Stunnel

Stunnel is an open-source multi-platform application used to provide a universal TLS/SSL tunneling service.

stunnel	
Developer(s)	Michał Trojnara
Initial release	10 December 1998
Stable release	5.66 / 11 September 2022[1]
Repository	www.stunnel.org/downloads.html (https://www.stunnel.org/downloads.html)
Written in	C[2]
Operating system	Multi-platform
Type	Proxy, Encryption
License	GNU General Public License
Website	www.stunnel.org (https://www.stunnel.org/)

Stunnel can be used to provide secure encrypted connections for clients or servers that do not speak TLS or SSL natively.[3] It runs on a variety of operating systems,[4] including most Unix-like operating systems and Windows. Stunnel relies on the OpenSSL library to implement the underlying TLS or SSL protocol.

Stunnel uses public-key cryptography with X.509 digital certificates to secure the SSL connection, and clients can optionally be authenticated via a certificate.[5]

If linked against libwrap, it can be configured to act as a proxy–firewall service as well.

Stunnel is maintained by Michał Trojnara and released under the terms of the GNU General Public License (GPL) with OpenSSL exception.

Example scenario

For example, one could use stunnel to provide a secure SSL connection to an existing non-SSL-aware SMTP mail server. Assuming the SMTP server expects TCP connections on port 25, one would configure stunnel to map the SSL port 465 to non-SSL port 25. A mail client connects via SSL to port 465. Network traffic from the client initially passes over SSL to the stunnel application, which transparently encrypts and decrypts traffic and forwards unsecured traffic to port 25 locally. The mail server sees a non-SSL mail client.

The stunnel process could be running on the same or a different server from the unsecured mail application; however, both machines would typically be behind a firewall on a secure internal network (so that an intruder could not make its own unsecured connection directly to port 25).

See also

- Tunneling protocol

References

1. *Trojnara, Michał. "Downloads" (https://www.stunnel.org/downloads.html) . Stunnel. Retrieved 22 August 2021.*
2. *Trojnara, Michał. "stunnel sources" (https://github.com/mtrojnar/stunnel/tree/master/src) . GitHub. Retrieved 12 May 2020.*
3. *O'Donovan, Barry (October 2004). "Secure Communication with Stunnel" (http://linuxgazette.net/107/odonovan.html) . Linux Gazette, Issue 107.*

4. *" "stunnel: Ports" " (https://web.archive.org/web/20190401195456/http://www.stunnel.org/ports.html) . Archived from the original (https://www.stunnel.org/PORTS.html) on 1 April 2019. Retrieved 24 August 2020.*
5. *"stunnel(8) manual" (https://www.stunnel.org/static/stunnel.html)*

External links

- Official website (https://www.stunnel.org/)

Portal: Free and open-source software

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