

NordVPN

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NordVPN Installation and Strict Configuration on Ubuntu

This guide provides a step-by-step process for installing NordVPN on a Ubuntu system and configuring a secure "Panama-only" connection with a kill switch while maintaining local network accessibility for Remote Desktop (XRDP) or NAS access.

1. Installation and Permissions

First, install the NordVPN repository and the application. Then, ensure your user has the necessary permissions to control the service.

```
# Download and install the NordVPN repo
sh <(curl -sSf https://downloads.nordcdn.com/apps/linux/install.sh)

# Add your user to the nordvpn group
sudo usermod -aG nordvpn $USER

# Refresh group permissions (Requires your Ubuntu password)
su - $USER
```

2. Authentication and Whitelisting

Authentication is a two-part process when working over SSH or XRDP. You must whitelist local subnets **before** enabling the kill switch to avoid a lockout.

```
# 1. Run login to generate your unique URL
nordvpn login

# 2. Copy the URL to a browser, log in, and copy the resulting callback URL
# 3. Paste your unique callback URL into the command below
nordvpn login --callback "nordvpn://login?action=login&exchange_token..."

# 4. Whitelist local subnets for Remote Desktop/NAS access
```

```
nordvpn whitelist add subnet 192.168.0.0/24
nordvpn whitelist add subnet 192.168.100.0/24
```

3. Configuring the "Panama-Only" Lock

Configure the client to automatically connect to Panama and kill the internet connection if the VPN tunnel drops.

```
# Set autoconnect to Panama
nordvpn set autoconnect on Panama

# Connect to the VPN
nordvpn connect Panama

# Enable the Kill Switch
nordvpn set killswitch on
```

4. Troubleshooting: "nordvpn.service is masked"

If the service reports as "masked" or fails to start, it is likely due to legacy SysV script conflicts or broken package dependencies (like synosnap) blocking the daemon. Use this "Nuclear Reset" sequence.

```
# 1. Remove legacy SysV init conflict
sudo rm -f /etc/init.d/nordvpn

# 2. Nuke phantom mask files across all system paths
sudo rm -f /etc/systemd/system/nordvpn.service /run/systemd/system/nordvpn.service
/lib/systemd/system/nordvpn.service /usr/lib/systemd/system/nordvpn.service

# 3. Purge blocking agents and fix broken package states
sudo dpkg --purge synosnap
sudo apt install -f

# 4. Reinstall and force-unmask the daemon
```

```
sudo apt install --reinstall nordvpn -y
sudo systemctl daemon-reload
sudo systemctl unmask nordvpn
sudo systemctl enable --now nordvpn
```

5. Management and Verification

Commands for daily use and verification.

```
# Check current connection status
nordvpn status

# View all current settings
nordvpn settings

# Check if the background service is running
sudo systemctl status nordvpn
```