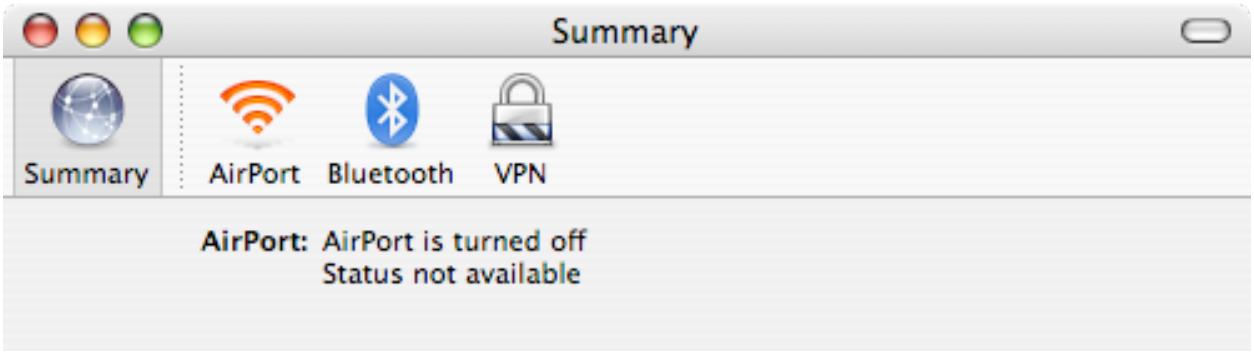
CONFIGURING AND USING THE BUILT-IN MAC OS X VPN CLIENT WITH THE UH VPN SERVER

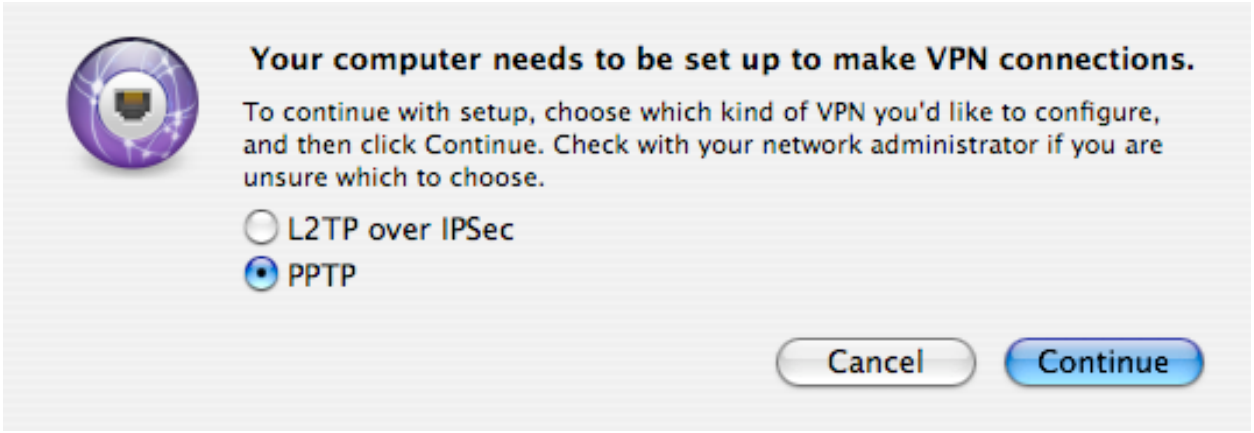
Up until recently, Mac users wanting to connect to the UH VPN Servers on campus had only one option. The only option in place was to use the periodically-updated, and often unstable Cisco VPN client. After doing some research to find a more reliable VPN solution, there are now options that have been put in place that will allow Mac users to use the built-in Mac OS X VPN Client to connect to and use the UH VPN Server.

CONFIGURING VPN USING INTERNET CONNECT

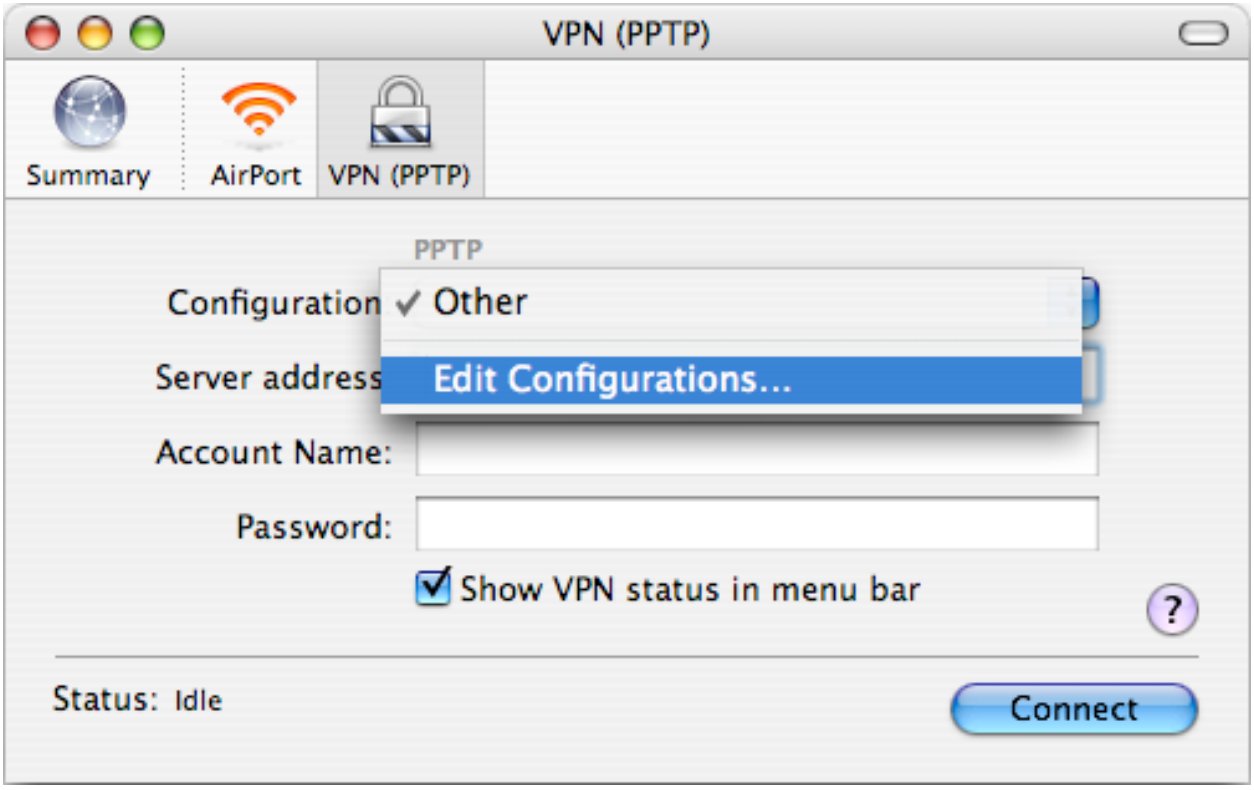
Configuring the built-in Mac OS X VPN Client is very easy and straight forward. To start, open up the Internet Connect application, which is located in the Applications Folder on your hard drive. Once Internet Connect window is open, there should be a VPN icon to click on. Click on the icon to begin the setup process:



From there, you will be informed that you need to set up a VPN connection type. Select PPTP (Point-to-point Tunneling Protocol) and then click on Continue:

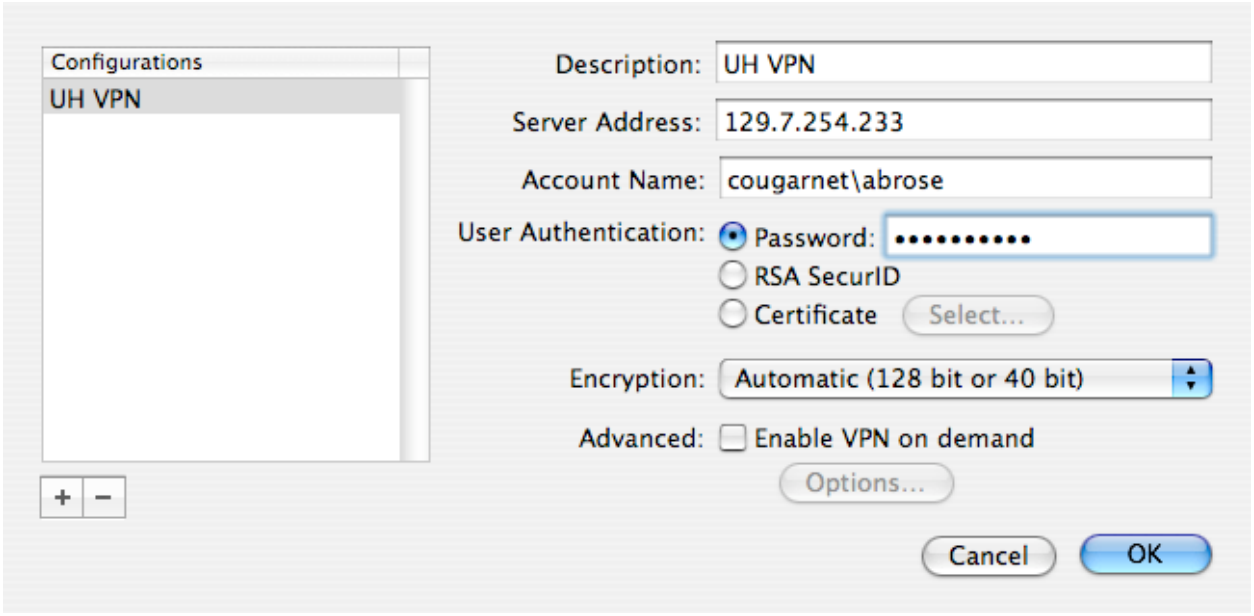


You will now be presented with a configuration window. To setup up an UH-specific preset, click on the Configuration pull-down menu and select Edit Configurations...



***NOTE:** You may be prompted to save your current configuration, select Don't Save. You will be saving the UH preset in the next window.

In the window that appears, you will now enter the settings needed to connect to the UH VPN server. Type in your settings exactly as listed below:



For the Description, you can enter in anything that you would like. In the above example, UH VPN was used to make the configuration easy to remember.

Notice that the Server Address is **129.7.254.233**, and not 129.7.254.231, nor 129.7.254.232. The reason that you will use the 129.7.254.233 server is that it is the only UH VPN server that has the PPTP protocol enabled.

The Account Name should be your COUGARNET username. In the above example, “abrose” is the COUGARNET account that is being used. For example, if your COUGARNET username is “jadoe,” the you would type in *cougarnet\jadoe* in the Account Name field.

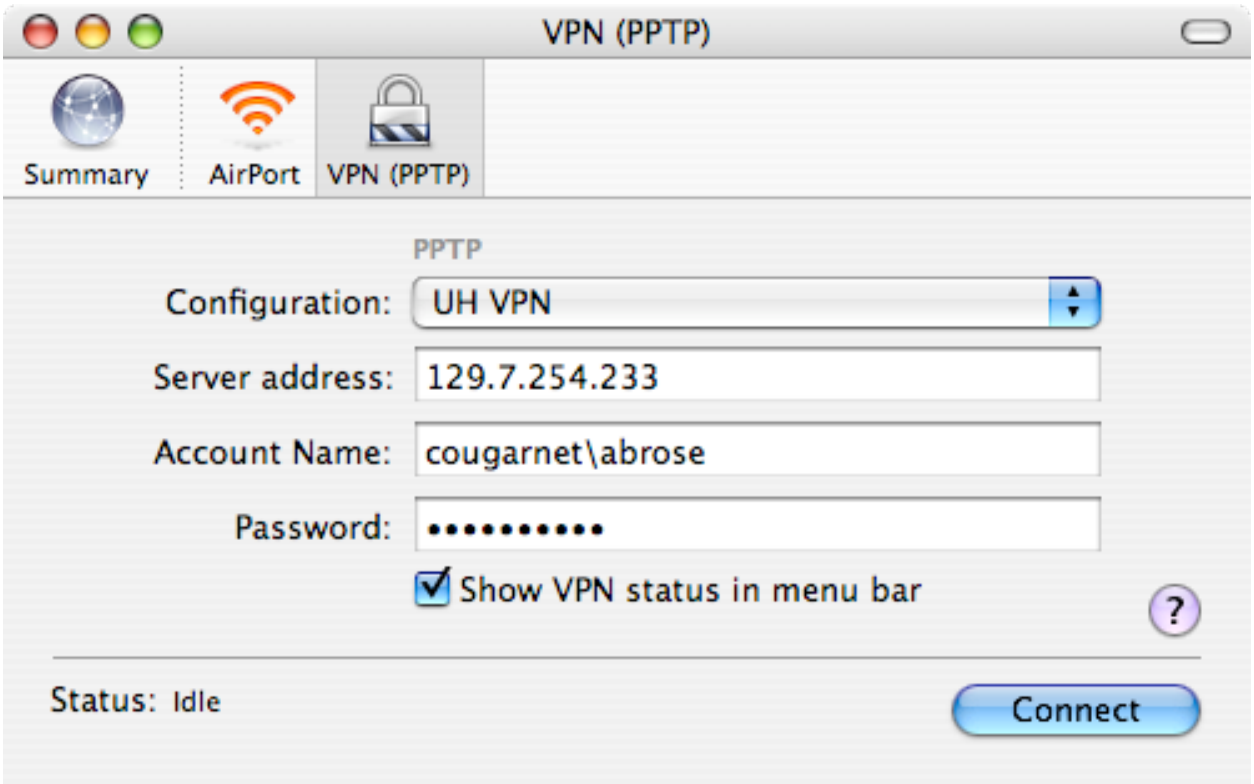
For the User Authentication area, click on the Password button and type in your COUGARNET password. You can also choose to leave the Password field blank if you wish the VPN client to prompt you for your COUGARNET password each time you establish a connection.

The Encryption should be set to Automatic.

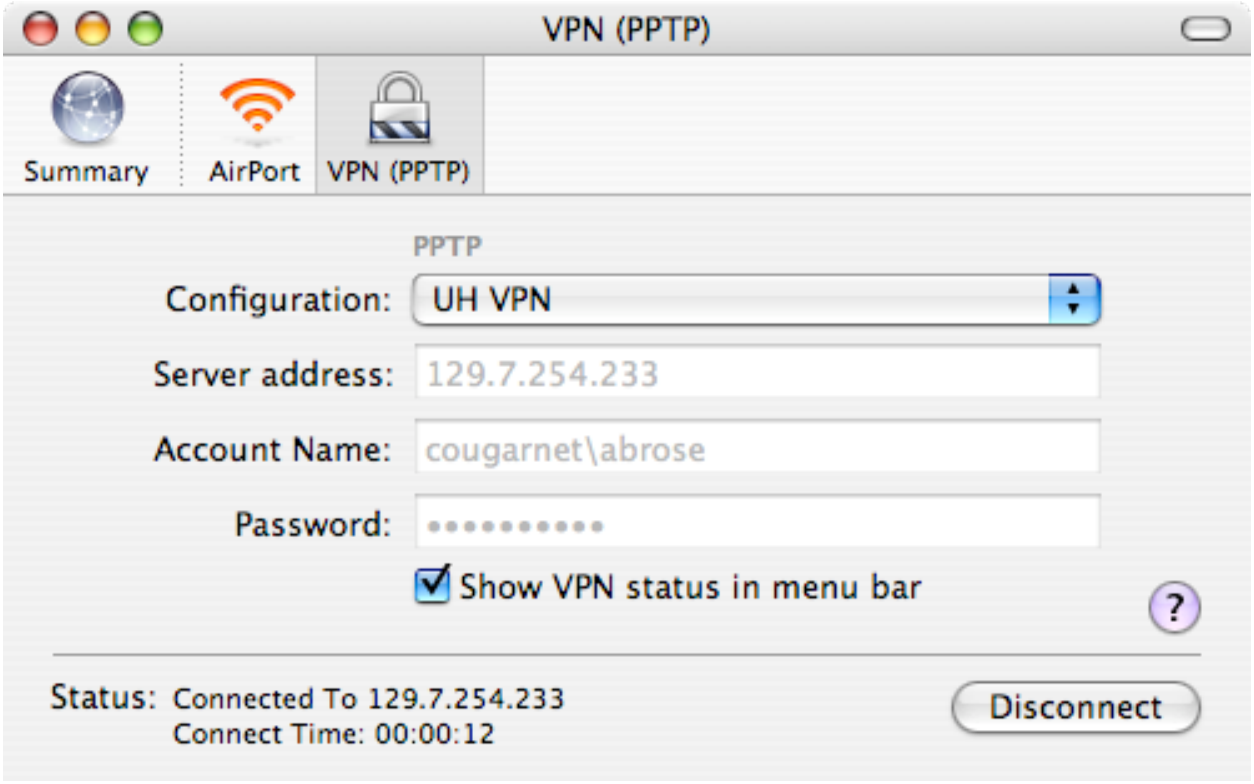
After all of the settings have been configured, click on the OK button to continue and save your preset.

ESTABLISHING A CONNECTION

Now that you have properly configured the Mac OS X VPN Client, you can establish a connection to the UH VPN server. After configuring all of your settings, you should have been taken back to the main window:

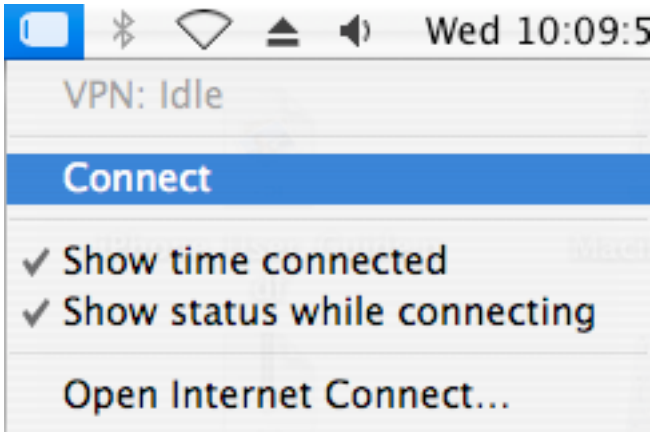


Click on the Connect button to establish your connection to the UH VPN server. Once you are connected, you should see a timer start telling you how long you have been connected to the UH VPN Server:



Once you are connected to the UH VPN server, your Mac is now "virtually" on the campus network and able to access UH resources only available to on-campus machines even though you may be at a remote location from off-campus. Programs like Entourage (for checking Exchange mail, etc.) tend to work better after a VPN connection is established. Once you are done with your VPN connection, click on the Disconnect button.

***NOTE: An alternate way to connect/disconnect to the UH VPN server is to use the Menu Bar icon:



INFORMATION AND SUPPORT

If you have any questions and or comments about using the the built-in Mac OS X VPN Client, submit all discussion to the UH Mac Users Email List. The email address for the list is uh-mac-users@listserv.uh.edu . For information on subscribing to the list, please read the below instructions:

1) Submit the request using the E-Mail account you wish to have LISTSERV messages sent to.

2) The request should be sent to: LISTSERV@LISTSERV.UH.EDU

3) Leave the Subject line empty.

4) Format the body of the message as follows:

SUBSCRIBE UH-MAC-USERS

*** Make sure that you do not have an automatic email signature in the body of the message. Having one enabled will cause problems with the subscription request.

For all additional questions related to your COUGARNET account, or any other matter, please submit them to the IT Support Center at 713-743-1411 or via email at support@uh.edu .

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