Subject: OpenVPN set up using NordVPN paid subscription access

Objective: use alternative means (OpenVPN) to utilize NordVPN access/connection on a computer running OpenMandriva Linux Rock (OMLx 6.0)

Background: using the command line to download the nordvpn package may not uniformly permit use of nordvpn package due to identified missing dependencies (libidn2, libnl3, and libnl3-200 or others dependencies). Although solutions have been discussed in the Support section, this is an alternative. The nordvpn website provides a manual set up solution that uses openvpn to permit connection via NordVPN services (with a paid subscription to NordVPN services).

Requirements: active NordVPN subscription and internet connection.

Note: To get connections to multiple countries, complete steps 8 through 18 for each VPN server.

Security Note: Use only officially provided VPN configuration files provided by NordVPN. Searching for configuration files online and using those may expose your system to unauthorized access.
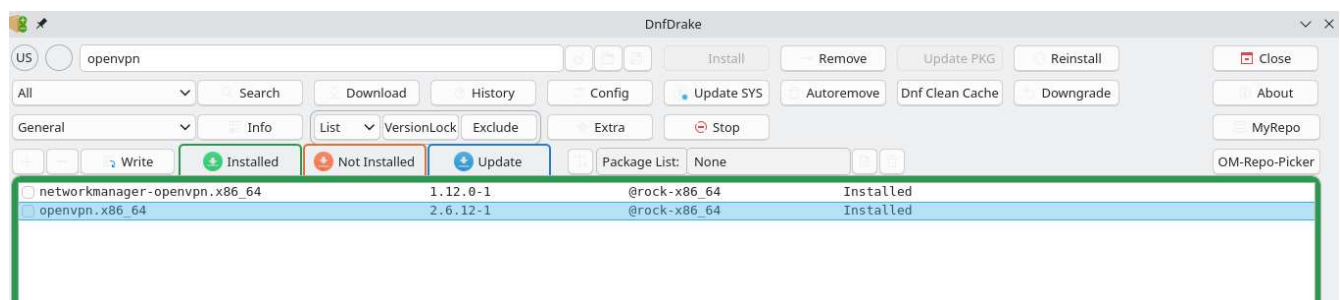

[If you do not want to follow the guide, you can log into the NordVPN website, go to the dashboard, go to the NordVPN sidebar option, find the manual set up area and use the information found on that site to set up your VPN connections. You will also need to install the openvpn and openvpn network manager packages.]

Step by Step Guide:

Step 1: In the Konsole terminal, run command sudo dnf install openvpn.x86_64. Enter your password and enter "y" when prompted to complete the installation. [You may use dnf search openvpn to find the exact package name, if this does not work.]

Step 2: In the Konsole terminal, run command sudo dnf install networkmanager-openvpn.x86_64. Enter your password and enter "y" when prompted to complete the installation.
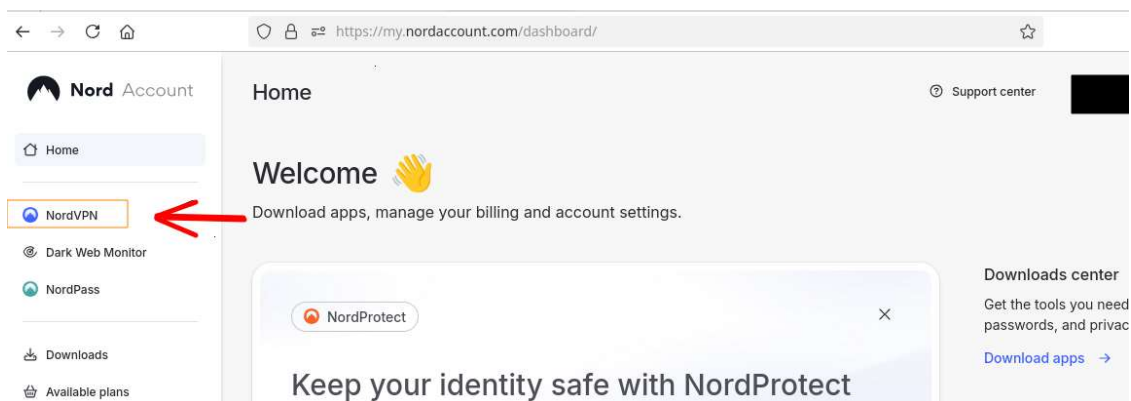
Alternatively, use the DnfDrake package management application. Open the application, query the DnfDrake search field for "openvpn". Find the two packages and install them. (Package versions may change.)
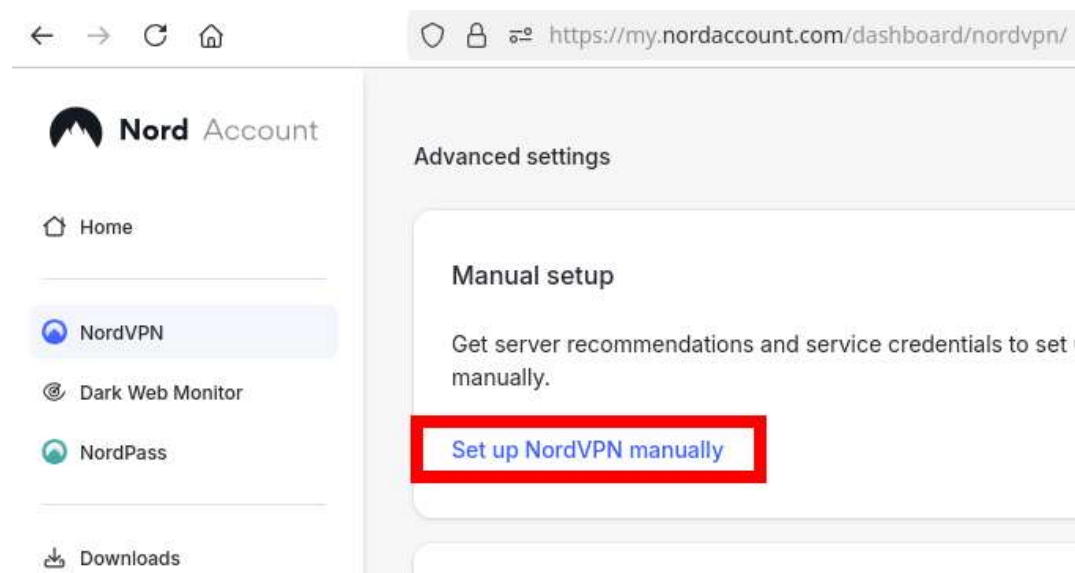

Step 3: Access https://nordvpn.com in a web browser.

Step 4: Log in using your NordVPN account credentials. You should see the Nord Account Dashboard.
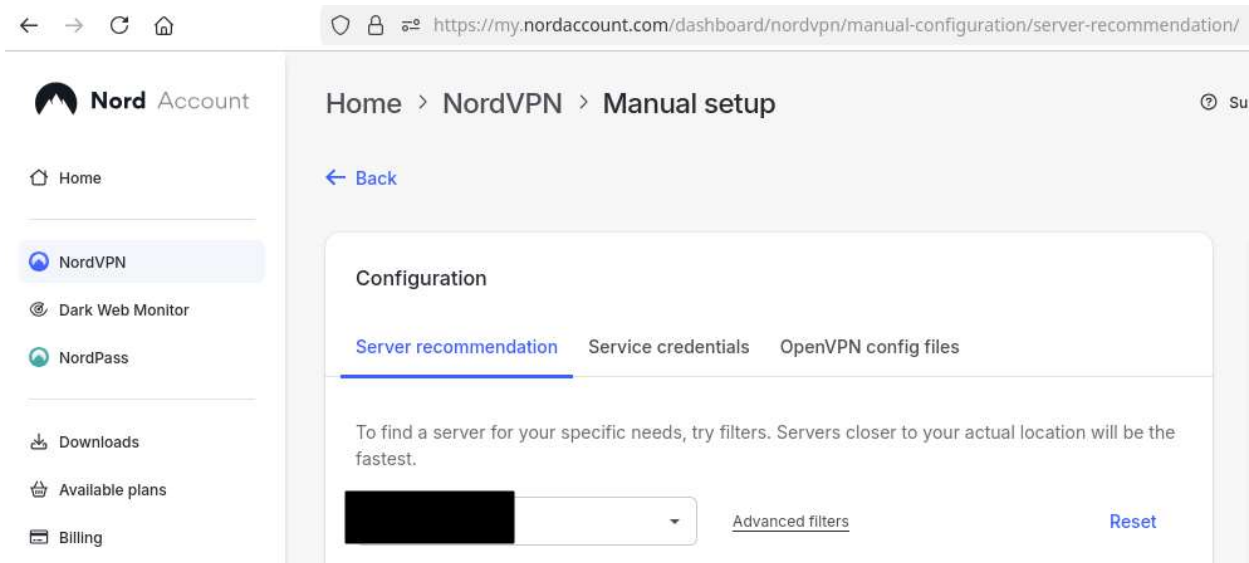
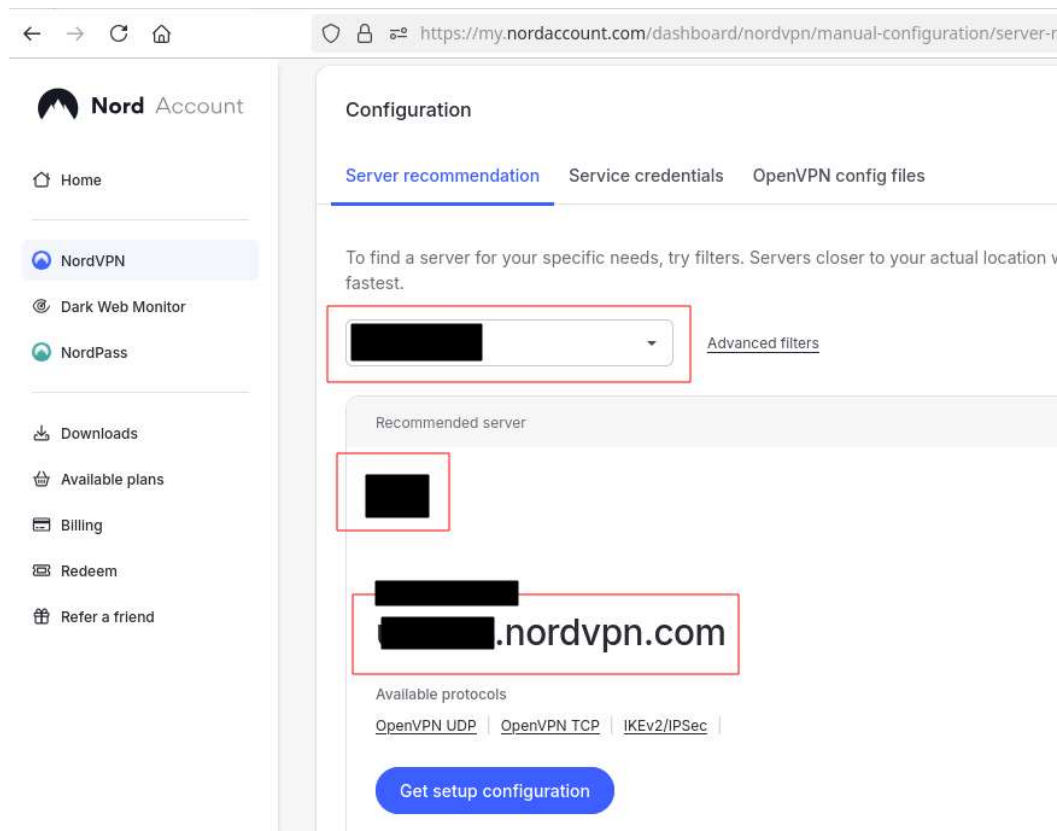**Step 5**: Click on the NordVPN option on the left hand sidebar area.

Step 6: On the next page, scroll down until you see a link "Set up NordVPN manually". Click on the link.

Step 7: You should see a page that has three clickable areas ("Server recommendation", "Service credentials" and "OpenVPN config files").
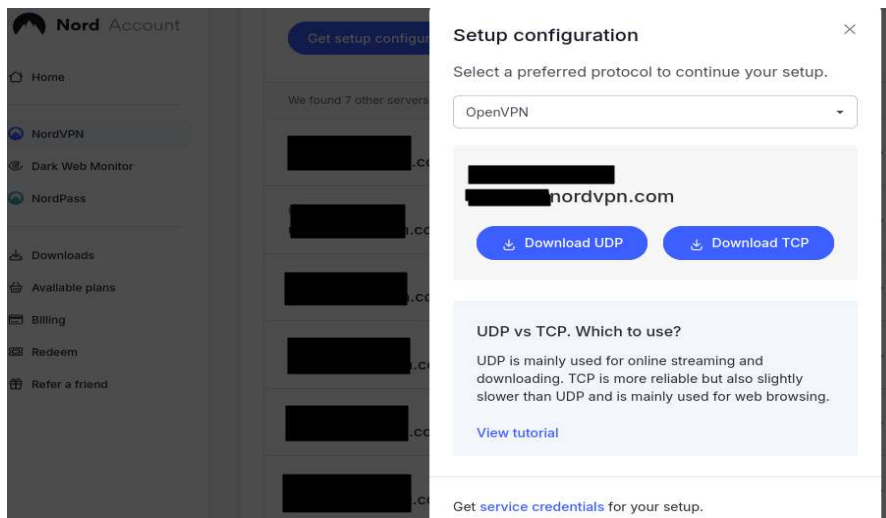
Step 8: On this page, use the drop down to select a country. You are choosing which server you will connect to; the server identifies as if in the selected country. After selecting the country, you may also use the Server Type drop down to select a server for a specific purpose (type option not pictured).
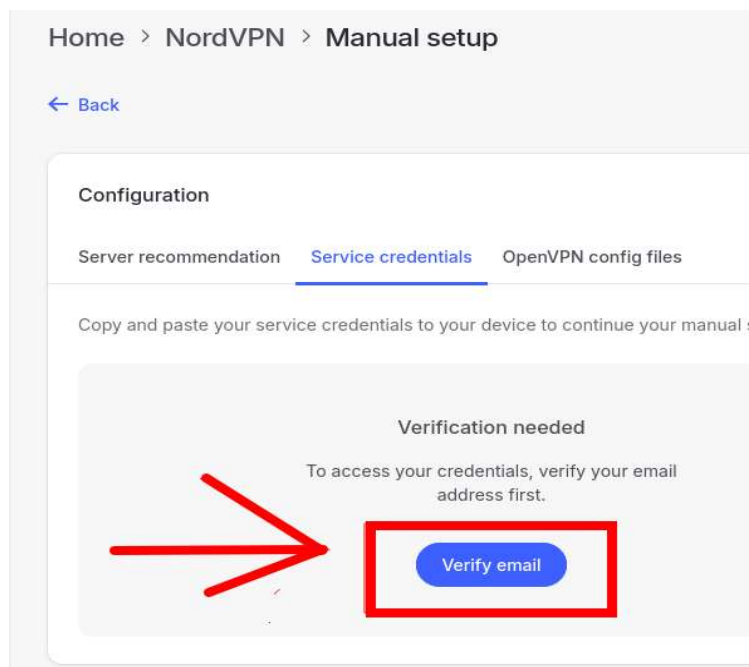

Step 9: Click on the link in blue "Get setup configuration". An in-page pop up will open. Select and download one of the options or both. A description in the pop up describes the use scenario for each

option. Make a note of where the downloaded file gets saved, if the destination is not set up for the default Downloads directory (place or folder).

Step 10: Click the x symbol in the pop up to close the pop up. Scroll up to find the option "Service Credentials". Click on the verify email link.
Access the email account used for the NordVPN login access. You will see a new email arrive from NordVPN with a one-time login code. Use this code to satisfy this Verify Email challenge.
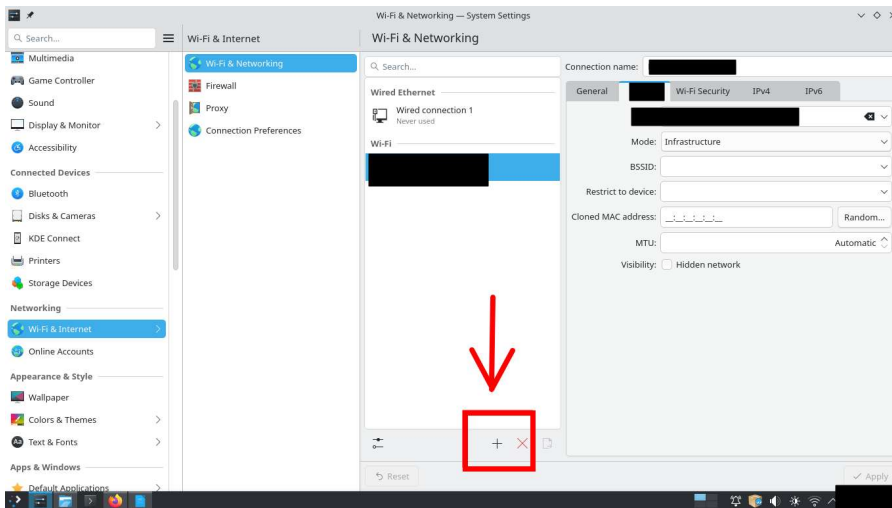

Step 11: The webpage will update to give a complicated user name and password. You may use the eye icon near the password to reveal the characters. [You may use the copy icon to copy the text, one item at a time.]

Step 12: Open your Wi-Fi & Networking – System Settings. In the left hand corner, access the Applications Menu, go to system and then System Settings.
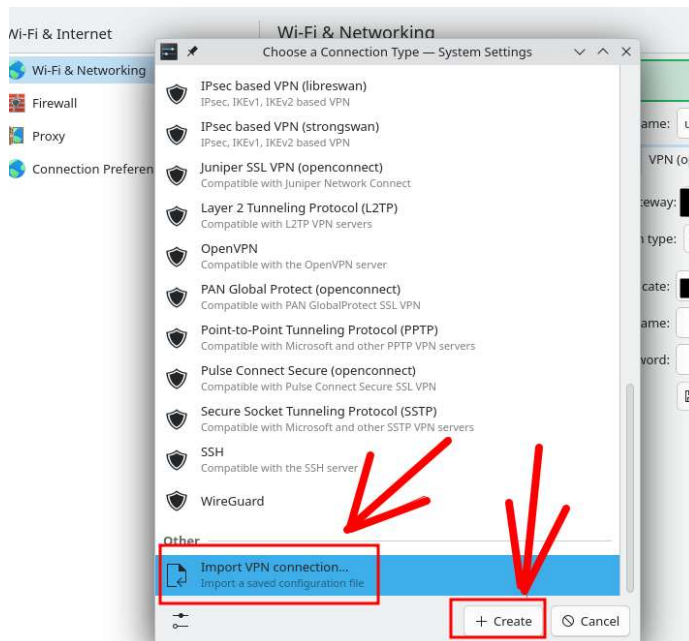
In the settings window, scroll down and find the Wi-Fi & Networking option.

Step 13: In the Wi-Fi & Networking area, click on the plus symbol.

Step 14: A system pop up will open with multiple connection types. Select the option "Import VPN Connection". Click on the "Create" option.
A file browser will open. Locate the saved UDP or TCP configuration file downloaded in Step 9.
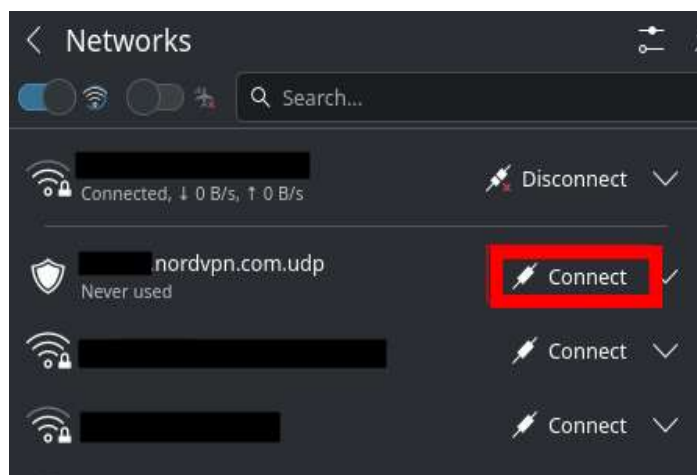

Step 15: Locate the configuration file. Click on it. The Wi-Fi & Networking window will update and permit you to enter the user name and password. Use the credential from Step 11. [You may need to prompt a new user name and password if the site timed out.]
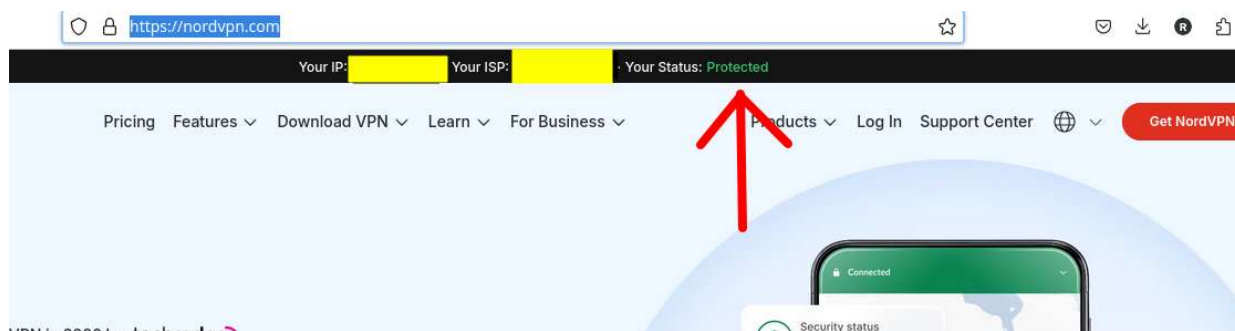After you enter the user name and password, click Apply in the bottom right corner of the Wi-Fi & Networking window.
(Note: this step will fail if Step 2 is not completed or failed.)

Step 16: Access your Networks area on the task bar. Find an option for the VPN that matches to your UDP or TCP file. Click connect. [If you are prompted for a password, you should review the settings for the VPN connection in the Wi-Fi & Networking – System Settings, there may be an option to update.]

Step 17: When the connection is successful, test that you are indeed connected to a VPN server that NordVPN acknowledges. One option is to access the web browser, go to https://nordvpn.com/. If you are connected, you will see that the top of the web page recognizes that you are on a VPN connection.

Step 18: Alternatively, you may use NordVPN's basic check at URL: https://nordvpn.com/what-is-my-ip/. Basic test method: access the webpage without VPN. Then turn on the VPN connection and reload the page. The website will indicate that you are on a VPN and your IP address is different than your actual IP address.