Installing OpenVPN (Windows 7)

1. If you have the old ASU VPN already installed, it must be completely removed. Do a Windows Uninstall of it and of the related OpenVPN “TAP-Windows” program. Then explore to C:Program Files and delete the OpenVPN folder. If you have a 64-bit version of Windows then you should check both this and the 32-bit folder, Program Files (x86), to see if there is an OpenVPN folder to delete.

2. To install the new version, browse to http://nics.appstate.edu/file-manager and click on the OpenVPN Windows installer FILE link (“OpenVPN.zip”). When the folder opens choose to Extract all files.

3. When the folder view of the extracted files displays there should be a vpninstall folder, vpnstuff folder and an executable program, openvpn_appstate_2_3_4. Right-click on that program and choose to Run as administrator. You will have to enter your administrator password for it to run. When it runs, a brief DOS window will pop up for a moment. After that window disappears there will now be an OpenVPN GUI shortcut on your desktop.

4. VPN always has to be run as administrator but it is not very safe to be running your PC as administrator in general (allows easier access to malware you may encounter). To set it up to always run as administrator, even when logged onto Windows as a Limited user, right-click on the desktop shortcut and click on Properties. Click the Compatibility tab and check the box under Privilege Level to Run this program as an administrator. If that is greyed-out then click the “Change settings for all users” which will cause Windows to ask for your password and then open a new window where you are able to check the box “Run this program as an administrator.” After checking that box, click Apply and OK—that window will close. Click OK to close the OpenVPN GUI Properties window.

5. To run OpenVPN you now just double-click the OpenVPN GUI shortcut on your desktop. You will still have to enter your password (unless you are logged on as administrator), to launch it. A new icon will appear on your task bar—a little, grey-filled rectangle with a lock on its bottom-right corner.

6. To launch a VPN session, right-click on that task bar icon and pick Connect. A window will open, some text will scroll down it, and a small logon window will appear. Enter your ASU username and password and click OK. More text will scroll up and a bubble will appear with “Config is now connected” with an Assigned ip address which should be 172.20.x.y where x and y will vary with session. (If you had the old VPN and now [still] connect to 172.19.x.y then you did not remove all the config programs or folders. It may not work or may disconnect. Repeat from step 1 above to fix.) After that bubble disappears you can always hover over the task bar icon to see that info. When connected, that icon’s rectangle is green filled.

7. To end a session right-click the icon and Disconnect. Click again and Exit to exit OpenVPN.