# Connecting Remote Sites Securely using a Firewall-Based IPsec Virtual Private Network

Ryan Tallent Advisor: Ali Alsabeh

Department of Integrated Information Technology
University of South Carolina

**April 2021** 





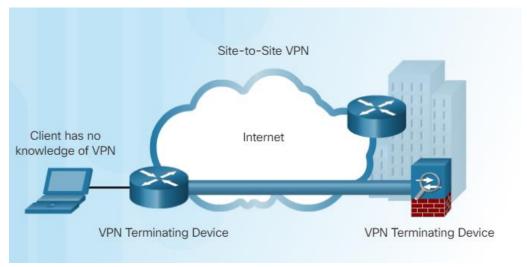
## Agenda

- Introduction to network security and confidentiality
- Background information
  - ➤ IPsec Virtual Private Networks (VPN)
- Conclusion



#### Introduction

- Network communication frequently relies on Internet Service Provider (ISP) networks or other untrusted network connections to carry the information to its destination.
- In order to enable secure communication between two networks, which are separated by a public network (e.g., the Internet), encryption is required.
- Site-to-site virtual private networks (VPN) enable remote sites to communicate confidentially, using cryptographic techniques (encryption, hash functions).



Cisco CCNA Security Chapter 8.1.2.3



## Problem Description

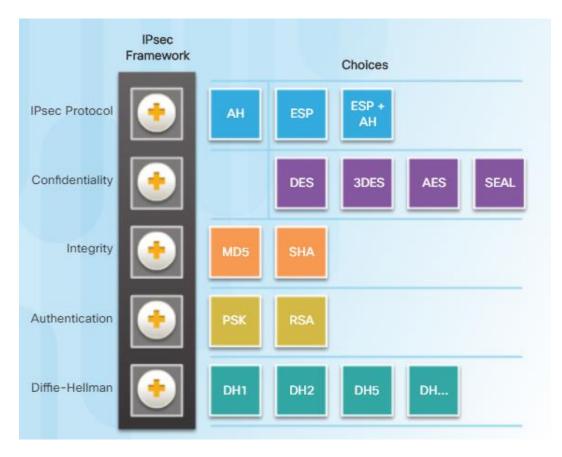
• When communications travel past the local router and onto untrusted networks, they become much more vulnerable to falling into the wrong hands.



Cisco Routing and Switching Essentials Page 8.3.1.3

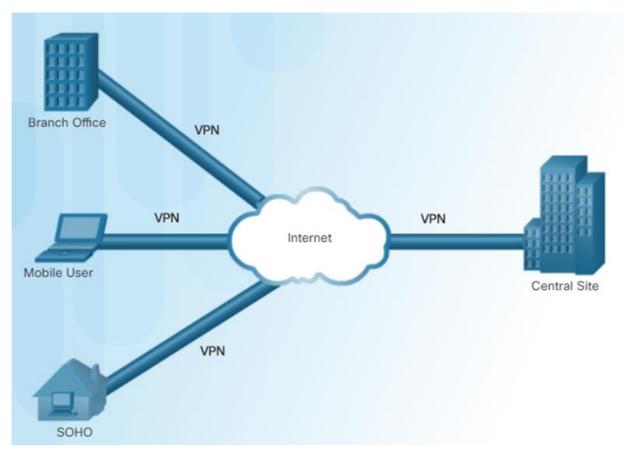
## Background Information

- IP security (IPsec) is a standard framework composed of five building blocks
  - Protocol: encapsulation protocol carrying the data
  - Confidentiality: encryption algorithm used for privacy
  - Integrity: hash function used for integrity control
  - Authentication: mechanism used to ensure the identity of the two end points of the VPN
  - Diffie-Hellman: algorithm used to create the keys used to encrypt the data
- IPsec only works with unicast transmissions



Cisco CCNA Security Chapter 8.2.1.1

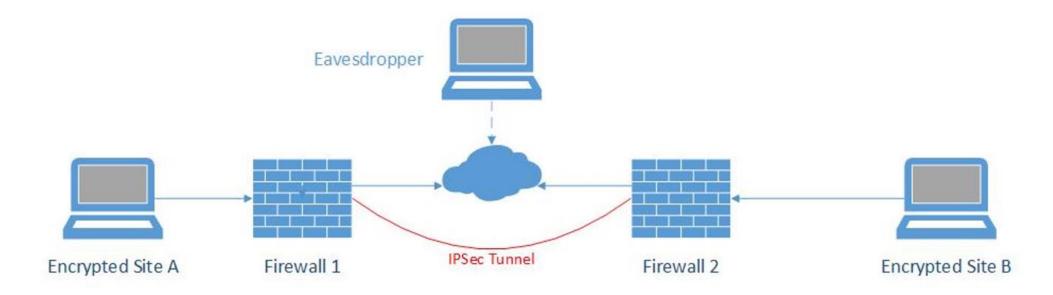
### Proposed Solution and Implementation



Cisco CCNA Security Chapter 8.1.1.2

 A VPN is necessary to accomplish the task of transmitting data securely. The IPsec protocol, encapsulation security payload (ESP), is the means of securing the contents of transmitted packets to prevent them from being changed or compromised.

#### Establish VPN



Palo Alto Networks

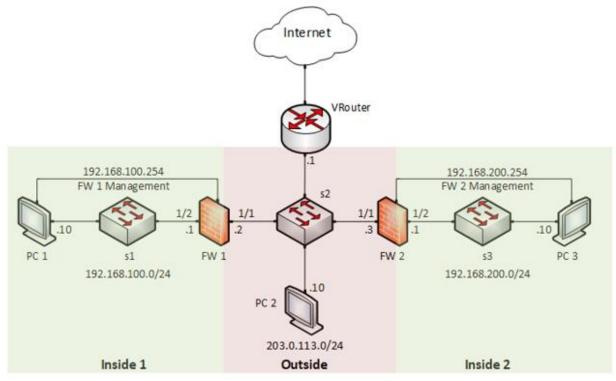
The VPN enables information to be securely transmitted across the Internet. The
communicating hosts can be assured their data is private, intact, and sent from a
verified and trustworthy source.





#### Conclusion

 Through the implementation of a VPN, a high level of security and privacy can be achieved. The likelihood of information being intercepted, tampered with, or compromised by malicious outside actors is greatly reduced.



Palo Alto Networks



