USING A VPN AND ZEROTIER

By David,K4FXC

If you're needing to completely painlessly setup a VPN, and don't mind having a 3rd party involved, at this point I recommend using zerotier. I built a hamvoip package for zerotier a few weeks ago. I had never tried zerotier before then, but, I have to say, using this solution is completely painless....At least from my testing, thus far.

.....Note that a very simple installation is described, below. You need at least 2 devices on the network to try this out.

Setup is very, very simple. Here are steps to get setup on a HamVoIP nodes:

1) Go to the zerotier website, register and activate an account. The website is here. Use the "Register" link: https://my.zerotier.com/

2) Login to your new account and click the "Create a network" button. A new network with an arbitrary name will be created.

3) Click the link to enter the setup page for your new network. At the top of the webpage, you'll notice a 16 character (8 hexadecimal digits) network ID. Something like "1c33c1ced0e4c478" ....Make a note of this ID.

4) Now install the software on the HamVoIP node from the bash shell prompt:

pacman -Sy zerotier-one

5) Once the package is installed, run the zerotier daemon, which goes immediately into the background:

zerotier-one -U -d

6) From the HamVoIP node, join your new VPN network using the network ID noted above....For EXAMPLE:

zerotier-cli join 1c33c1ced0e4c478

NOTE that "1c33c1ced0e4c478" is an example...Use the network ID you got from the zerotier webpage, using your account.

7) The final step is to go back to the zerotier webpage and scroll down to the "Members" section and click the checkbox at the left to authorize the HamVoIP device, allowing it to join the network.

8) That's it! Your VPN should now be on-line and running. All your connected devices should show up on the zerotier webpage.

9) To launch your VPN when the node boots, just edit the /etc/rc.local file and place the command: "zerotier-one -U -d" (without the quotes) just above the exit statement at the bottom of the file. It automatically knows what networks to join.