Pre-Installation of VPN Software

The NetWars scoring server that is used for the Day 6 Capstone Challenge is on a web server behind a VPN. To access this server, you must connect your machine to the VPN first. These instructions provide connection strategies. ***You will be unable to complete the Day 6 experience until you complete this installation.***

We will use an SSL-based VPN for this class. It is possible to connect to the VPN using the provided course virtual machine, but this is not ideal; the browser used on the Linux VM is a sub-optimal experience, especially because you are used to the browser on your host operating system.

You will receive instructions in class with the actual connection details to the NetWars scoring server.

Windows Systems

Most students come with a Windows host operating system. The VPN that we will use is OpenVPN. You may already have OpenVPN installed from another class or from some other source so you do not need to re-install it.

1. Within your Windows OS, please use a web browser to go to https://openvpn.net/index.php/download/community-downloads.html
2. Locate the download link for "Installer, Windows Vista and later." Download this file.
3. When the download completes, run the installer, accepting all of the default settings.
4. When the installation finishes, it will offer to show you the "README" file. You are welcome to peruse the file, but it is perfectly fine to skip this.

OS X Systems

While there is a native OpenVPN tool for OS X, there is a free GUI tool that greatly simplifies its use. If you are using an OS X host system, please follow these directions:

1. From your OS X host, browse to https://tunnelblick.net/downloads.html
2. Locate the Tunnelblick download link that is marked as "Stable."
3. Download the file and run the installer.

Linux Systems / From the VM

If your host is a Linux system or if you prefer to establish the connection from within the VM, OpenVPN is already installed.