Outline of Master Thesis, January 16, 2013.

Design and Implementation of SoftEther VPN

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Background: Various VPN Protocols

- VPN Client Devices
 - PCs: Windows, Mac, iOS, Android, ...
 - Routers: Cisco, Juniper, NEC, IIJ, ...
- VPN Protocols
 - SoftEther VPN
 - L2TP/IPsec
 - SSTP
 - OpenVPN
 - L2TPv3/IPsec
 - EtherIP/IPsec
- System Administrators have to prepare multiple VPN Servers for each VPN protocol.

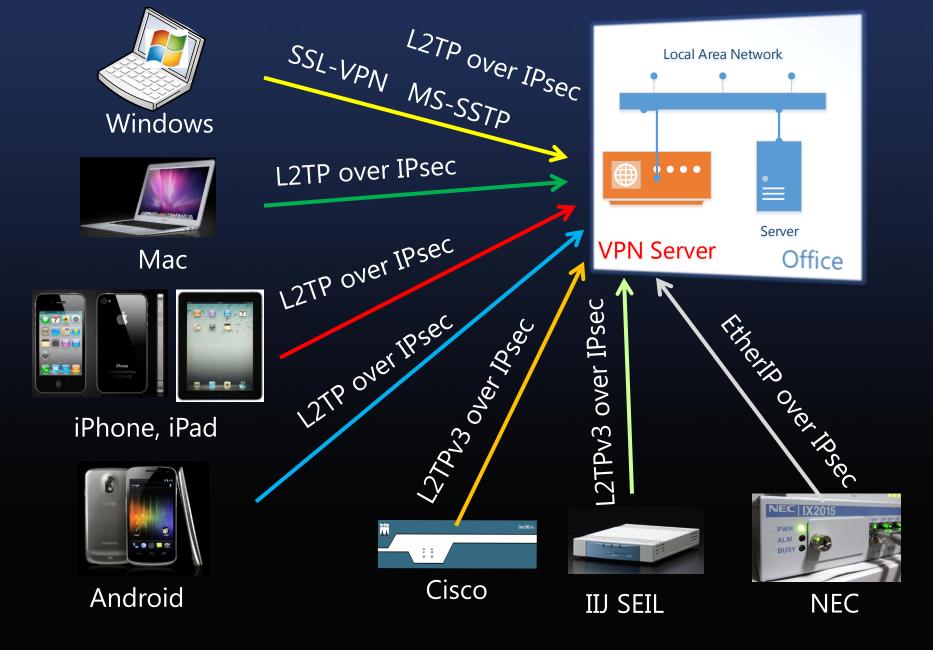






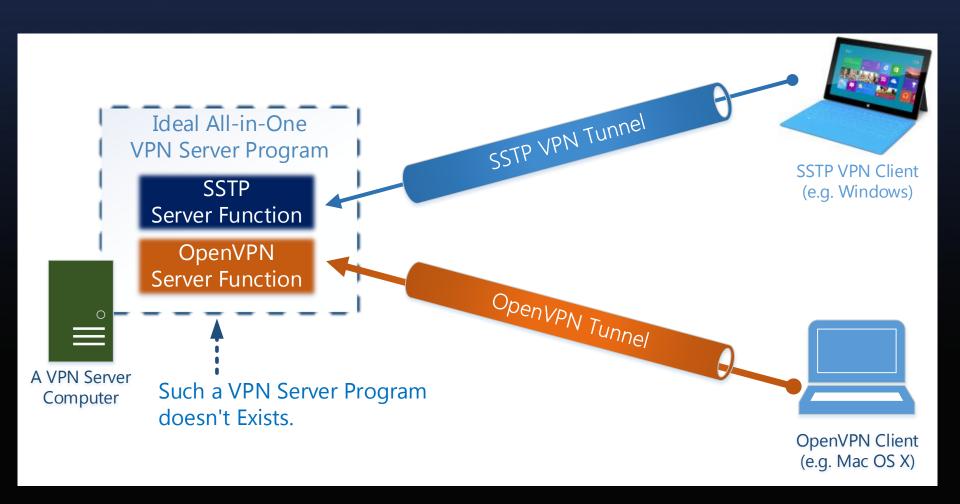
Characteristics of VPN Protocols

	L2TP	SSTP	PPTP	OpenVPN	L2TPv3	EtherIP	SoftEther VPN
Upper Protocol	IP	IP	IP	Ethernet	Ethernet	Ethernet	Ethernet
Transport Protocol	IPsec	HTTPS	GRE	Specific TCP/UDP	IPsec	IPsec	HTTPS
Proxy Support	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO	NO	YES
Restricted FW	Blocked	PASS	Blocked	Blocked	Blocked	Blocked	PASS
Client OS (PC)	Windows Linux Mac	Windows	Windows Linux Mac	Windows Linux Mac	-	FreeBSD	Windows Linux
Client OS (Smartphone)	iOS Android	-	iOS Android	-	-	-	-
Client OS (VPN Routers)	Cisco	-	-	-	Cisco IIJ SEIL	NEC IX	-



Various VPN Protocols

Ideal All-in-One VPN Server Program



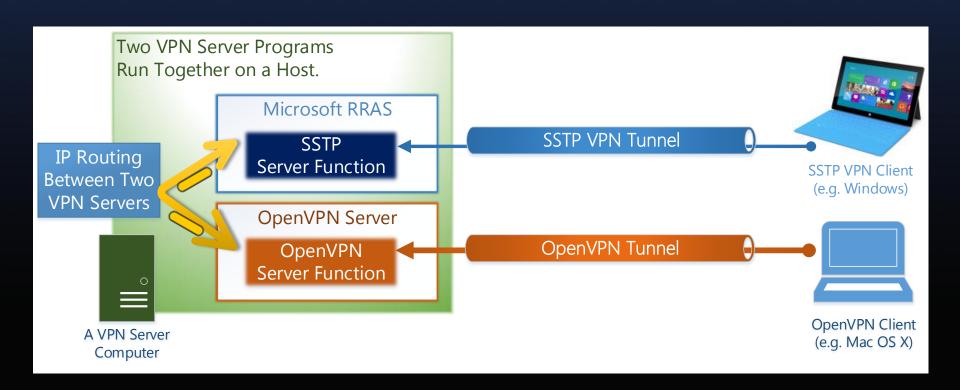
A Problem:

There is No Such an Ideal VPN Server Program.

Existing VPN Server Programs Compatibles

	L2TP	SSTP	OpenVPN	L2TPv3	EtherIP
Microsoft RRAS	V	V	-	-	-
Mac OS X Server	V	-	-	-	-
OpenVPN	-	-	V	-	-
Cisco IOS	V	-	-	V	-
NEC IX Router OS	-	-	-	-	V
IJ SEIL Router OS	V	V	-	V	-

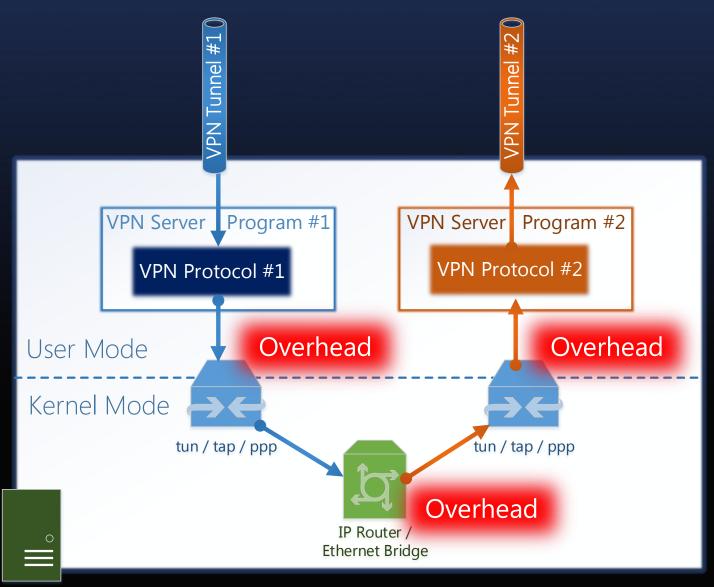
Supporting Multi VPN Protocols by Single VPN Server Computer



Supporting Multiple VPN Protocols by Single VPN Server

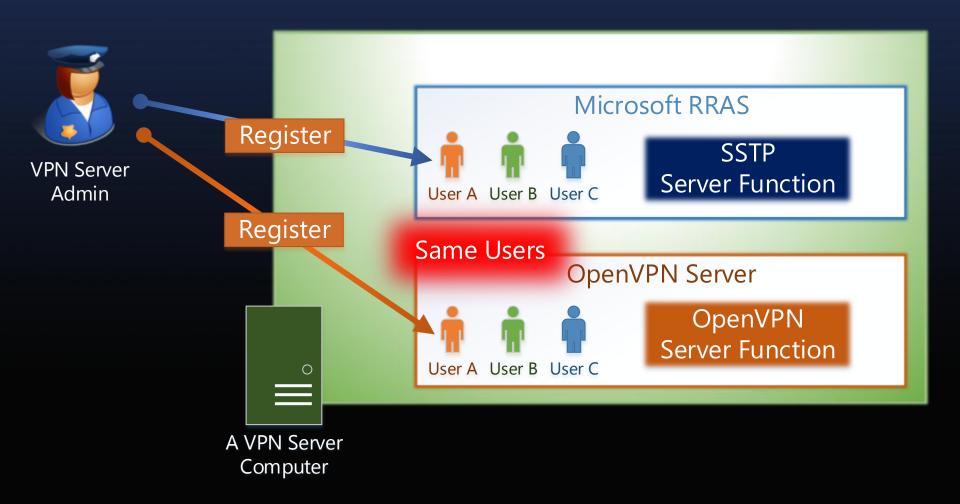
- Overhead Problem
 - Context Switching Costs
 - User-to-Kernel Switching Costs
 - Memory Copying Costs
- Management Problem
 - User Management Tasks
 - Log File Management Tasks
 - Inefficient IP Address Polls

Overhead Problem

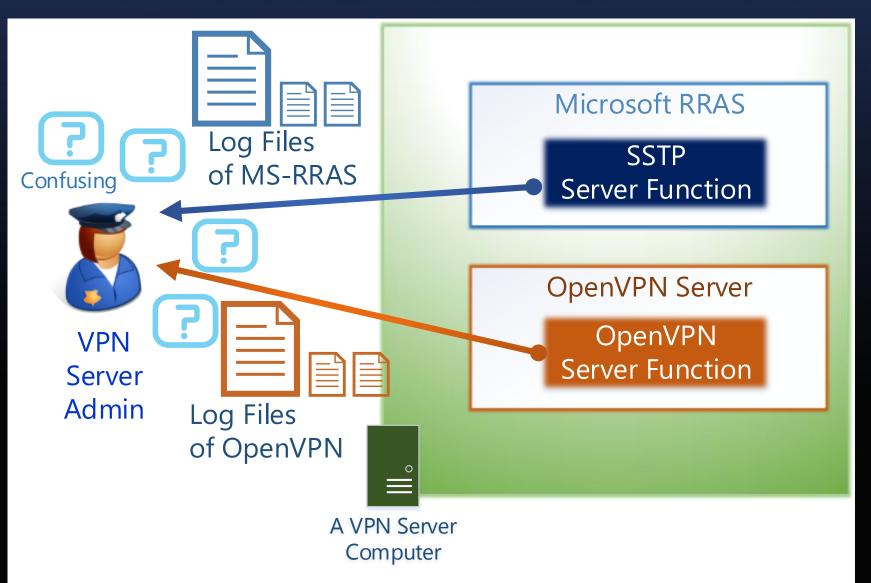


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Management Problem



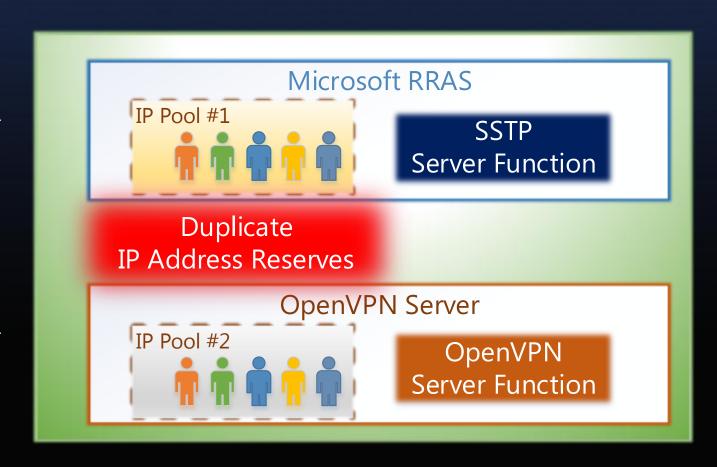
Log File Problem



IP Address Pool Duplication Problem

192.168.0.101-192.168.0.150

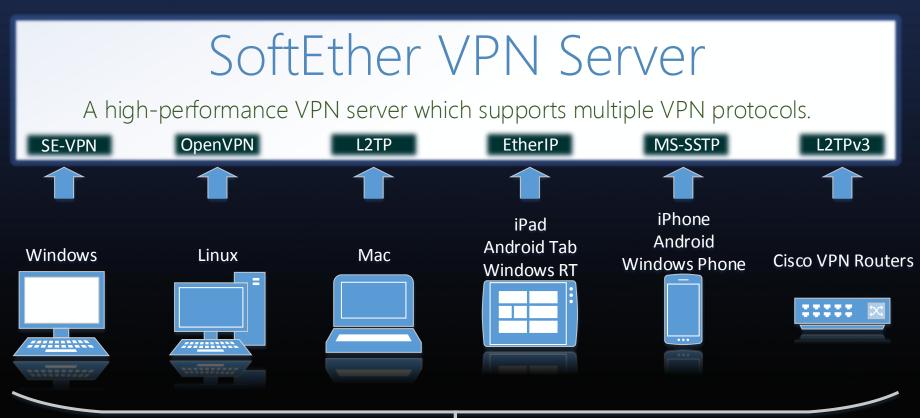
192.168.0.151-192.168.0.200



Goal of the Research

	L2TP	SSTP	OpenVPN	L2TPv3	EtherIP	SoftEther VPN
Microsoft RRAS	V	V	-	-	-	-
Mac OS X Server	V	-	-	-	-	-
OpenVPN	-	-	V	-	-	-
Cisco IOS	V	-	-	V	-	-
NEC IX Router OS	-	-	-	-	V	-
IJ SEIL Router OS	V	V	_	V	-	_
SoftEther VPN	V	V	V	V	V	V

"SoftEther" means Software Ethernet.



Supports various VPN client devices.

Difficulties of the Research

- 7 VPN protocols by one VPN server
 - Inter-VPN protocol packet exchange
 - Bridges between L2 (Ether) / L3 (IP)
- Management
 - User authentication
 - Dynamic IP address assignment to VPN clients
- Security
 - Security policy / Packet filter
 - Packet log
 - Isolation

How to Support 7 VPN Protocols?

L2 VPN Protocols	L3 VPN Protocols
SoftEther VPN OpenVPN (L3) EtherIP/IPsec L2TPv3/IPsec	L2TP/IPsec SSTP/IPsec OpenVPN (L2)

- Strategy #1
 - Separate L2 VPN Ethernet / L3 VPN Router
 - Layer-conversions between L2 / L3
 Problem: Duplication of Security Implementations, Complicated Codes
- Strategy #2 [adopted]
 - Treat all L3 VPN as L2 VPN
 - All L3 packets will be descended to L2 Ether frames.

 Benefit: Single Security Implementations, Simple Codes

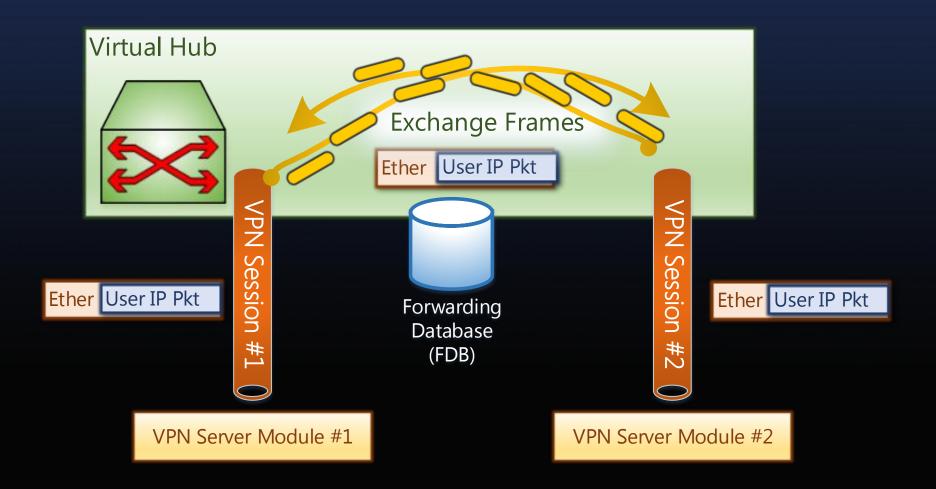
Design #1

- Ethernet (L2) as Common Bus.
 - Virtual Ethernet Switching Hub.
 - Layer conversion for IP-based VPN protocols (L2TP, SSTP, OpenVPN L3).
 - Virtual DHCP Client.

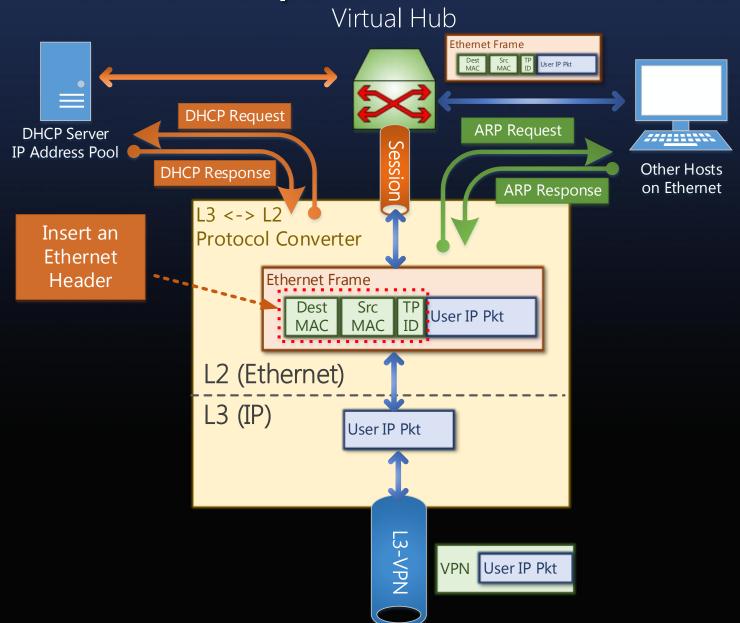
Design #2

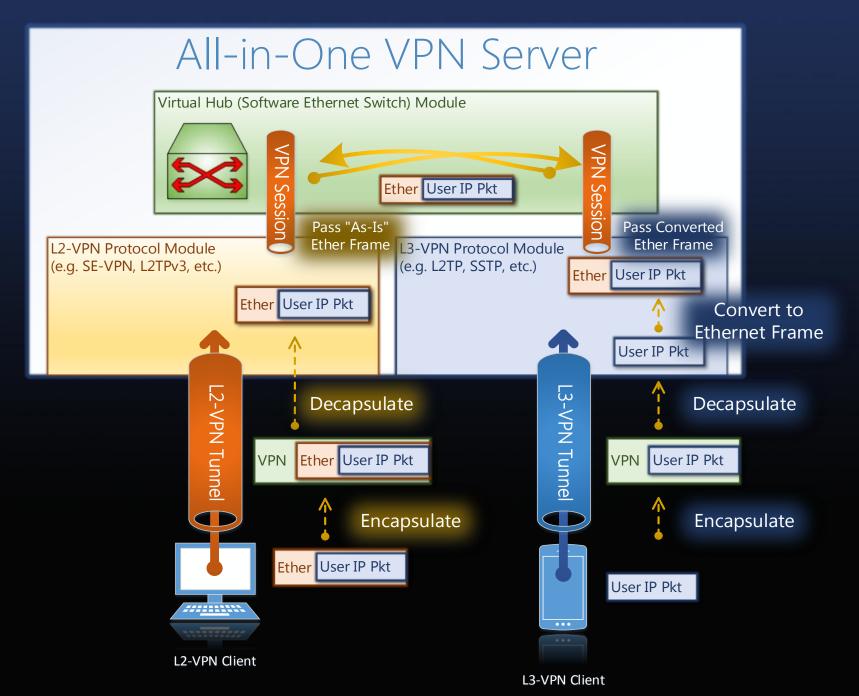
- Kernel-mode
 - Difficult to debug
 - Lack of portability
- Multiple User-mode Process
 - Easy to implement
 - Overhead Problem still occurs
- Single User-mode process [adopted]
 - Easy to implement
 - Reduce overhead

Virtual Ethernet Switching Hub

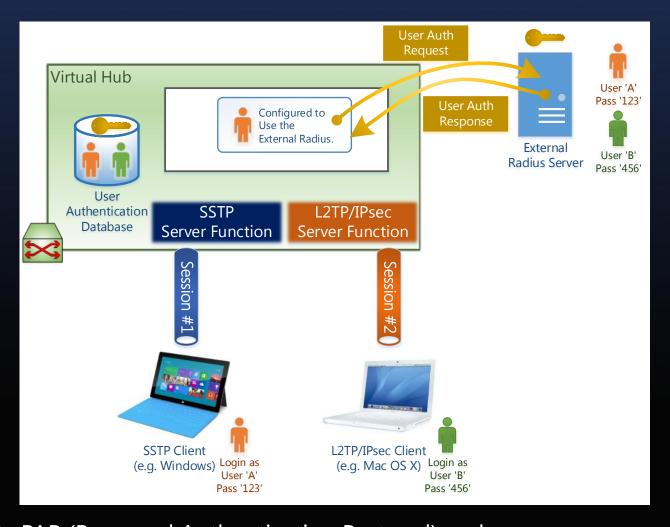


L3/L2 Transparent Conversion



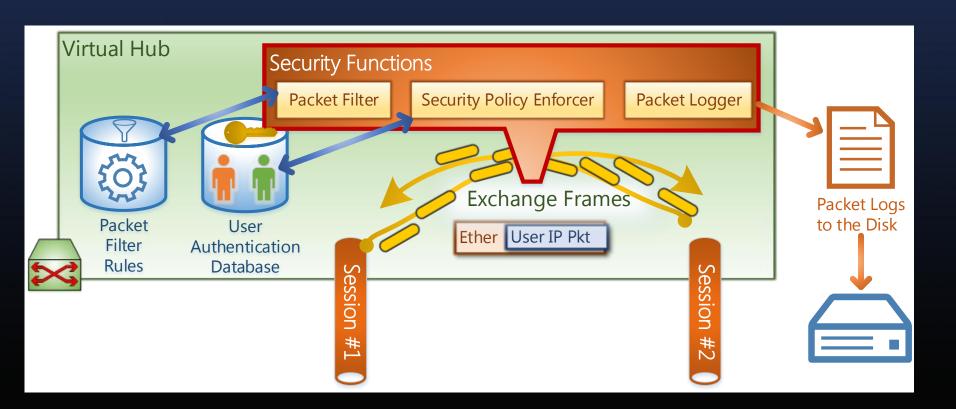


User Authentication

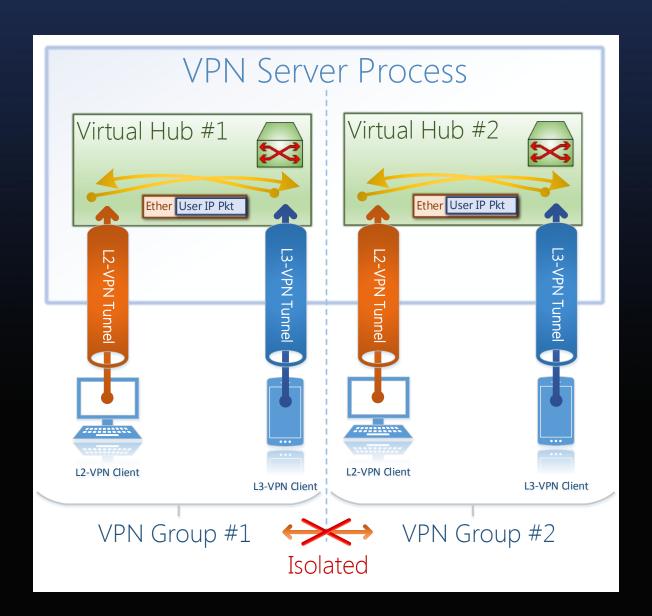


Supports PAP (Password Authentication Protocol) and MS-CHAPv2 (Microsoft Challenge-Handshake Authentication Protocol ver 2) via Local User-auth DB and External Radius/Active Directory Server.

Security



Isolation between Virtual Hubs



Implementation

- SoftEther VPN Server Current features
 - Virtual Ethernet Switching Hub
 - Security Policy / Packet Filter Enforcement
 - Packet Logging
 - Internal and External User-authentication

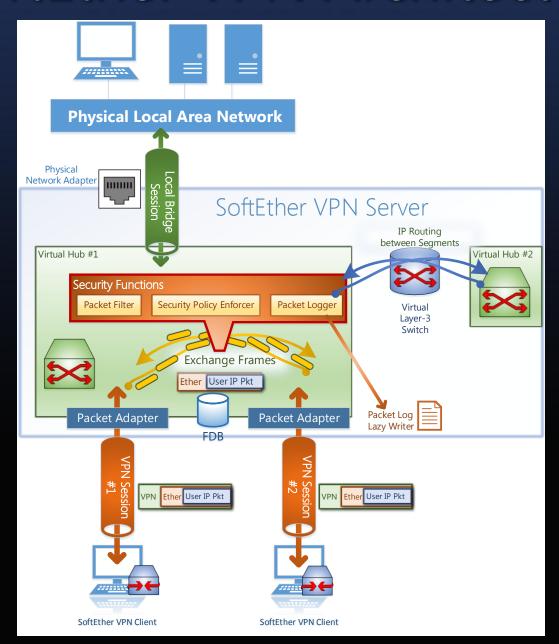
Language

• C / C++

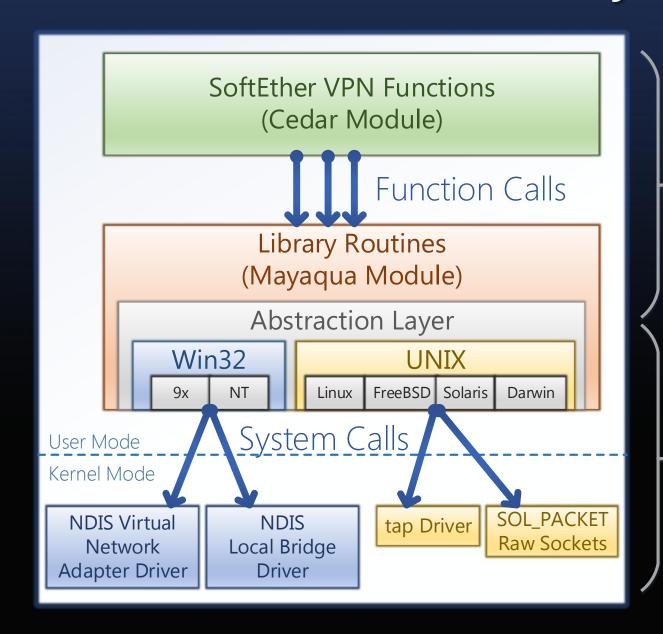
IPsec Modules based on

BitVisor IPsec Client (Univ of Tsukuba)

SoftEther VPN Architecture



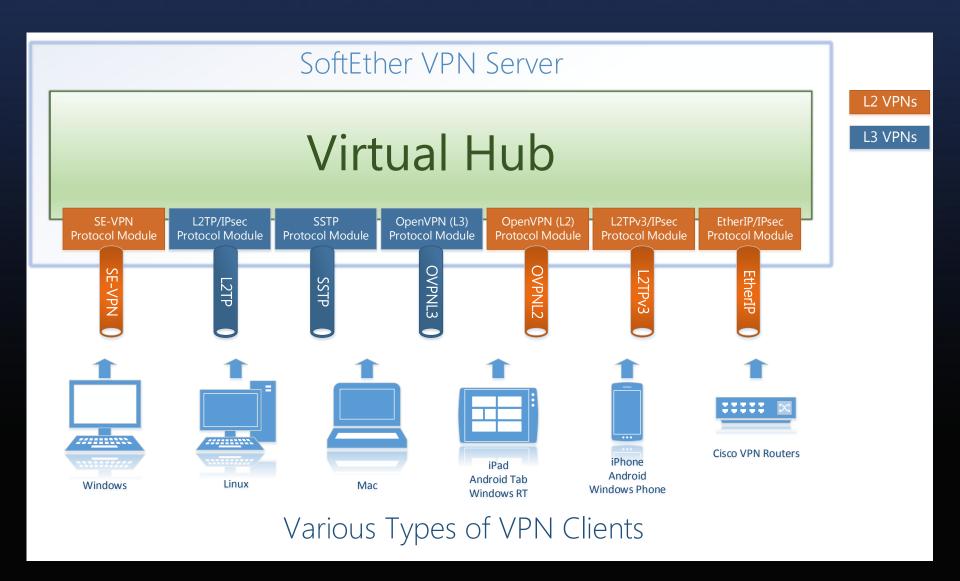
OS Abstraction Layer



OS Independent Parts

OS Dependent Parts

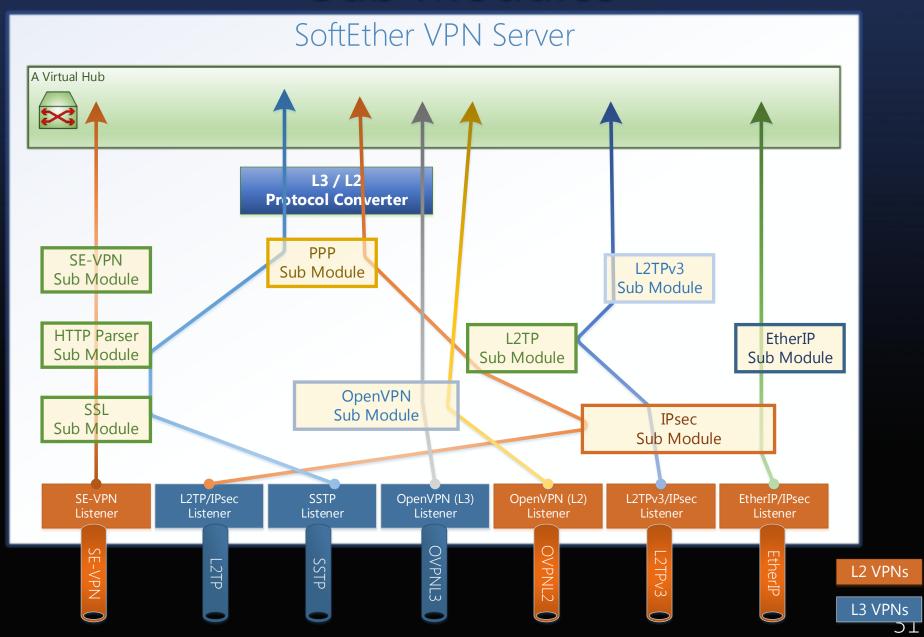
7 Protocol Modules



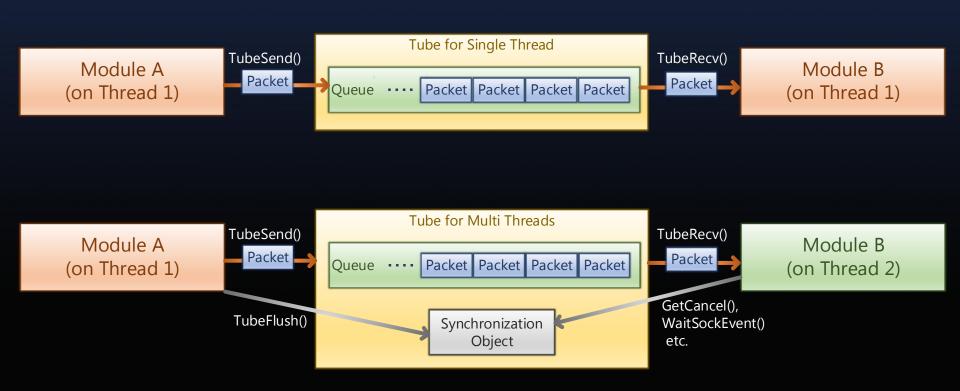
Divide 7 VPN Protocols into Sub Modules

- Overlapped Parts of Processing VPN Protocols
 - "PPP stack" is used by L2TP and SSTP.
 - "IPsec stack" is used by L2TP, L2TPv3 and EtherIP.
 - "OpenVPN stack" is used by OpenVPN L2 and L3.
 - A portion of "L2TP stack" is used by L2TPv3.
- Divide into Sub Modules
 - Minimize Volumes of Codes
 - Reduce Bugs
- Connections between Sub Modules
 - "Tube": A new fast in-process pipe
 - for Single-thread and Multi-thread inter-module communication.

Sub Modules



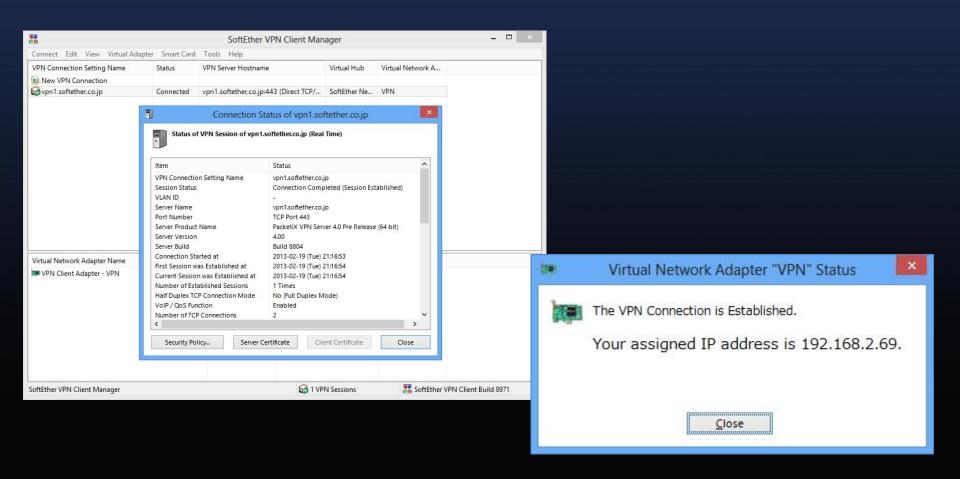
"Tube" (fast lightweight pipe)



Programming

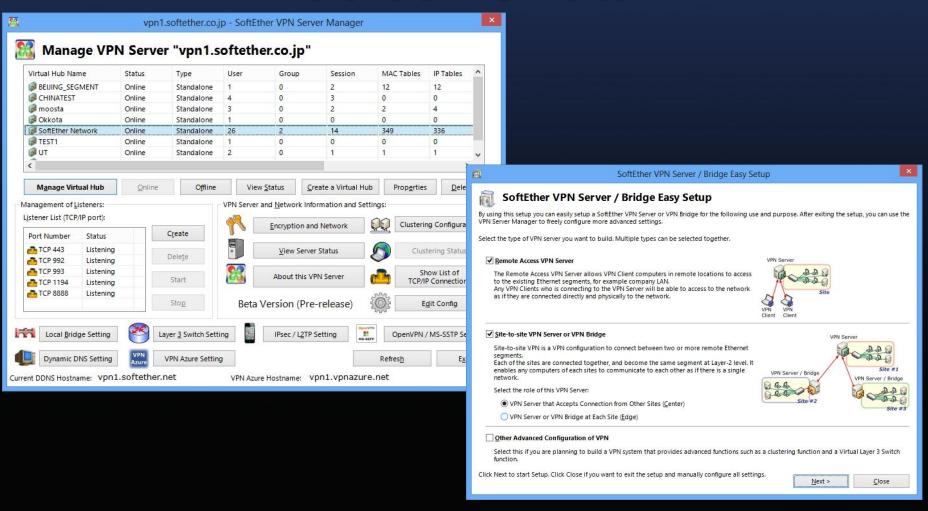
- C / C++ Source Codes
 - 396,867 Lines (11.5MB) (including 31,686 comment lines)
- Compiler
 - Visual C++ 2008 for Windows Binaries
 - gcc (any version) for UNIX and Linux Binaries
- Planning to be Open Source (GPL) in Mid 2013.
 - Now translating a lot of comments into English before releasing the source.

Screen Shots



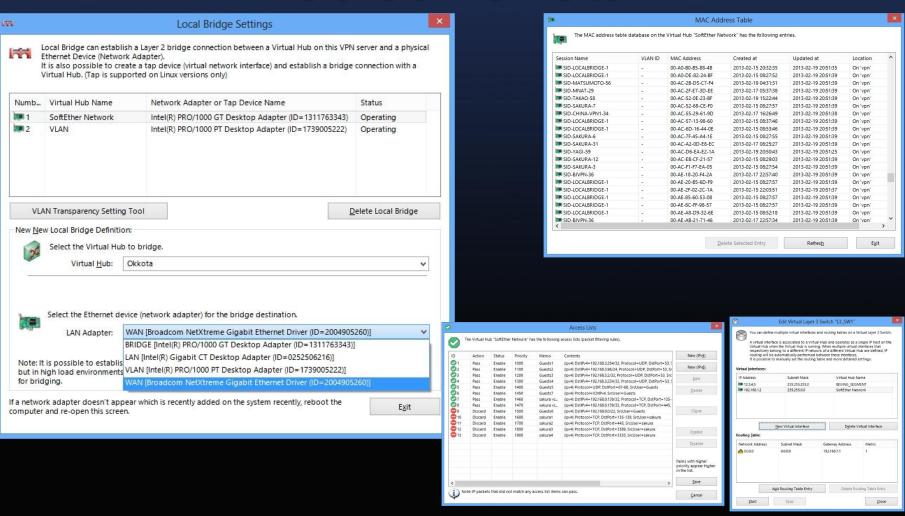
SoftEther VPN Client

Screen Shots



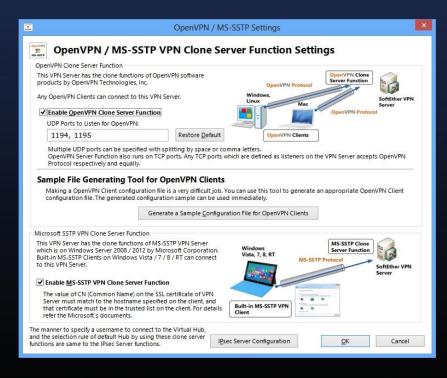
SoftEther VPN Server (GUI Config Tools)

Screen Shots



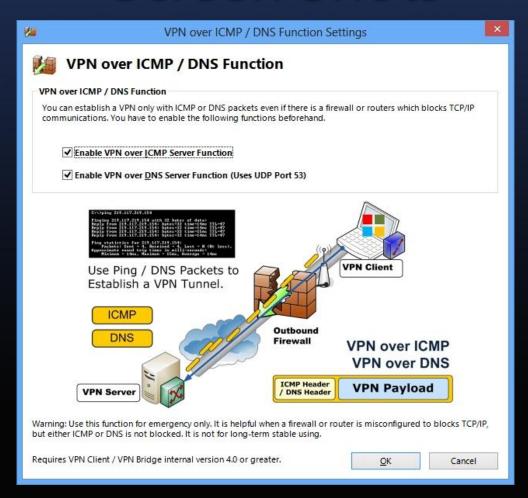
A lot of VPN Server Setting Screens (total 70+ dialogs)





L2TP / L2TPv3 / EtherIP

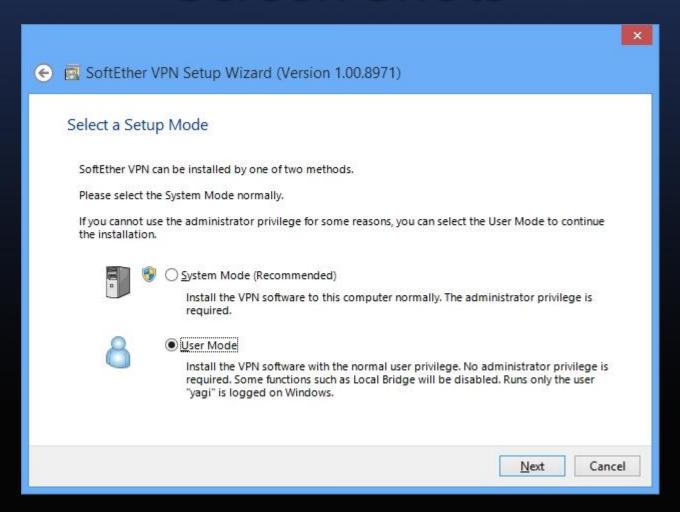
OpenVPN (L2 & L3) / SSTP



Ethernet over DNS, Ethernet over ICMP (Enjoy your Wi-Fi Life!)



Beautiful Installer for SoftEther VPN



User-Mode Install Option (System Admins will be Surprised!)





Evaluation

- 1. Functional Tests
 - Self Test
 - Beta Test

- 2. Performance Tests
 - Simple throughput test
 - Comparison to existing methods

L2TP/IPsec









iOS

Android

Windows

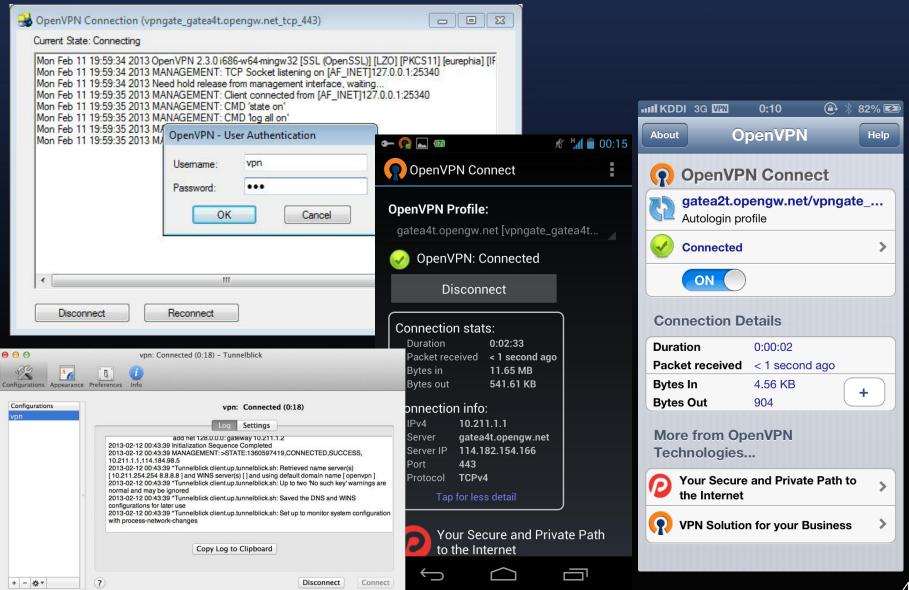
Mac OS X



SSTP



OpenVPN



L2TPv3/IPsec, EtherIP/IPsec

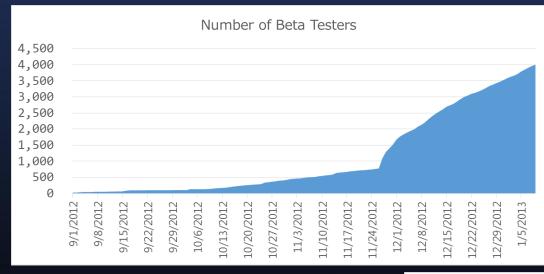


L2TPv3: Cisco IOS, IJ SEIL EtherIP: NEC IX

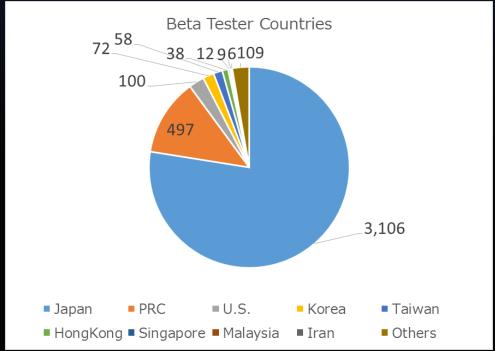
Results of Self Functional Tests

VPN Protocol	VPN Client Software / Device	Results
	iPhone (iOS 4.x, 5.x, 6.x)	V
	iPad (iOS 4.x, 5.x, 6.x)	V
L2TP/IPsec	Android (2.x, 3.x, 4.x)	V
	Windows XP, Vista, 7, 8, RT	V
	Mac OS X (10.6, 10.7, 10.8)	V
SSTP	Windows Vista, 7, 8, RT	V
OpenVPN (L3)	Windows, Linux, Mac, iPhone, Android	V
LOTD: 2 /ID	Cisco 892J	V
L2TPv3/IPsec	Cisco 1812J	V
EtherIP/IPsec	NEC IX2015	V
OpenVPN (L2)	OpenVPN 2.2 for Windows, Linux	V

Results of Beta Tests



4,007 Users on Jan 09, 2013.



Achievement

	L2TP	SSTP	OpenVPN	L2TPv3	EtherIP	SoftEther VPN
Microsoft RRAS	V	V	-	-	-	-
Mac OS X Server	V	-	-	-	-	-
OpenVPN	-	-	V	-	-	-
Cisco IOS	V	-	-	V	-	-
NEC IX Router OS	-	-	-	-	V	-
IJ SEIL Router OS	V	V	-	V	-	-
SoftEther VPN (Old)	-	-	-	-	-	V
SoftEther VPN (New)	V	V	V	V	V	V

Performance Tests

Computer	Fujitsu PRIMERGY TX100 S3 (3 Pieces)
CPU	Intel Xeon E3-1230 3.2GHz 8M
RAM	16GB (4GB 1333MHz DDR3 ECC CL9 DIMM x 4)
Chipset	Intel C202
NIC #1, #2	Intel 10 Gigabit CX4 Dual Port Server Adapter
OS	Windows Server 2008 R2 x64 Windows Server 2003 R2 x64 (for OS abstraction-layer performance tests) Linux 2.6.32 x64 (for OS abstraction-layer performance tests)



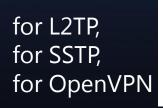


Target Protocols

- SoftEther VPN Protocol
- L2TP/IPsec
- •SSTP
- OpenVPN (L3)
- OpenVPN (L2)

Test 1. Each Protocol (Solo)

Our Implementation vs. Vendor's Original Implementation







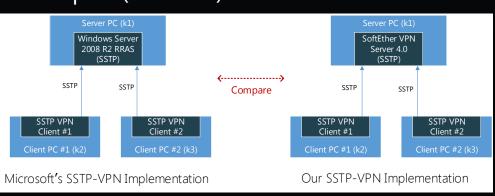
for L2TP, for SSTP

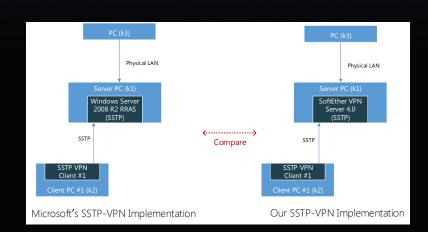
VS.



for OpenVPN

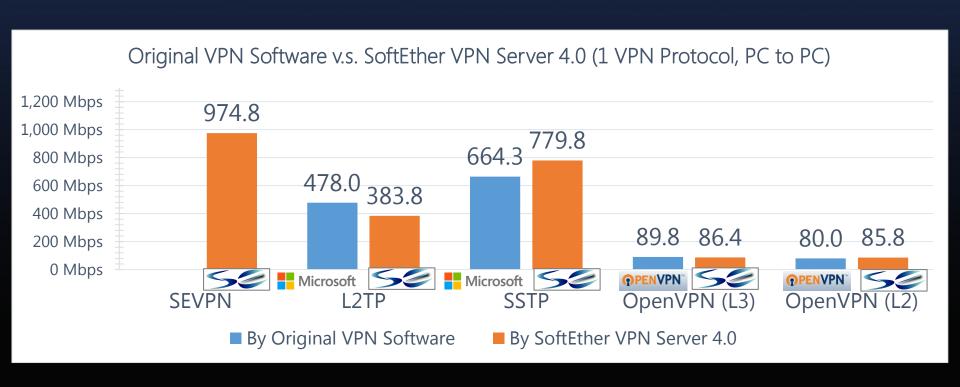
Examples (for SSTP)



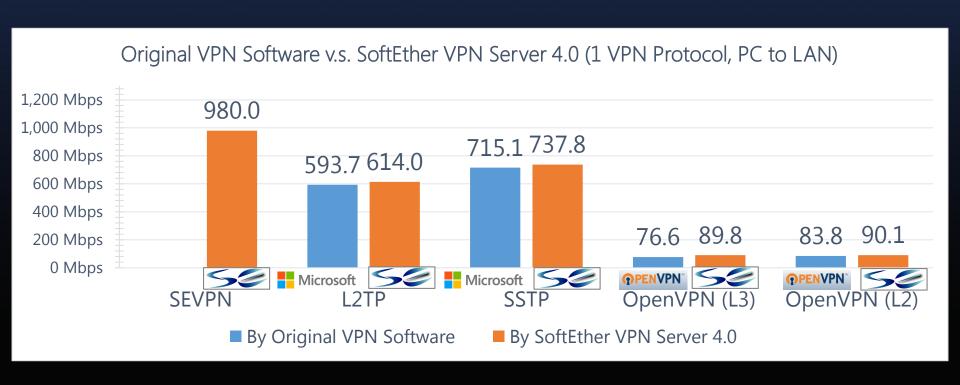


PC-to-PC VPN PC-to-LAN VPN 51

Test 1 Results (PC-to-PC)



Test 1 Results (PC-to-LAN)

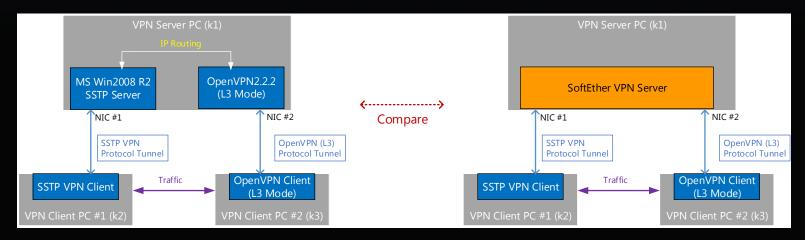


Test 2. Combination of 2 Protocols

Our Implementation (New) vs. Mixture of 2 VPN Programs (Traditional)



Example (for SSTP+OpenVPN L3)

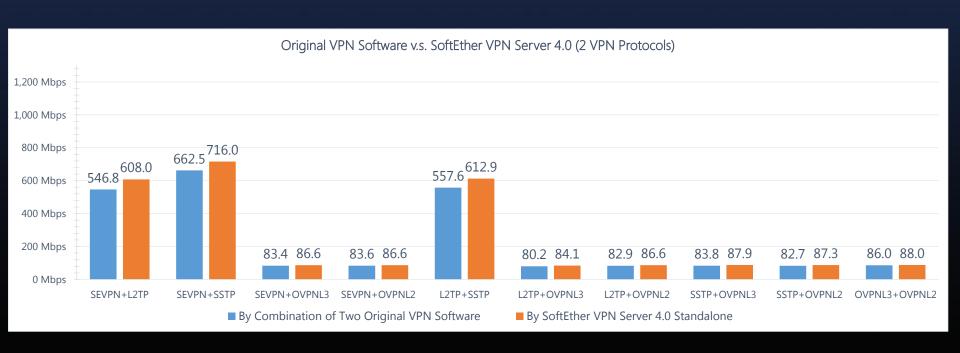


Combination Matrix

No.	Protocol 1	Protocol 2	Bridge / Routing
1	SEVPN	L2TP/IPsec	IP Routing
2	SEVPN	SSTP	IP Routing
3	SEVPN	OpenVPN_L3	IP Routing
4	SEVPN	OpenVPN_L2	Ethernet Bridging
5	L2TP/IPsec	SSTP	IP Routing
6	L2TP/IPsec	OpenVPN_L3	IP Routing
7	L2TP/IPsec	OpenVPN_L2	IP Routing
8	SSTP	OpenVPN_L3	IP Routing
9	SSTP	OpenVPN_L2	IP Routing
10	OpenVPN_L3	OpenVPN_L2	IP Routing

Total 10 Tests

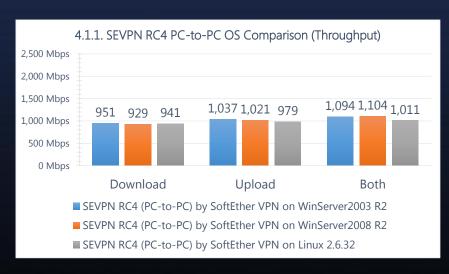
Test2 Results (Throughput)

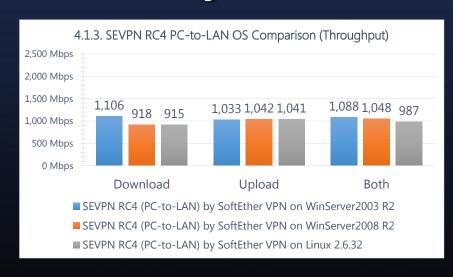


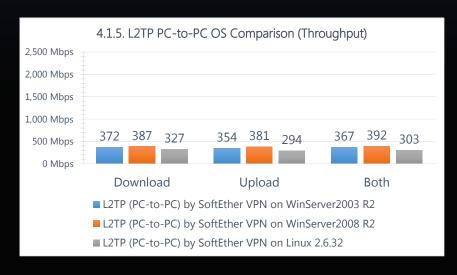
Test2 Results (Percentage of Improvement)

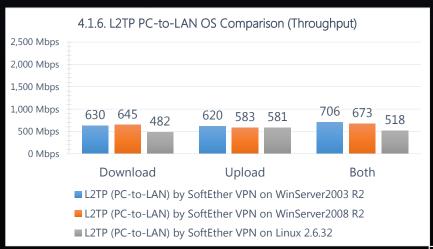


Test 3. Evaluation of OS-Abstraction Layer









Conclusions #1

- This Research Designs and Implements a New VPN Server Program.
 - Supports 7 VPN Protocols.
 - SoftEter VPN, L2TP over IPsec, SSTP, OpenVPN (L3, L2), EtherIP over IPsec and L2TPv3 over IPsec.

The World's First VPN Server Program for Support All of Above VPN Protocols.

- Runs on Windows, Linux, Mac, FreeBSD and Solaris.
- Unified Management, Security, User-auth and IP Address Assignment.

Conclusions #2

- Results of Performance Tests show:
 - Generally better throughputs, compare to Microsoft and OpenVPN's implementations.
 - Overheads of combination of different VPN protocols are reduced. (Performance Improvements: 102.3% - 111.2%)
 - OS Abstraction Layer works well.

Future Works

- More Improvements of Performance.
- Additional VPN Protocols.
 - IKEv2, PPTP and IPsec Tunnel Mode
- Release as Open-Source Software (GPL license).
 - "SoftEther VPN", http://www.softether.org/ Estimated release date: by end of March 2013. (First, close-source with binaries. Translate all Japanese comments to English and release it in middle 2013.)
- Enable third-Developers to Add More VPN Protocol Modules Easily.

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