Overview

Increasing global footprint of enterprises and mobility of workforces has increased the demand for enhanced network security and data protection at high packet processing speed. Various hand held devices other than computers now connect to remote office networks through public data infrastructure. Securing the sensitive data transmitted to these remote devices has become mission critical in the world with ever increasing security threats.

ACL VPN provides organizations, NEMs and service providers a scalable IPsec VPN solution in various deployments along with high performance.

ACL IPSec VPN Gateway solution provides IPsec tunnel establishment, termination and service gateway functionality that can be deployed as direct application on a Native, Bare metal server or as a Virtual Network Function in Cloud Infrastructure.

This solution is developed to run on Intel x86 based platforms, using DPDK (Data Plane Development Kit) Software Development Kit (SDK). Software and Hardware architecture of this solution allows achieving 25X performance over the solutions from Traditional Network Equipment Manufacturers.

A Cloud VPN Gateway solution can be used to provide VPN connectivity to Wi-Fi users or wired residential /enterprise broadband subscribers. It can also be used for securely connecting mobile small cells or HeNBs to EPC. It also can become a VNFC of a Virtual CPE (vCPE) solution with the addition of Firewall, IDS/IPS and other services along with the IPsec VPN Gateway.
**VPN Features**

- DPDK based, optimized IPsec for high performance Fast path processing
- Runs as VNF on the Cloud Platforms – GCP and AWS
- Leverages Suite B cryptographic algorithms like AES (CBC, CTR & GCM) for encryption and XCBC & SHA2 for Authentication
- Customized config payload during tunnel establishment
- Diffie-Hellman groups from 1(MODP-768) to group 18 (MODP-8192)
- Deployable as Site to Site, Remote access VPN and Hub & Spoke
- GRE Over IPSec for Transport mode
- IKE-v2 with Rekey (Parent and Child Rekey)
- Pre-Shared Key (PSK), X.509 Certificate based authentication (PKI) & EAP
- Client certificate Authentication using CRL, OCSP
- Tunnel redundancy with High - Availability
- Support 3GPP TS 33.320 V10.5.0
- IKE fragmentation
- Virtual IP pool, DHCP
- NAT-T Support
- Dead Peer Detection(DPD)/Liveliness Check
- Various IKE, ESP & system statistics collection and logging
- VPN Gateway package installation solution on Cloud platform (RPM, Debian)
- Openstack based Orchestration and Life Cycle Management
- CLI and GUI based fault monitoring and status information
- NETCONF & REST API support for remote configuration & monitoring
- Granular and dynamic log level control

**Detailed Feature List**

- **Keying Methods**
  - IKEv2

- **IPSec Methods**
  - Policy Based
  - Route Based

- **Authentication Algorithms**
  - HMAC-MD5  key size ~ 128 bits
  - HMAC-SHA1  key size ~ 160 bits
  - HMAC-SHA2  All key sizes
  - HMAC-XCBC  key size ~ 96 bits

- **Crypto Algorithms**
  - NULL
  - 3DES  key size - 168
  - AES-CBC  key size - 128, 192 & 256
  - AES-CTR  key size - 128, 192 & 256
  - AES-GCM  All key sizes

- **Pseudo-Random Functions**
  - HMAC-MD5
  - HMAC-SHA1
  - HMAC-SHA2
  - HMAC-CMAC
  - HMAC-XCBC

- **Diffie-Hellman (DH) Group**
  - DH-01 (MODP-768)
  - DH-02 (MODP-1024)
  - DH-05 (MODP-1536)
  - DH-14 (MODP-2048)
  - DH-15 (MODP-3072)
  - DH-16 (MODP-4096)
  - DH-17 (MODP-6144)
  - DH-18 (MODP-8192)

**Solution Features**

- **Client Support List**
  - Strongswan, Windows OS native, Apple iOS native, Android (via strongswan)

- **PARENT SA Support**
  - Tunnel Mode
  - Transport Mode
  - Perfect Forward Secrecy (PFS)
  - PFS and Non-PFS mode
  - NAT-T Detection and Negotiation
  - IKE Fragmentation
  - Certificate Request Payload
  - CIPHER and HASH algos negotiation

- **Authentication Method**
  - Pre-shared key(PSK)
  - RSA X.509 Certificate based authentication (PKI)
  - Chained Certificates
  - Extensible Authentication Protocol (EAP)

- **CHILD SA Support**
  - CIPHER and HASH algos negotiation for data security
  - Encapsulating Security Payload (ESP)
  - Crypto Multi Buffer Support (CMB) for Data Encryption/ Decryption Authentication in Fast path
  - Multiple Traffic selectors (IKE v2), Traffic selector narrowing
  - Configuration payload for roaming user IP address(DHCP/Local Pool)

- **Certificate Management**
  - CRL (Certificate Revocation List)
  - OCSP (Online Certificate Status Protocol)
  - Complete PKI architecture

- **Tunnel Control**
  - Dead Peer Detection (DPD)/Liveliness Check
  - Lifetime negotiation
  - Re-keying
  - Re-Auth
  - Tunnel Statistics
  - PKI (CRL/OCSP for certificate revocation)
Management Features

- CLI based device configuration and Statistics information
- REST API based Management – For configuration and Stats
- Graphical User Interface for configuration and monitoring
- NETCONF for remote configuration and fault monitoring

Supported RFCs

- **RFC 5996, RFC 7296**: Internet Key Exchange Protocol Version 2 (IKEv2)
- **RFC 7383**: Internet Key Exchange Protocol Version 2 (IKEv2) Message Fragmentation
- **RFC 6960**: X.509 Internet Public Key Infrastructure Online Certificate Status Protocol – OCSP
- **RFC 6818**: Updates to the Internet X.509 Public Key Infrastructure Certificate and Certificate Revocation List (CRL) Profile
- **RFC 5280**: Internet X.509 Public Key Infrastructure - Certificate and CRL Profile
- **RFC 4806**: Online Certificate Status Protocol (OCSP) Extensions to IKEv2
- **RFC 4303**: IP Encapsulating Security Payload (ESP)
- **RFC 4301**: Security Architecture for the Internet Protocol
- **RFC 4106**: The Use of Galois/Counter Mode (GCM) in IPsec Encapsulating Security Payload (ESP)
- **RFC 3948**: UDP Encapsulation of IPsec ESP Packets
- **RFC 3947**: Negotiation of NAT-Traversal in the IKE
- **RFC 3706**: A Traffic-Based Method of Detecting Dead Internet Key Exchange (IKE) Peers
- **RFC 3602**: The AES-CBC Cipher Algorithm
- **RFC 4307**: Cryptographic Algorithms for Use in the Internet Key Exchange Version 2 (IKEv2)
- **RFC 4306**: On Platform Support
- **RFC 3566**: The AES-XCBC-MAC-96 Algorithm and Its Use with IPsec
- **RFC 4868**: Using HMAC-SHA-256, HMAC-SHA-384, and HMAC-SHA-512 with IPsec
- **RFC 3948**: UDP Encapsulation of IPsec ESP Packets

VPN – Scalability & Performance

- High performance IPsec VPN, scalable IPsec tunnels and throughput traffic
- Tunnel establishment rate is up to 1,000 tunnels/second
- Maximum capacity of 128K tunnels is supported on 1RU server
- 4-port 10 GbE in line IPsec traffic (Bi-Directional) at wire speed
- VPN throughput can scale up linearly with the increase in the number of CPU cores, providing unparalleled performance in a compact form factors, as well as Rack Servers.

VPN – Platform Support

Support for different virtual environments

- Deployable on a VM or bare metal with
  - Intel X86 COTS platforms
  - As VNF on Google Compute Platform (GCP) and AWS provided by cloud operators
  - OpenStack

Architecture

- Designed and Developed fast path processing using latest versions of DPDK
- Scalable architecture based on the needs. IPsec Fast path can scale run on
  a. Standalone software instance as Virtual Machine (VM)
  b. Cloud deployment
- IPsec Fastpath can scale from one core to Multiple cores based on requirement and performance needs
  c. Bare metal
  d. Virtualization Support for VirtIO, SR-IOV, PCI Pass-through
VNF Development, Customization & Integration

- Architecture, design & development of VNFs
- DPDK based optimization for high performance
- Support for different virtualization architectures (Para/Full Virtualization)
- Support for different virtual environments (VMware/KVM/Xen)
- Customization based on requirements in fast path
- Solution Integration with other NFV components

VNF Porting and Testing

- Porting of VPN VNFs from custom silicon to standard x86 platform
- Migration of VNFs across different hypervisors and OS environments
- Testing VNFs using industry leading test tools and equipment

Deployment Diagram
The deployment scenario is the integration of VPN solution with the LTE components. The high-level deployment architecture of VPN along with LTE is comprised of following three main components:

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<th>UE or Small Cell</th>
<th>VPN Gateway</th>
<th>EPC</th>
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The end user entity can avail the services provided by the LTE stack by establishing secure end to end tunnel with the VPN Gateway. Small Cell can communicate with EPC components securely over the IPsec tunnel. ACL VPN support 3GPP TS 33.320 V10.5.0 specifications to handle the security aspects. End devices/components can be managed using management cloud i.e. device software upgrades, remote device management, Fault management which are mandate requirements for service providers, Network operators spanned over various geographic locations.

**NFV Service Chain**

This deployment scenario presents the orchestration of VPN Gateway on Server (bare-metal) or VM-mode using various virtualization methods/technologies. The orchestration can be carried out using several free/open-source software management platforms like open stack, Dockers.

ACL VPN can be deployed as service chain model of connected network services such as Firewall, NAT, Router, and IPS and connected them as virtual chain, gives more flexibility and increased efficiency for the enterprises. This deployment scenario provides user friendly interface for managing cluster of instances of VPN Gateway which acts as back-bone to achieve High availability and reduce the downtime.

**Enterprise Solution**

This deployment scenario presents the enterprise ACL VPN solution supporting Site to Site and Remote Access VPN for large scale deployments. In Enterprise for scaling the throughput and performance, VPN solution can be spawned/scaled and used as load balancer to meet the high user availability at specific time.

Using Orchestration methods, service providers can centralize all resources for administration of critical resources at Data Centers.

**VPN as VNFC Component:**

This deployment scenario represents ACL VPN as VNFC component which is possible to integrate with any 3rd party solution, in the packet processing pipeline. VPN Gateway is an independent solution that can be integrated in to a solution for deployment scenarios like GRE over IPsec, EoGRE over IPsec, UPNP over VPN, plain IPSec and QOS.