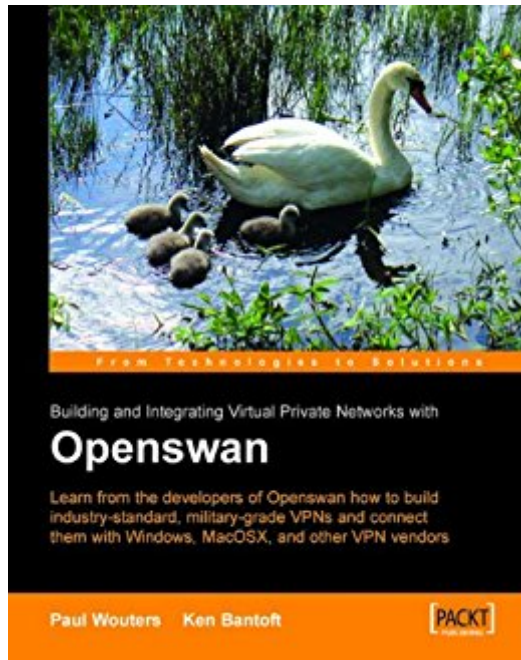


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Openswan: Building And Integrating Virtual Private Networks



Synopsis

Network administrators and any one who is interested in building secure VPNs using Openswan. It presumes basic knowledge of Linux, but no knowledge of VPNs is required.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I bought this book to setup Openswan IPsec on Linux server that would connect to a Watchguard Firebox. Since the Linux distro was Slackware, I got to go through the entire build and setup procedure (which, despite the author's disdain for Slackware, was not as bad as seems). The book covers theory and operation of IPsec in general as well as the details of installing (from binary distributions and source tar balls) and configuring Openswan IPsec and overcoming the bumps encountered getting it all running. Included are details and problems of making Openswan work with other IPsec devices, such as Watchguard (in my case), Cisco and Microsoft's IPsec implementation. And when dealing with connecting to Microsoft, they deal with the problems you will encounter and how to work through them. If you are planning to setup IPsec on a Linux server using Openswan, you'll want this book at your side to help guide you through the entire process.

After researching OpenSWAN on the Internet for several weeks, I kept running into this particular title. I figured it would be nice to have a desk reference for this software, as it is not exactly user-friendly, and the few web sites I was frequenting seemed to endorse the book. When the book arrived, my first impression was that it was a lot thinner than I would have expected. And for a good reason: there are not nearly enough configuration examples, and it seemed like an awful lot of steps were assumed as common knowledge. It's not that the book is a terrible book -- far from it. I would certainly recommend it to anyone wanting to attempt OpenSWAN. However, I would caution that it's not going to hold your hand through the setup, and you'll almost certainly need to supplement the book with examples and guides from the Web. Also, it's a bit on the pricey side considering the content (or lack thereof) -- for example, the monstrous "Official Samba HOWTO and Reference Guide" is comprehensive, enormous, and costs less -- it would have been nice if the Openswan book were a little more like that.

Cryptic is the word to describe this book. When describing the protocols, the author couldn't decide how in-depth he should go. As a result, what you have is a very unbalanced treatment. Without more details, all the chapters on protocols are totally useless -- unless the reader is already very familiar with them. The author should have written in more detail or omitted the chapters on protocols totally. Very wordy. No illustration. But this seems to be only book on Openswan. What a shame.

There is really no better book than this one when it comes to understand and implement IPSec with Openswan! I was able to implement a robust solution using Openswan with Red Hat and Ubuntu Linux in record time.

Le falta, en mi opinion se queda atras con respecto a la version actual

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