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Guide to installing OpenVPN on macOS operating systems

This tutorial covers the steps for installing OpenVPN in a mac/Apple environment

What is OpenVPN?



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The OpenVPN service (Virtual Private Network) allows authorized staff to connect to the university network when outside the office (for example, from home) through an encrypted connection. This lets them use internal resources, such as licensing servers for teaching purposes.

OpenVPN is used to access resources on the University network, such as the storage service or other internal servers. It is important to disconnect it when these resources are not in use. It is not required for most web applications (Esse3, Ugov, Titulus, etc.)

Students **must NOT** use this method to access **off-campus electronic resources** when outside university facilities; they must instead follow the instructions on the [Information for off-campus access](#) page.

Both desktop operating systems (Windows, Mac, Linux) and mobile devices (Android and Apple) are supported.

To use the service, you need to:

- log in to the openvpn.unibs.it page with your university credentials (remember that, as with other services, the username to use does **not include** the @unibs.it domain);
- download and install the software for your operating system;
- download and open the connection profile with the software.

This guide explains how to install and configure the service.

Site access and app download



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To use the service, you need to download and install the OpenVPN application; this can be done by going to <https://openvpn.unibs.it>

To proceed with the download, enter your official credentials.

Once you have entered your credentials, you can click "Sign In".

Alternatively, the screen below may appear, with the wording "Sign in with SAML"; in this case you will be redirected to the IDP login page.

A screenshot of the "User Login" form for the University of Brescia. The form is titled "User Login" and "Università di Brescia". It contains two input fields: "Username *" and "Password *". The "Password *" field has a toggle icon (an eye) to the right of it. Below the input fields is a blue button labeled "Sign In".

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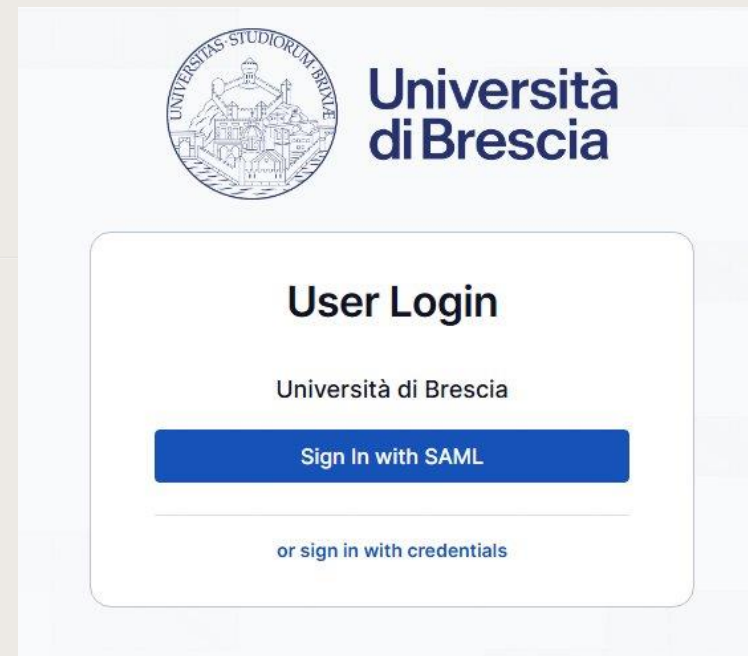
User Login

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Username *

Password *

Sign In

A screenshot of the "User Login" form for the University of Brescia, showing an alternative login method. The form is titled "User Login" and "Università di Brescia". It features a prominent blue button labeled "Sign In with SAML". Below this button, there is a link that says "or sign in with credentials".

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User Login

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Sign In with SAML

or sign in with credentials

Site access and app download



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Once the authentication process has been completed successfully, the OpenVPN home page will be displayed.

If this is the first time you install OpenVPN, you need to click Download.

This will start the file download process.

By selecting "Include connection profile (User-locked)", your profile will already be provided, making the installation process faster.

Alternatively, you can disable this option, but you will then need to download the profile manually by clicking "Download connection profile".

The "Import via QR Code" option is also very useful, as it lets you install the profile in the OpenVPN smartphone app.

Get connected



Download OpenVPN Connect



Include connection profile (User-locked)

Download

Already have your client installed? Get your profile below.

[Download Connection profile](#)

or

[Import via QR Code](#)

For other platforms



Site access and app download

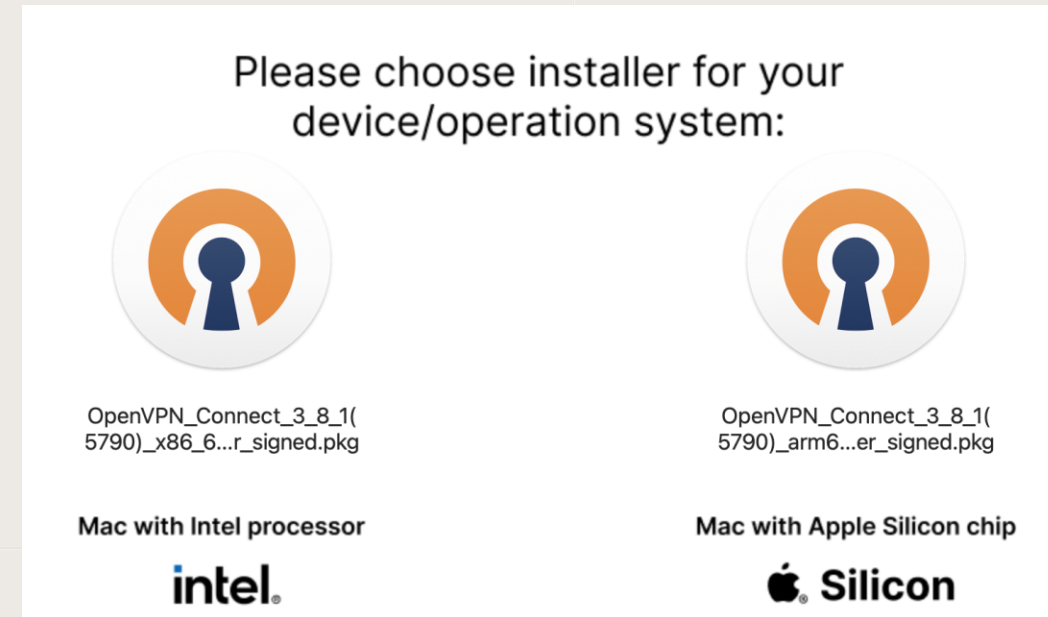


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After downloading the file, an installation file named "openvpn-connect-3.8.1.5790_signed.dmg" will appear (the number will differ, as periodic updates are released).

Clicking on it will start the installation process, leave everything at its default settings and always click "next" until the installation process is complete.

The installation process may be blocked if you do not have administrator permissions; in this case, you need to contact IT support via a ticket to request assistance. If you do have administrator permissions, you need to log in as an administrator. The following slides show all the steps for completing the installation. The first choice to make is checking whether your Mac has an Intel or Apple Silicon CPU; click the relevant icon to proceed (as shown in the image).



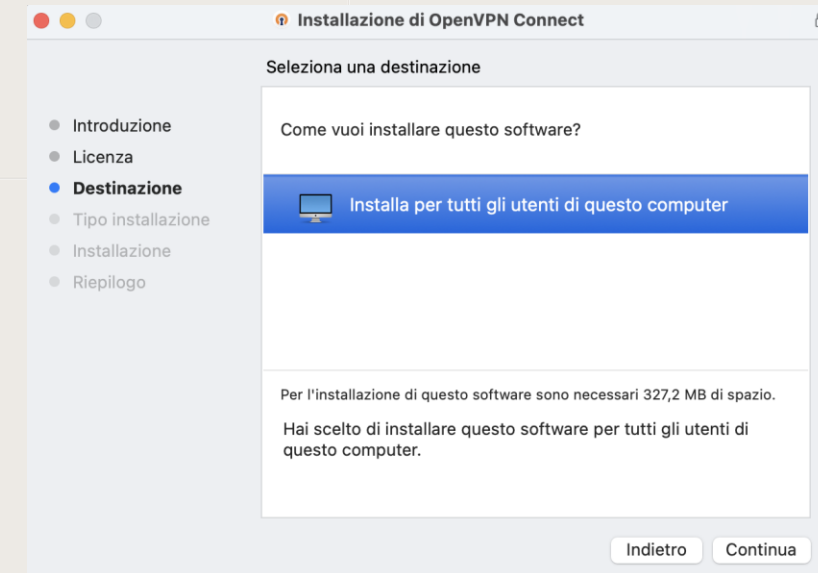
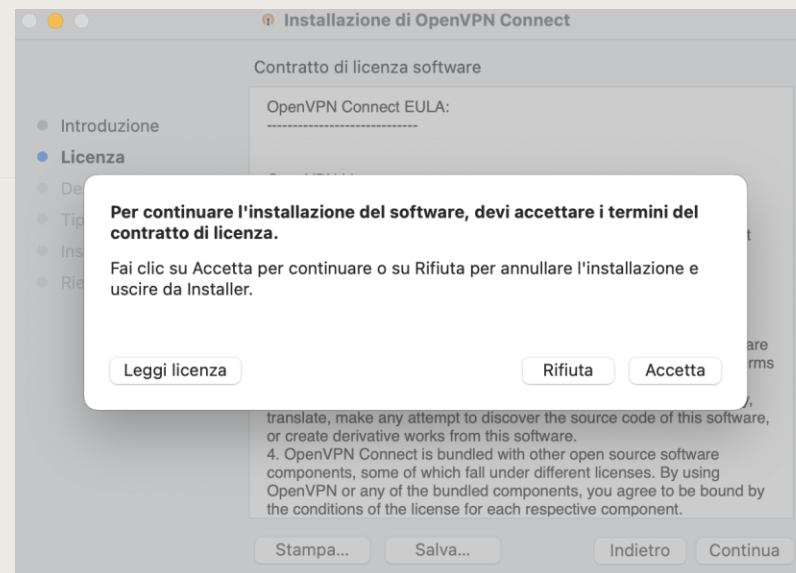
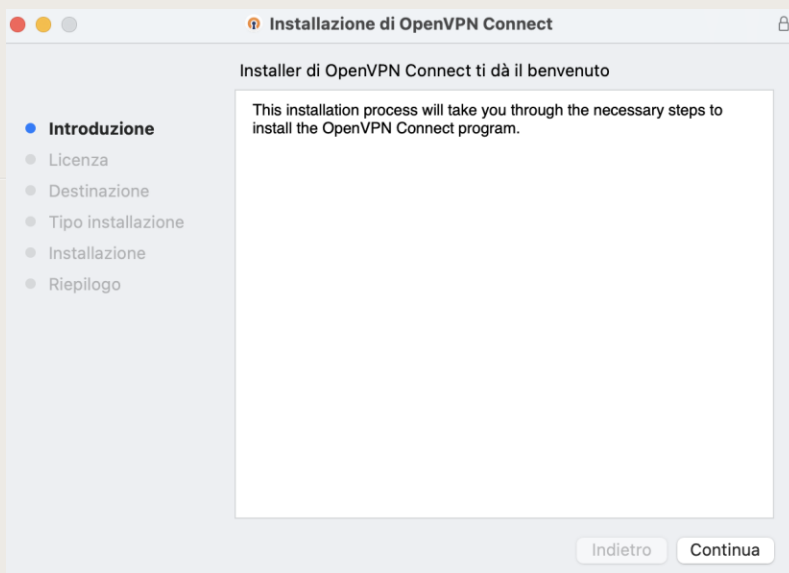
Installing the application



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You will be asked to allow the installer program to access the disk where the application will be installed; grant access by clicking "OK".

You will then see the usual installation screens; always click "Continue", and when asked to accept the license terms, select "Accept"



Installing the application

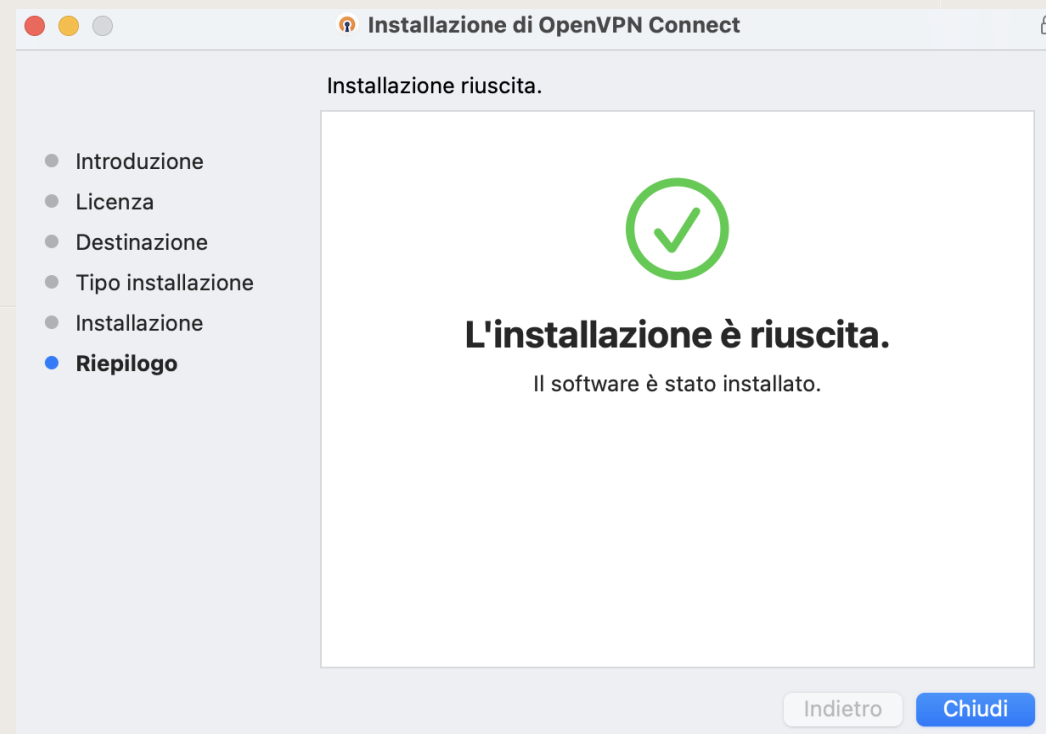


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You will be asked where to install OpenVPN; the default options are fine for most cases. If you have specific needs, you can change the installation path by selecting "change install location" and choosing the new location.

Click "install" to continue.

At the end of the installation process, a confirmation message will appear, as shown in the image.



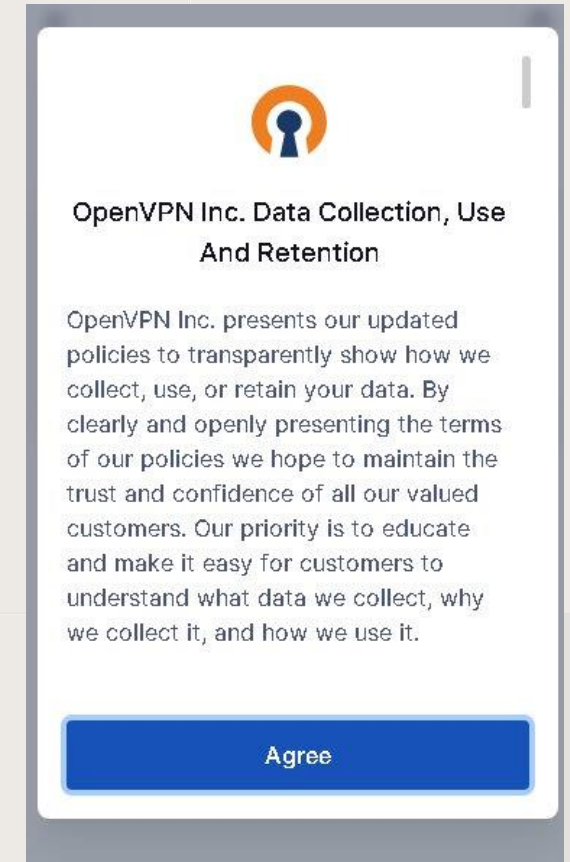
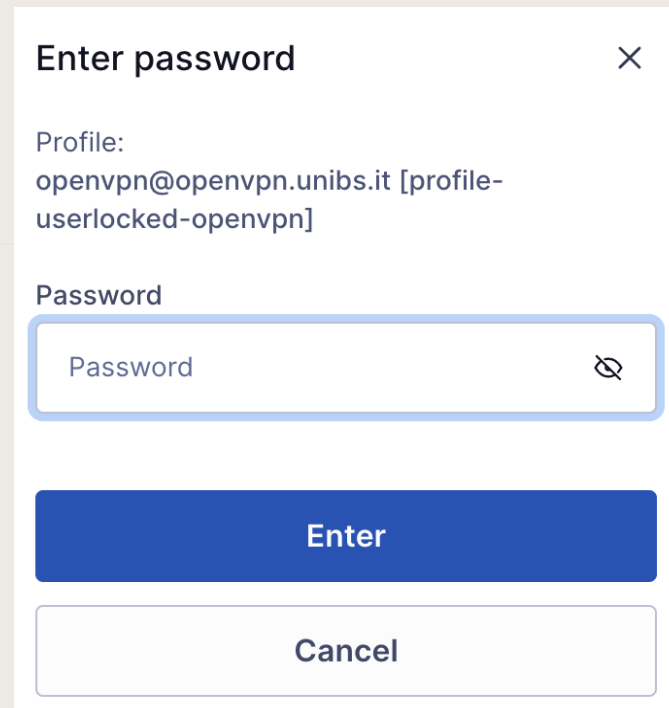
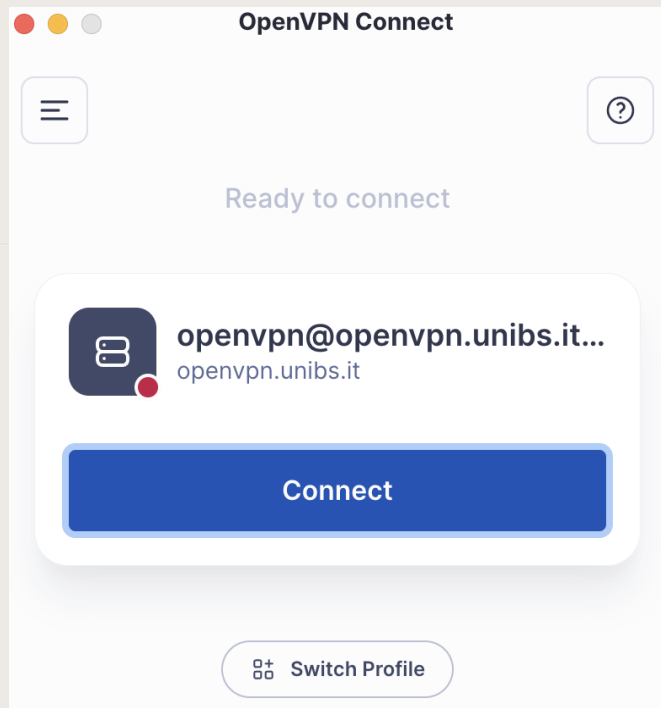
How to connect to the VPN



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Once the installation process is complete, the following screen will appear.
Click "**AGREE**" to proceed.

If you installed OpenVPN with the "Include connection profile (User-locked)" option,
your profile will already be present.
In this case, simply click "Connect" to connect to the VPN.
You will be asked to enter your password.



Access via IDP (IDP login NOT performed)

Login is possible with a username and password; however, login via IDP is also supported. In that case, after clicking "CONNECT", you will be redirected to the IDP website.

Here, two scenarios can occur:

- **If there is no active session, you need to enter a username and password**
- **If the session is active, you do not need to enter a username and password, but you must wait a few seconds for the connection; this is described in the next slide**

In this case, you will need to click "SIGN IN WITH SAML" and then enter your credentials.

Wait a few seconds for the connection to be established.



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Authentication required

×

Proceed with authentication in your system browser.

<https://openvpn-test.unibs.it/saml/red...>

Use this URL if the authentication page didn't open automatically

Retry

Cancel

The logo of the University of Brescia, featuring a circular seal with a building and the text "UNIVERSITAS STUDIORUM BRESCIAE".

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User Login

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Sign In with SAML

or sign in with credentials

Restricted area

To enter this site please proceed with login
Sign in to the service OpenVPN Test UniBS

UNIVERSITY

Username

Enter your username

Password

Enter your password

Sign in

?

If you don't remember your username or password, you can use the appropriate recovery services

Reset password

Recover username

About account management policy

About security policy

Authentication
successful

You may now close this window and return to
your VPN program

Access via IDP (IDP login already performed)

In this case, instead of the username and password screen appearing directly in the application, a page will open on the idp.unibs.it site

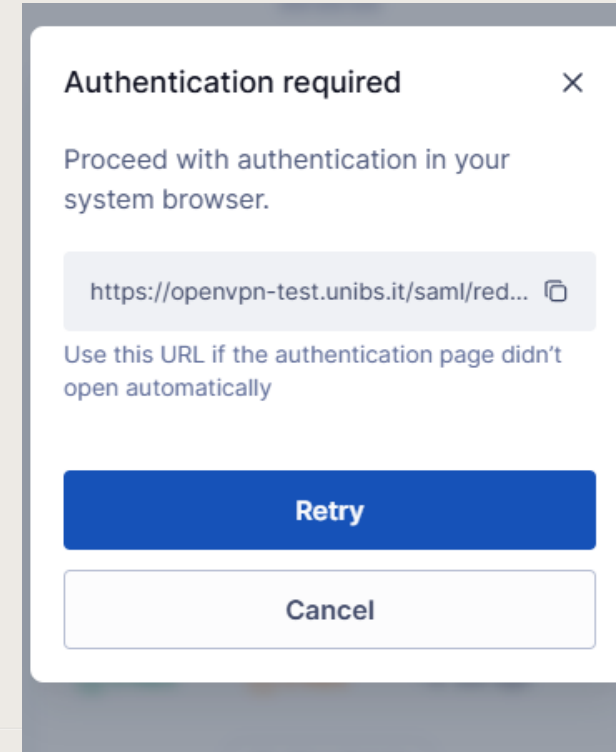
A screen similar to the one on the right will appear, with the wording "Authentication required"; a page will open toward the IDP site.

If IDP login has already been performed, "authentication successful" will be shown, and after a few seconds OpenVPN will connect.

If login has not been performed, the standard IDP page will appear, where you need to enter your username and password



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**Authentication
successful**

You may now close this window and return to
your VPN program

Save / change your password

By default, you must enter the password every time. You can save the password in the profile so that the connection happens automatically.

However, keep in mind that, per policy, the password must be changed every 3 months.

Therefore, you need to update the password every time it is changed.

The procedure is as follows:

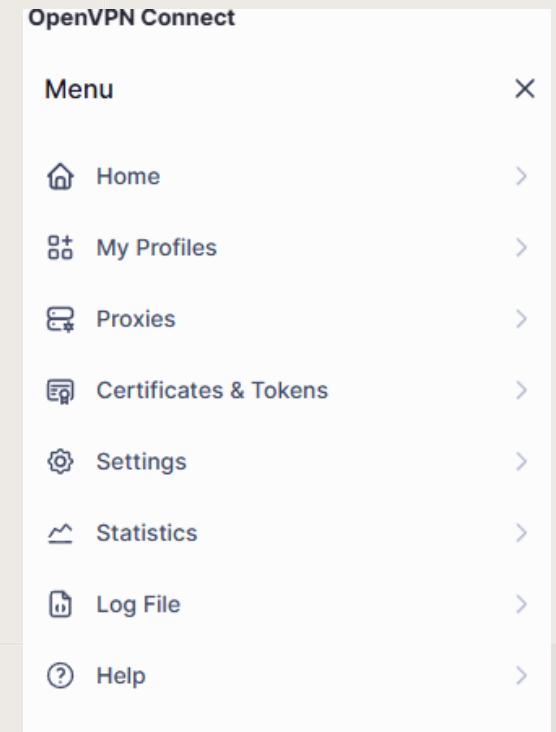
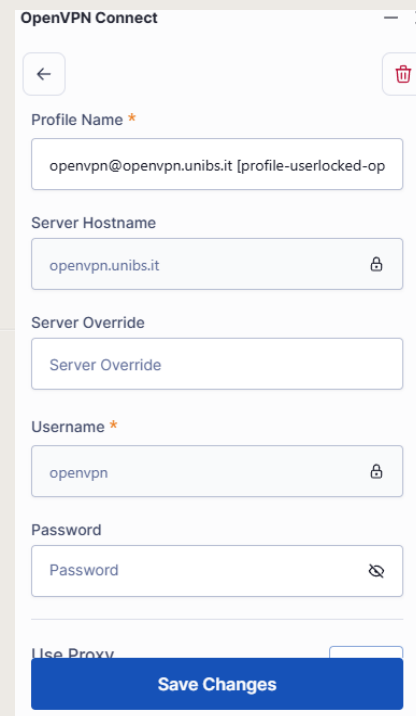
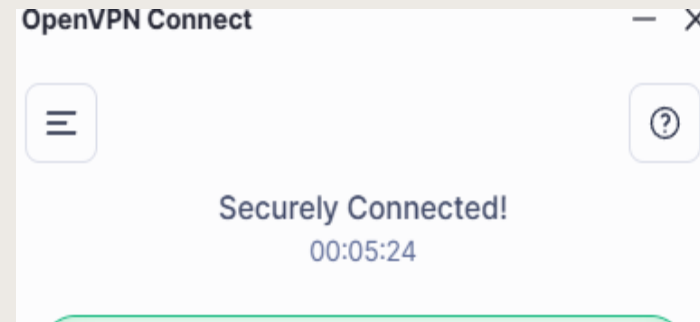
- Click the three horizontal lines in the top left
- Select My Profiles
- Select your profile, then click the pencil-shaped icon
- Enter the password in the password field, then click "Save Changes"

This way, the password will not be requested when you click Connect.

WARNING! The password cannot be saved when using IDP



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Verifying that the connection was successful



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If all steps have been completed successfully, the connection is working when a green dot appears, as shown in the image.

You can then start using the service.

