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## [Microsoft to Introduce VPN Tunneling Protocol](#)

### *In Windows Vista and Longhorn Server*

A new secure VPN tunneling protocol is cooking in the labs at Microsoft. The new form of VPN tunnel is called SSTP (Secure Socket Tunneling Protocol). Microsoft is scheduled to introduce SSTP in Windows Vista Service Pack 1 and in Longhorn Server. Currently, there are issues involving VPN connections in relation to PPTP GRE port blocking or L2TP ESP port blocking via a firewall or a NAT router, preventing the client to reach the server. Microsoft is laboring to deliver ubiquitous connectivity through VPN. The Secure Socket Tunneling Protocol "will allow VPN tunnel connectivity across any scenarios i.e. behind NAT routers or firewalls or web proxies. And the best part of it - your end user remote access experience (like using RAS dialer) and network administration experience (like using RRAS server) remains same as before. i.e. SSTP based VPN tunnel just acts as a one more VPN tunnel that gets plugged into MS VPN client and VPN servers," revealed Samir Jain, Lead Program Manager, RRAS, Windows Enterprise Networking, adding that the SSTP based VPN protocol will be made available as a beta together with Longhorn server Beta3. Via the Secure Socket Tunneling Protocol (SSTP), the VPN tunnel will function over Secure-HTTP. In this manner, the problems with VPN connections based on the Point-to-Point Tunneling Protocol (PPTP) or Layer 2 Tunneling Protocol (L2TP) will be eliminated. Web proxies, firewalls and Network Address Translation (NAT) routers located on the path between clients and servers will no longer block VPN connections. "The good part of SSTP is it integrates with MS RAS client/server infrastructure seamlessly. For example, SSTP supports password + strong user authentication (like smart-card, RSA SecurID, etc) using various PPP authentication algorithm. Other features of RAS (like generating profiles using connection manager administration kit, remote access policies, etc) - just works - similar to other PPTP/L2TP," added Samir Jain.