

Re: Relationship SSH <-> VPN ??

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Date: 08/01/02

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Peter Meister wrote:

>

> *I am wondering about the relationship of the technologies of VPN vs. SSH.*

Virtual Private Network is a concept that goes back to the old telephone networks. Originally it meant a circuit that was reserved for private use. It wasn't even encrypted; in the circuit switched world you would need access to the physical wires to tap them. That's why you may occasionally see SVPN = secure VPN.

Secure shell (ssh) got started when Tatu Ylönen, a postgraduate student at the Helsinki University of Technology, lost some important work to crackers. At that point he blew his fuses and decided to collect the best security stuff available into an easy-to-use package.

> *Can a VPN be installed without using SSH ?*

Certainly. The favourite today is IPSec.

> *What can VPNs what SSH can not?*

If we assume VPN = IPSec tunnel, VPN is more general. Due to its origins, ssh is at a higher protocol layer than IPSec. It supports only telnet sessions and FTP. Even the company (called SSH – note the capitalisation) that Mr. Ylönen started to support ssh has gone to the IPSec business. They also operate the www.ipsec.com site in addition to www.ssh.fi.

> *Is VPN an extension or an application based on SSH ?*

No, ssh is a subset of VPN, but VPN is older.

— Lassi

> *Sorry for this newbie questions.*

>

> *Thx*

> *Peter*

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