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# **python-eduvpn-client Documentation**

*Release 4.1.1*

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This is the documentation for the GNU/Linux desktop client and Python API for eduVPN. The Desktop client only works on Linux, but the command-line interface and most parts of the API are usable on other platforms also. Python 3.6+ is required.



The Desktop client only works on Linux. Python 3.6+ is required. It is recommended to use a deb or rpm package to install the eduVPN client. You can also install using pip from pypi or directly from Github. We distribute RPM packages for Fedora, and deb packages for Debian and Ubuntu.

The eduVPN client has been tested with:

- Debian 11 (Bullseye)
- Ubuntu 22.04 LTS
- Fedora 36 and 37

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**Note:** If your target is not supported you can make an issue on the [GitHub](#) and we will see if we can provide it. Right now we only provide *x86\_64* packages (we use a compiled dependency), if you want an ARM package for a certain target you can also make an issue.

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## 1.1 Debian (11) and Ubuntu (22.04 & 22.10)

```
$ sudo apt install apt-transport-https lsb-release wget
$ wget -O- https://app.eduvpn.org/linux/v4/deb/app+linux@eduvpn.org.asc | gpg --
→dearmor | sudo tee /usr/share/keyrings/eduvpn-v4.gpg >/dev/null
$ echo "deb [arch=$(dpkg --print-architecture) signed-by=/usr/share/keyrings/eduvpn-
→v4.gpg] https://app.eduvpn.org/linux/v4/deb/ $(lsb_release -cs) main" | sudo tee /
→etc/apt/sources.list.d/eduvpn-v4.list
$ sudo apt update
$ sudo apt install eduvpn-client
```

## 1.2 Fedora (36, 37 & 38)

```
$ curl -O https://app.eduvpn.org/linux/v4/rpm/app+linux@eduvpn.org.asc
$ sudo rpm --import app+linux@eduvpn.org.asc
$ cat << 'EOF' | sudo tee /etc/yum.repos.d/python-eduvpn-client_v4.repo
[python-eduvpn-client_v4]
name=eduVPN for Linux 4.x (Fedora $releasever)
baseurl=https://app.eduvpn.org/linux/v4/rpm/fedora-$releasever-$basearch
pgpcheck=1
EOF
$ sudo dnf install eduvpn-client
```

## 1.3 CentOS (Stream 9)

```
$ curl -O https://app.eduvpn.org/linux/v4/rpm/app+linux@eduvpn.org.asc
$ sudo rpm --import app+linux@eduvpn.org.asc
$ cat << 'EOF' | sudo tee /etc/yum.repos.d/python-eduvpn-client_v4.repo
[python-eduvpn-client_v4]
name=eduVPN for Linux 4.x (CentOS Stream 9)
baseurl=https://app.eduvpn.org/linux/v4/rpm/centos-stream+epel-next-9-$basearch
pgpcheck=1
EOF
$ sudo dnf install eduvpn-client
```

## 1.4 Arch (Unofficial)

There is an unofficial package in the [Arch User Repository \(AUR\)](#).

## 1.5 Pip installation

We also provide pip packages. These are useful if your distro is not officially supported in our packaging (yet).

### 1.5.1 Dependencies

To manually install the eduVPN package via Pip you first need to satisfy the dependencies.

For Debian or Ubuntu:

```
$ sudo apt update
$ sudo apt install \
    gir1.2-nm-1.0 \
    gir1.2-secret-1 \
    gir1.2-gtk-3.0 \
    gir1.2-notify-0.7 \
    libgirepository1.0-dev \
    libdbus-glib-1-dev \
    python3-gi \
    python3-setuptools \
```

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```
python3-pytest \  
python3-wheel \  
python3-dbus \  
network-manager-openvpn-gnome
```

For Fedora:

```
$ sudo dnf install \  
    libnotify \  
    libsecret \  
    gtk3 \  
    python3-dbus \  
    python3-gobject \  
    python3-pytest \  
    python3-cairo-devel \  
    gobject-introspection-devel \  
    cairo-gobject-devel \  
    dbus-python-devel
```

## 1.5.2 Pip commands

You can then continue with installing via Pip:

```
$ pip install "eduvpn-client[gui]"
```

Or, if you want to try out the bleeding edge development version:

```
$ pip install git+https://github.com/eduvpn/python-eduvpn-client.git
```

## 1.6 Issues

If you experience any issues you could and should report them at our [issue tracker](#). Please don't forget to mention your OS, method of installation, eduVPN client version and instructions on how to reproduce the problem. If you have a problem enabling your VPN connection please also examine the `journalctl -u NetworkManager` logs. The log file of the eduVPN app can also help us figure out the problem, running the gui or cli in debug mode (-d) flag will print debug logging to the log file located at: `~/config/eduvpn/log` or `~/config/letsconnect/log` for Let's Connect!.

## 1.7 Source code

Development of this project takes place on [github](#). You can find the source code and all releases there.

## 1.8 Contributing

Contributions are more than welcome! If you experience any problems let us know in the bug tracker. We accept patches in the form of github pull requests. Please make sure your code works with python3 and is pycodestyle (formerly pep8) compatible. Also make sure the test suite actually passes all tests. Translations are also welcome!



Depending on the client that you want to update from, there might be some manual steps required before/after installing.

For most version updates you can simply do an update with your package manager.

## 2.1 Additional instructions when coming from 3.x

When upgrading from version 3 to the newest version (currently 4.x), there are some manual steps needed for updating. The main part is that we have moved to a new repository for this major version update. We will go over the distro specific update instructions (distros that are not listed here do not need specific instructions, go to [Installation](#)).

Before you continue, it might be wise to close the client if you have it open. Note that once the new client is installed, you will have to add your servers again.

### 2.1.1 Debian and Ubuntu (both x86\_64)

First we must remove the old files, repository and associated signing keys:

```
$ rm -r ~/.config/eduvpn
$ sudo rm /etc/apt/sources.list.d/eduvpn.list
$ sudo rm /etc/apt/trusted.gpg.d/eduvpn-client.gpg
$ sudo rm /usr/share/keyrings/eduvpn.gpg
$ sudo apt-key del 9BF9BF69E5DDE77F5ABE20DC966A924CE91888D2
```

It's fine if you get errors that some of these entries don't exist.

You can then continue installing the new client by adding the new repository if you have Ubuntu >= 22.04 or Debian 11:

```
$ sudo apt install apt-transport-https lsb-release wget
$ wget -O- https://app.eduvpn.org/linux/v4/deb/app+linux@eduvpn.org.asc | gpg --
↳dearmor | sudo tee /usr/share/keyrings/eduvpn-v4.gpg >/dev/null
```

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```
$ echo "deb [arch=$(dpkg --print-architecture) signed-by=/usr/share/keyrings/eduvpn-
↳v4.gpg] https://app.eduvpn.org/linux/v4/deb/ $(lsb_release -cs) main" | sudo tee /
↳etc/apt/sources.list.d/eduvpn-v4.list
$ sudo apt update
$ sudo apt upgrade
```

For other Debian based distros, you can use Pip . If you do the upgrade via Pip, remove the old client first with:

```
$ sudo apt purge eduvpn-client
$ sudo apt autoremove
```

Then install via Pip, see [Pip Installation](#)

## 2.1.2 Fedora (36 & 37, both x86\_64)

First we must remove the old files, repository and associated signing keys:

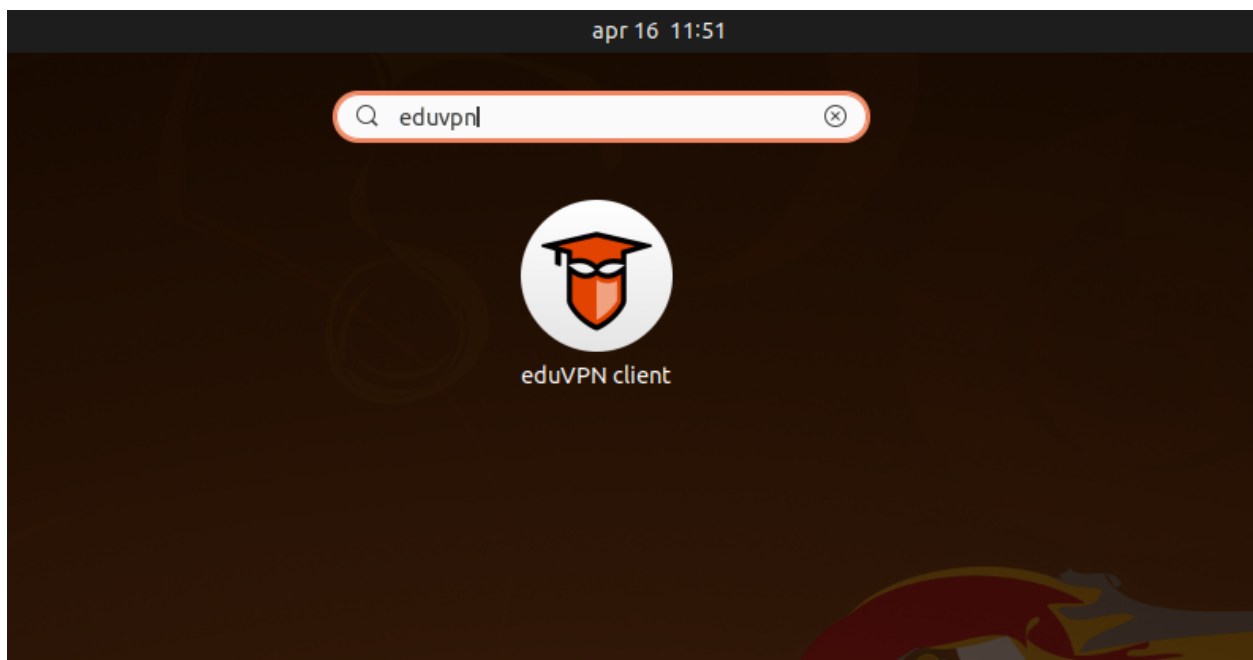
```
$ rm -r ~/.config/eduvpn
$ sudo dnf copr remove @eduvpn/eduvpn-client
```

You can then continue installing the new client by adding the new repository:

```
$ curl -O https://app.eduvpn.org/linux/v4/rpm/app+linux@eduvpn.org.asc
$ sudo rpm --import app+linux@eduvpn.org.asc
$ cat << 'EOF' | sudo tee /etc/yum.repos.d/python-eduvpn-client_v4.repo
[python-eduvpn-client_v4]
name=eduVPN for Linux 4.x (Fedora $releasever)
baseurl=https://app.eduvpn.org/linux/v4/rpm/fedora-$releasever-$basearch
gpgcheck=1
EOF
$ sudo dnf --refresh update
```

### 3.1 Graphical User Interface

If you have used a RPM or DEB package to install eduVPN, a desktop entry is available:



If you installed the package by hand with for example pip, you can run it manually:

```
$ eduvpn-gui
```

## 3.2 Command Line Interface

There is also a command line interface available for eduVPN since 2.0. To see the available subcommands:

```
$ eduvpn-cli --help
```

There is also an interactive mode that is aimed to be more user friendly.

```
$ eduvpn-cli interactive
```

### 4.1 Notes about code

Use the decorator `eduvpn.utils.run_in_background_thread` to schedule long running action in the background to avoid blocking the main thread.

Never call GTK functions directly from a background thread, use `eduvpn.utils.run_in_main_gtk_thread` to decorate functions that must run on the main thread (eg. UI updates).

This library closely follows `eduvpn-common`. To see the API for that, [see here](#)

Most of the interaction with this library is in `eduvpn.app`, the ui is in `eduvpn.ui.ui` and the cli in `eduvpn.cli`. In these files you can see lots of state transitions defined. The state transitions that are used are closely in line with the Finite State machine from the `eduvpn-common` library. A figure for this state machine can be [found here](#).

### 4.2 Running the tests

To run the automated tests, use the following command from the root of the project.

```
$ pytest
```

### 4.3 How to make a release

#### 4.3.1 Prepare the code

- Determine version number (for example 4.1.1)
- Compose a list of changes (check issue tracker)
- Make sure the test suite runs with python3

- Set version number in `setup.py`, and `eduvpn.spec` and ensure `eduvpn-common` has the targeted version set
- add changes to `CHANGES.md`
- Commit
- Press release button on github. List all changes here also
- Check if GitHub Actions builds.
- The release will trigger a build on readthedocs, but the active version still needs to be set manually here: <https://readthedocs.org/projects/python-eduvpn-client/versions/>

### 4.3.2 Upload to PyPi

do a manual wheel upload using `twine`:

```
$ rm dist/*
$ python setup.py bdist_wheel sdist
$ twine upload dist/*
```

There is also a make shortcut:

```
$ make twine-upload
```

You should also make sure that `eduvpn-common` is updated in PyPi!

### 4.3.3 Building RPMs

We use `builder.rpm`, to build the RPM packages.

### 4.3.4 Build Debian packages

We use `nbuilder.deb`, to build the DEB packages.



This chapter contains some known issues for the Linux client that are not possible or hacky to fix in the client itself

### 5.1 OpenVPN <= 2.5.7 and OpenSSL 3

When your distribution uses OpenSSL 3 and an OpenVPN version before 2.5.8, you might get the following error in the NetworkManager logging after connecting to a server that uses OpenVPN:

```
$ Cipher BF-CBC not supported
```

This means that OpenVPN is trying to initialize this legacy/deprecated cipher, even though it is not used in the config. The fix is in OpenVPN version starting at 2.5.8.



## CHAPTER 6

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### Indices and tables

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- `genindex`
- `modindex`
- `search`