

Free Proton VPN: via the OpenVPN client in MX Linux 23 & 25

This document is solely for the FREE version of Proton VPN in that you are limited in features.

- You have only ONE server available per session.
- A free account has a limit on the number of available server choices.
- A free account has a limit on the number of available country choices.

Note: this How-To leverages the FOSS package 'OpenVPN' that is already present in MX Linux.

OpenVPN does NOT require MX Linux to be booted in Systemd mode. It also works on SysVinit.

Preparing to configure OpenVPN

You will need two things: an OpenVPN configuration file and your OpenVPN username & password.

1 Get an OpenVPN configuration file

Sign in at account.protonvpn.com With your Proton ID and Password.

Go to Downloads → OpenVPN configuration files

Download an OpenVPN configuration file for Linux.

Save this in a secure location as it has account credentials and security certificates within it.

2 Find your OpenVPN username and password

While still signed in to account.protonvpn.com go to Account → OpenVPN / IKEv2 username to view your OpenVPN username and password.

Note that these are not your [regular] Proton Account username and password. Save this in a secure location as it has secret account credentials.

Setup Network Manager – Xfce & Fluxbox

In your desktop's System Tray left-click the Network icon and hover over VPN Connections to 'Add a VPN Connection'.

In 'Choose a Connection Type' click the down ▼ arrow. Scroll down to and select the last VPN entry: 'Import a saved VPN configuration...' Click 'Create...'

For 'Select file to import' navigate to the .ovpn file you downloaded previously in 1 above. Click Open.

In the 'Authentication' section, enter your 'OpenVPN / IKEv2 username' and 'OpenVPN / IKEv2 password' into the 'User name' and 'Password:' fields.

Click '✓ Save' when you are done.

A popup to 'Unlock Keyring' (or 'Choose password for new keyring') asks for your 'Password:' - enter it and click 'Unlock' or 'Continue'.

Using Proton VPN – Xfce & Fluxbox

To Connect:

Left-click the Network Icon and float to 'VPN Connections ►'.

Click on the connection you just configured. It has a name like the file you downloaded.

Example: *ch-free-9.protonvpn udp*

The Network Icon will change to have a small padlock in the lower right quadrant when connected.

To verify that you are connected to Proton VPN, visit <https://protonvpn.com/what-is-my-ip-address>. Proton's free secure IP scanner.

To disconnect:

Left-click the Network Icon and float to 'VPN Connections ►' and clear the blue check-mark.

KDE plasma - Setup Network Manager

In the System Tray right-click the Network Icon and click 'Configure Network Connections....'

Click **+** (Add new connection)

Scroll down to the VPN section, select open VPN and click **+** Create'.

In 'Choose a Connection Type' click the down ▼ arrow. Scroll down to and select the last VPN entry: 'Import a saved VPN configuration...'

Click 'Create...' For 'Select file to import' navigate to the .ovpn file you downloaded previously. Click Open.

In the 'VPN (openvpn)' tab enter your 'OpenVPN / IKEv2 username' and 'OpenVPN / IKEv2 password' into the 'Username:' and 'Password:' fields.

Click '✓ Apply'.

KDE - Using Proton VPN

To Connect:

Left-click the Network Icon and float to your VPN connection you just configured. It has a name like the file you downloaded.

Example: *ch-free-9.protonvpn.udp*

Click on 'Connect ▼' A pop-up will ask you to confirm your OpenVPN password. The Network Icon will change to have a very small padlock in the lower right quadrant when connected.

To verify that you are connected to Proton VPN, visit <https://protonvpn.com/what-is-my-ip-address>. Proton's free secure IP scanner.

To disconnect:

Left-click the Network Icon and float to your VPN connection and Click on 'Disconnect ▼'.

How to check for DNS leaks

Since this is a manual connection, you should also check DNS leaks. Go to <https://www.dnsleaktest.com/> and run the Standard test.

When the test is complete, look at the first three sets of numbers of the returned IP addresses. These should all match the first three sets of numbers of your IP address,¹ as shown on Proton's free secure IP scanner. If they do not, then you have a DNS leak.

Tested on:

MX Linux 23 Xfce SysVinit.

MX Linux 25 Fluxbox systemd & SysVinit.

MX Linux 25 Xfce Systemd & SysVinit.

MX Linux 25 KDE Systemd.

Please direct ALL support requests to the MX Linux Forum -- <https://forum.mxlinux.org/>

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¹ In the System Tray right-click on the Network icon. Left-click 'Connection Information'. The 'VPN Gateway' is your external (what the world sees) IP address.