# SSH forward tunnel with tsocks

It is sometimes useful to open a tunnel to a given server, and make sure some programs access the network through that tunnel. For example, this could be used to avoid sniffing while browsing[1]. Another example: only after connecting to the EPFL "tremplin" server[2] can we access the school's private network.

The `with-tsocks` script is used to establish such SSH tunnel with SOCKS[3], and route a given command through it.

## 1   Download

with-tsocks is available both as a Pacman[4] package (x86_64 only), or in source form. For source or Pacman installation, please refer to the Generic download and install instructions[5].

- Latest source tarball[6]

- PGP signature[7]

## 2   Usage

First of all, you should edit `/etc/tsocks.conf` and set a forwarding port there (using the `server_port` variable). Pick a value larger than 10000. I use port 19999. The file should look like this:

```
server = 127.0.0.1
server_port = 19999
server_type = 5
```

`with-tsocks` can be configured either through command line options or environment variables. Command line options take precedence over environment variable. The environment variables, and their respective command line options, are:

- `WITH_TSOCKS_SERVER`: contains the server argument given to ssh, with the username. It is of the form `username@example.com`. The equivalent command line option is `--server=SERVER`. This parameter is *required*.

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[1] http://www.spencerstirling.com/computergeek/sshtunnel.html
[2] http://tremplin.epfl.ch/ssh.html
[3] http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/SOCKS
[4] http://www.archlinux.org/pacman/
[5] http://svasey.org/projects/download-install-doc_en.html
[6] http://svasey.org/public-repo.svasey.org/src/with-tsocks.tar.gz
[7] http://svasey.org/public-repo.svasey.org/src/with-tsocks.tar.gz.sig

- `WITH_TSOCKS_SSHOPTS`: space-separated additionnal options to pass to ssh. The equivalent command line option is `--sshopts=OPTS`

- `WITH_TSOCKS_NOPASS`: whether `with-tsocks` should ask for a password when connecting to the SSH server. If 1, do not ask, otherwise ask. The equivalent command line option is `--nopass`

- `WITH_TSOCKS_FORWARD_PORT`: the port number to use for local forwarding. The equivalent command line option is `--forward-port=PORT`. This parameter is *required*.

`with-tsocks` takes as argument the program to run through the tunnel. For example, to run mutt[8] through an ssh tunnel at `example.com`, you would do something like:

```
$ with-tsocks --server=luser@example.com --forward-port=19999 mutt
```

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[8]`http://www.mutt.org/`