating the Keys for the Gateway is the same as the one for the Management PC, with the exception of there being a different Client name.

You can go through [Section 4.1](#) and [Section 4.2](#) again, and do the same procedure, not forgetting to replace the “management” name we used for the Client with the one for the Gateway. We have used “**rak7258-001**”.

Once you have assembled your certificates into a single file you need to import the contents into the OpenVPN client section of your Gateway.

5.1 Log into the Gateway via the Web UI (locally)

Make sure you still have local network access to your Gateway and connect to it in order to access the Web UI.

Go to the **Services** → **OpenVPN Tunnels** in the sidebar menu section. Enter a name and choose “Custom Openvpn Configuration” from the drop-down menu. Finalize by pressing the “Add” button. Use Figure 11 as reference.

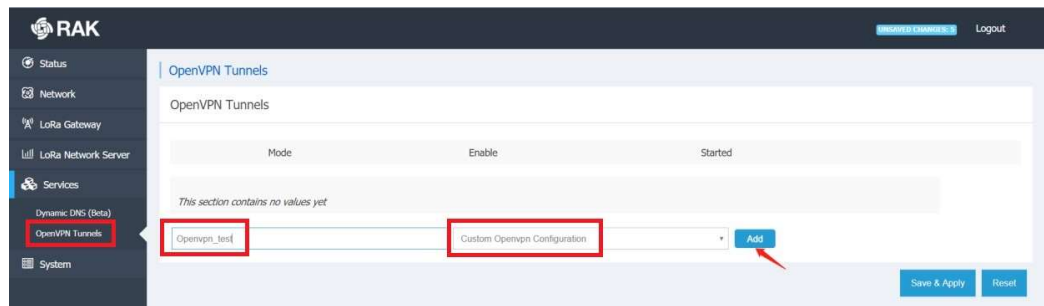


Figure 11 | Creating an OpenVPN tunnel

In the next window simply copy/paste the content of the file you created in the beginning of **Section 5**, “Save & Apply” (Figure 12).

Finally, as shown in Figure 13, go back to the OpenVPN Tunnels section, flip the “Enable” switch into the on state and “Save & Apply”. This will finalize things and the Gateway should now be connected to the OpenVPN Server. The process might take a few minutes to complete.

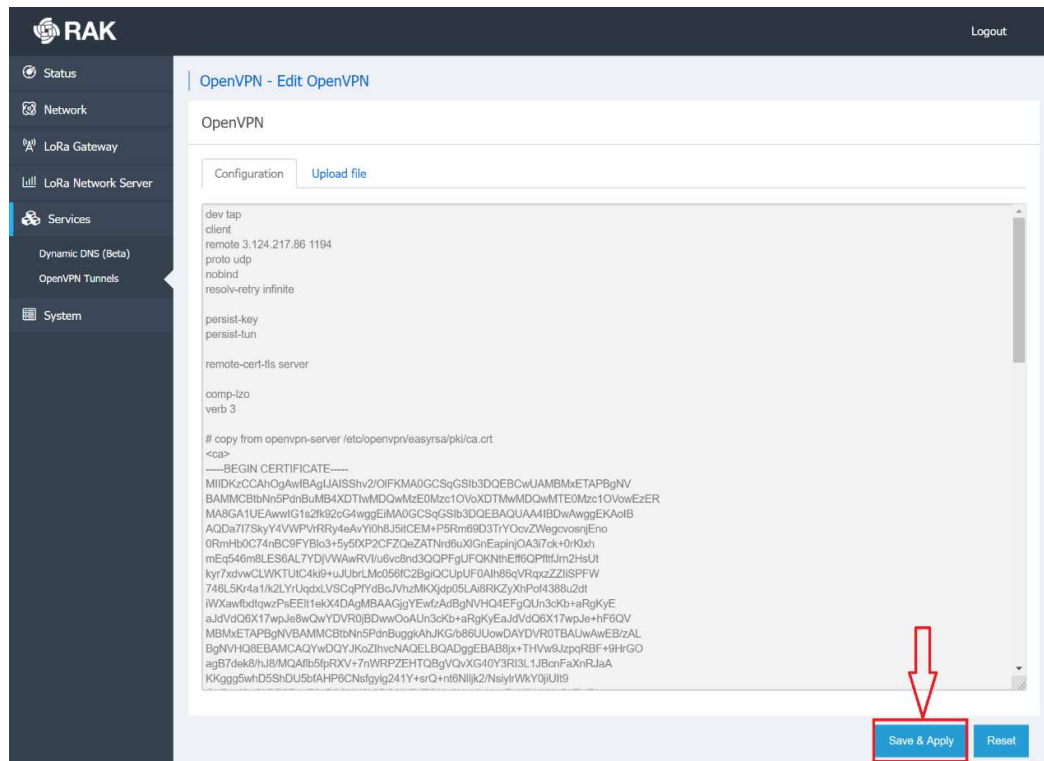


Figure 12 | Importing the OpenVPN certificate data

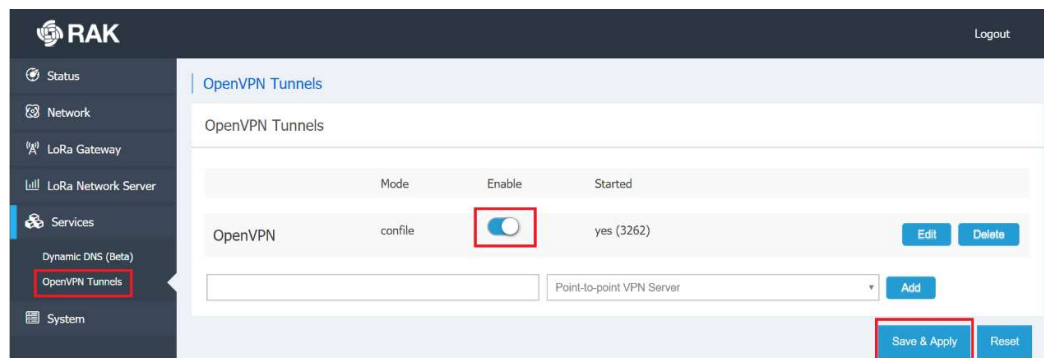


Figure 13 | Enabling OpenVPN

Check again in the client list file on the OpenVPN Server for the IP address of the Gateway:



Figure 14 | Open VPN connected clients 2

The IP address of the Gateway should be in the second entry.

5.2 Log into the Gateway (remotely)

You can now log into the Gateway by using the IP address (Figure 14) assigned to it by the OpenVPN Server. This can be utilized for an SSH2 connection, the Web UI (via a browser), etc.

This concludes the tutorial.