

CentOS PPTP client Howto

Written by BiRU

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The Point-to-Point Tunneling Protocol (PPTP) is a method for implementing virtual private networks. Since it is marked as non secure and vulnerable, I don't recommend it as a "final" VPN solution. The main reason for its popularity is probably the native MS Windows support (since win 95). Also, it can be easily implemented with Mikrotik RouterOS (like I said, use it for internal VPNs only).

To set up your CentOS box as a PPTP clients you'll need the pptp package.

```
yum -y pptp
```

Open **/etc/ppp/chap-secrets** and add the next line (at the end). Also, replace the userName and password with the correct details:

```
userName PPTP password *
```

Create profile file

```
nano /etc/ppp/peers/myVPN
```

and paste the next content (replace IP_OR_HOSTNAME with PPTP server IP or hostname)

```
pty "pptp IP_OR_HOSTNAME --nolaunchpppd" name userName remotename PPTP require-r
```

save the file and test the connection with

```
pppd call myVPN
```

ifconfig should return something like

```
.... ppp0    Link encap:Point-to-Point Protocol          inet addr:10.16.18.252 P-t-P:10.16.18.2
```

also in **/var/log/messages** you should see something like

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```
Jul 20 10:58:50 mysrv pppd[9352]: pppd 2.4.5 started by root, uid 0 Jul 20 10:58:50 mysrv pppd
```

If you check your routes, you'll probably notice that ppp0 connection is not used by any route(s). This is default behavior and you can easily switch/add default route with:

```
route add default dev ppp0
```

In my case, I don't want to route the complete traffic (this VPN is just for management) so I'll add only one static route

```
route add -net 192.168.120.0/24 dev ppp0
```

To start this connection on boot, add "pppd call myVPN" in rc.local.