

# USING SSH AS A SOCKS VPN ON MAC OS & LINUX

SSH tunnels can be used as a Light VPN (OpenVPN Alternative) with the same encryption power of OpenVPN but with higher throughput and speed. SSH tunnels are used to transfer unencrypted traffic over a network through an encrypted channel. You can create a connection to our servers through a terminal program (ie: PuTTY, OSX terminal). Thus, If you want to tunnel only certain applications like web or mail, SSH tunnels may be enough for you. If the idea is to ensure that no data passes unencrypted, we'd recommend an OpenVPN account. SSH Tunneling offers a Secure and safe way to achieve encrypted tunnel, can be used with every application installed and be used for services other than HTTP

SSH tunnels can be used with other web services, too. You can use BitTorrent over SSH to avoid your ISP's traffic shaping, or if you want to download something at school or the office. Many of your instant messaging programs should allow you to enter a SOCKS proxy, too — good if you want to encrypt your chat for security reasons, or if you're chatting from a country that doesn't respect your privacy. Finally, almost any mature application that accesses the internet will probably let you enter a SOCKS proxy — just check its Network or Connection tab to find out.

Both Mac OS X and Linux both have a command-line SSH client installed by default, so you can simply create an SSH tunnel by opening a terminal and entering the commands as explained below:

## Instructions

On your Mac open Terminal (Applications – Utilities – Terminal) or if using Linux, simply open command line and issue the following command and when prompted enter your password:

```
ssh -D 8080 -p [port number] [username]@[SSH Server IP address]
```

Examples:

```
ssh -D 8080 -p 80 username@124.217.249.131
```

```
ssh -D 8080 -p 443 username@124.217.249.131
```

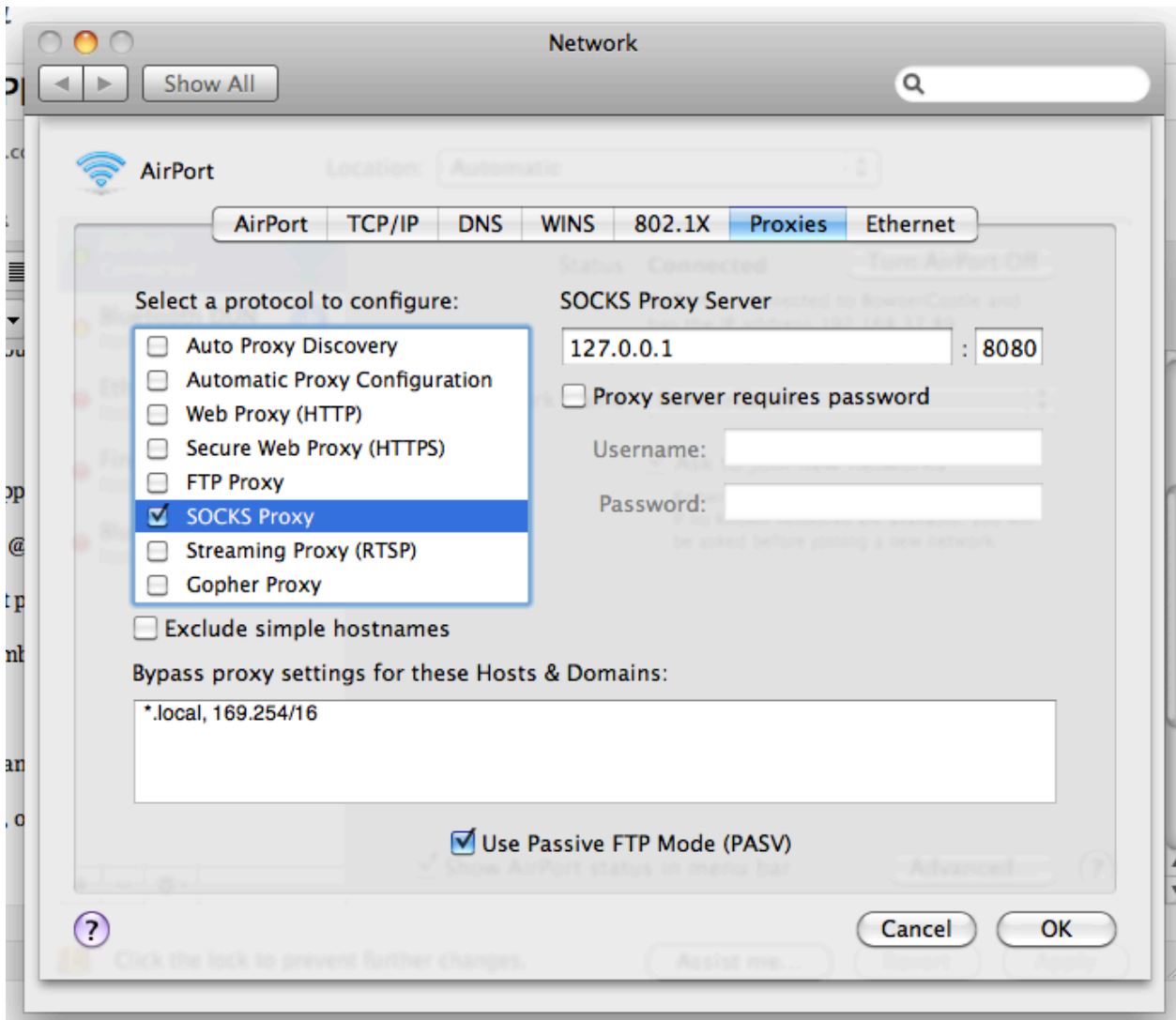
Now change your SOCKS proxy, open up System Preferences (Applications – System Preferences), Network.

On the following box click Advanced.



### ***Network Control Panel on Mac***

In the next box that pops up you'll want to tick the SOCKS Proxy option, and put the following entry in the text box 127.0.0.1 port 8080, like this:



### *Mac SOCKS Server Panel*

And now all your applications that are using the setting in the control panel will be able to use the VPN session, just don't shut down the Terminal window that is where the magic is happening!