# VPNGate Guide for Umamusume Players

# 1. What is VPNGate?

VPNGate (https://www.vpngate.net/en/) is a site that provides volunteer-hosted VPN servers. It is free of charge and provides Japanese connections.

# 2. What type of connection should I use?

According to the site, you can use any type of connection indicated on the site. However, this guide will focus on the OpenVPN approach as it is cross-platform and includes user-friendly features mentioned later.

# 3. How to find out if my IP/VPN is being blocked by Umamusume?

For Windows users, check for both of the sections below. Android/iOS users can check for the first section only.

Every check must pass for a VPN-less game experience.

## Umamusume (Operated by Cygames)

1. Open your browser.
2. Visit the url "https://api-umamusume.cygames.jp/".
3. There should be an error code shown:
   a. If it says "Access Denied", your IP is BANNED.
   b. If it says "Not Found", your IP should be 99% SAFE TO GO.

## DMM Game Player (Operated by DMM)

This method does not 100% work, but is the simplest way to check.
1. Open your browser.
2. Visit the url "https://bitcoin.dmm.com".
3. There should be an error code shown:
   a. If it says "This page is not available in your area.", your IP is *probably* BANNED.
   b. Else, if you see a normal webpage with fancy crypto stuff, your IP should not be BANNED.

# 4. How to find a working profile?

Go to VPNGate and find a Japanese profile. (Some other countries may work too but less likely.)
Try every configuration file available on the site by using the above-mentioned method. Specifically, prevent picking servers with the following IPs as these IPs are *extremely likely* to be blocked.
   1. 219.100.x.x
(More coming soon)

But, I automated the server-testing process and you can find it by a web-based tool: https://umavpn.top/. You are encouraged to use this if you are a newcomer. The guide would majorly rely on this tool.

# 5. How to use an OpenVPN profile?

## Windows

1. Download and install the OpenVPN Client from here: https://openvpn.net/community-downloads/
   For most modern systems, click on the "Windows 64-bit MSI installer" to download.
   Note: If you obtained the OpenVPN profile from VPNGate official site, <u>choose the version 2.5.8</u>. Higher versions are not compatible with these.
2. Obtain your OpenVPN profile by the methods mentioned in part 4.
3. You should be able to double-click your .ovpn profile in Windows Explorer (The file icon should change like this)
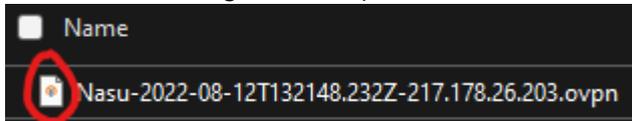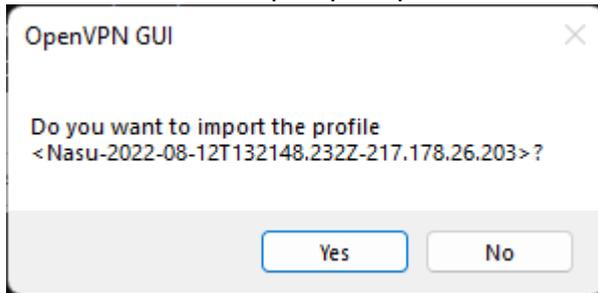


   Alternatively, you can launch the OpenVPN client manually by searching "OpenVPN GUI" in the start menu.
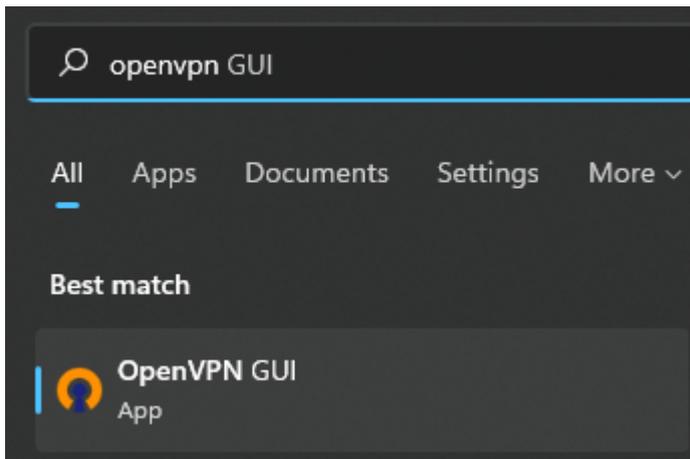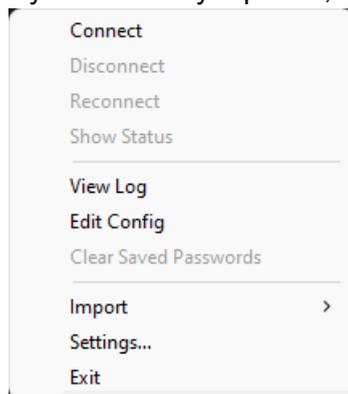


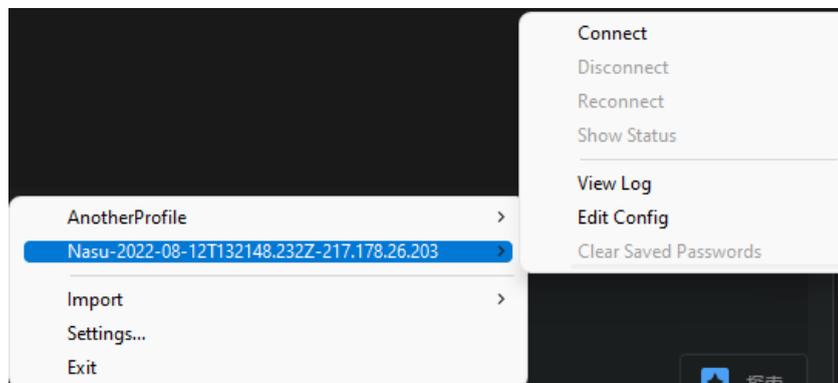   Then right click the taskbar icon  -> Import -> Import file… and choose the downloaded profile.
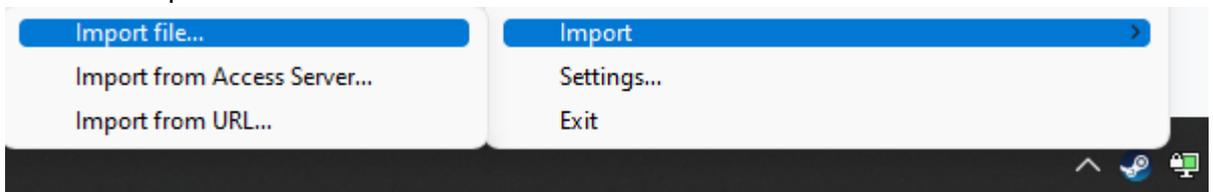
4. Click "Yes" on the import prompt.



5. Right-click on the OpenVPN Client icon  :
   a. If you have only 1 profile, click "Connect".

   

   b. If you have more than 1 profile, navigate to the one you've just imported and click "Connect".

   

# Split-tunneling

On Windows, it is a complicated process to separate your normal traffic with Umamusume's. However, great speed improvement is expected once setup is finished.

### Technical explanation

Basically, we can ask OpenVPN to only route traffic through VPN according to the destination IP. However, Umamusume's service is based on Akamai, which has an ample of IPs for load balancing. We can let Windows to only resolve the domains associated with the services to 1 singular IP by modifying the <u>hosts file</u>. The game will still work, because the IP is still a valid Akamai service. Skipping this step, however, will lead to a pretty high chance that after several minutes of gameplay, the domains will resolve to a different IP which causes the predefined routes to not work and you will be prompted with error because now the game's traffic is routed to your *normal* network.

**Proceed with caution because modifying system files is required. Make a restore point/backup with the files you edited just in case.**
1. Modifying the hosts file
   This step is only required **for once**. (Re-do this when you face connection problems)
   1. Download the script from here:
      [Umamusume IP Pinner.ps1](#)
      (Update 2023-11-09: Changed the DNS server to 1.1.1.1 because there seem to be some timeout issues with the original server)
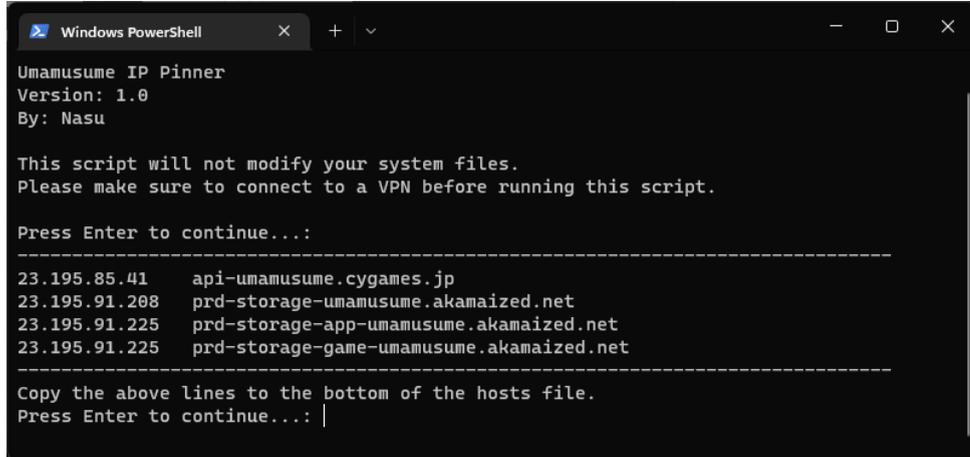      (Update 2024-03-16: Removed pinning for DMM servers as their IP doesn't change a lot)
      (If you feel skeptical, ask a programming friend to explain the code to you.)
   2. (Optional, but recommended) Connect to the VPN by following the previous part. This is to make sure that the IP returned from the DNS is closer to the VPN server, to decrease the overall latency.
   3. Right-click the script, and click "Run with Powershell".
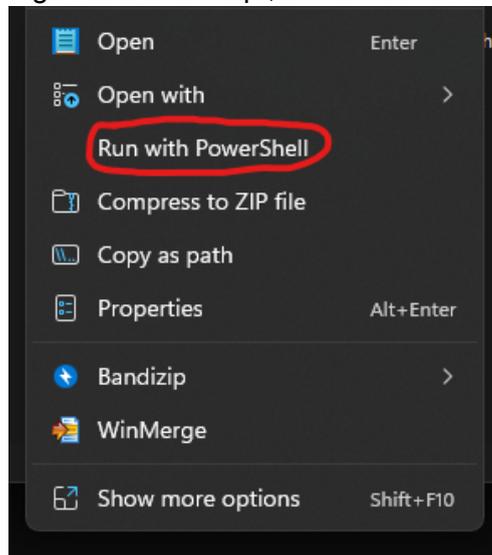
4. If you see a screen pops up and instantly closes, you may need to allow the script to run. Press Win+X, click on "Windows Powershell (Administrator)", then type this command
Set-ExecutionPolicy RemoteSigned
Re-run step 3 after this.
5. Press Enter once you are ready. You should see a screen that looks like this:



(You can verify the IPs are really Japanese by querying services like https://ipinfo.io/. If not, you have probably not connected to a Japanese VPN properly. This will not affect the game's functionality, though.)
6. Select the lines between the two dashed lines, and right-click to copy. Alternatively, you can use Ctrl+Shift+C after selecting.
7. Open Windows Explorer, and type "%windir%\System32\drivers\etc\" on the address bar.
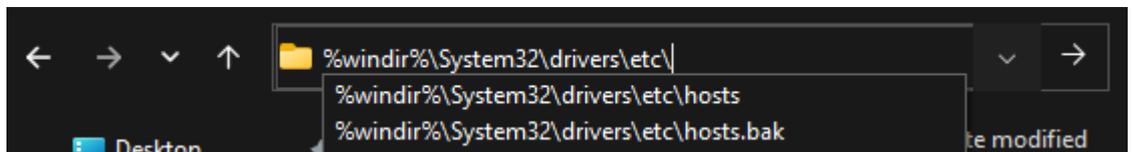


8. Open a new Windows Explorer and navigate to a temporary place, e.g. Desktop.
9. Drag the hosts file from the etc folder to your folder in step 8. Provide the permission if prompted.
10. Open your favorite editor, then open the hosts file.
11. Paste the lines to the **bottom** of the file, and save it. It may look like this:

```
 1  # Copyright (c) 1993-2009 Microsoft Corp.
 2  #
 3  # This is a sample HOSTS file used by Microsoft TCP/IP for Windows.
 4  #
 5  # This file contains the mappings of IP addresses to host names. Each
 6  # entry should be kept on an individual line. The IP address should
 7  # be placed in the first column followed by the corresponding host name.
 8  # The IP address and the host name should be separated by at least one
 9  # space.
10  #
11  # Additionally, comments (such as these) may be inserted on individual
12  # lines or following the machine name denoted by a '#' symbol.
13  #
14  # For example:
15  #
16  #      102.54.94.97     rhino.acme.com          # source server
17  #       38.25.63.10     x.acme.com              # x client host
18
19  # localhost name resolution is handled within DNS itself.
20  #    127.0.0.1       localhost
21  #    ::1             localhost
22  23.195.85.41     api-umamusume.cygames.jp
23  23.195.91.208    prd-storage-umamusume.akamaized.net
24  23.195.91.225    prd-storage-app-umamusume.akamaized.net
25  23.195.91.225    prd-storage-game-umamusume.akamaized.net
```

           12. Drag the hosts file back to the original folder.
2. Modifying the OVPN profile
   This step is required **once per profile** if you didn't select the Patched option via the web-based tool, or you have your own profile.
   1. Open your profile with your favorite editor.
   2. Append these lines to the end of the profile.
      ```
      route-nopull

      dhcp-option DNS 1.1.1.1

      route api-umamusume.cygames.jp
      route prd-storage-umamusume.akamaized.net
      route prd-storage-app-umamusume.akamaized.net
      route prd-storage-game-umamusume.akamaized.net
      route apidgp-gameplayer.games.dmm.com
      ```
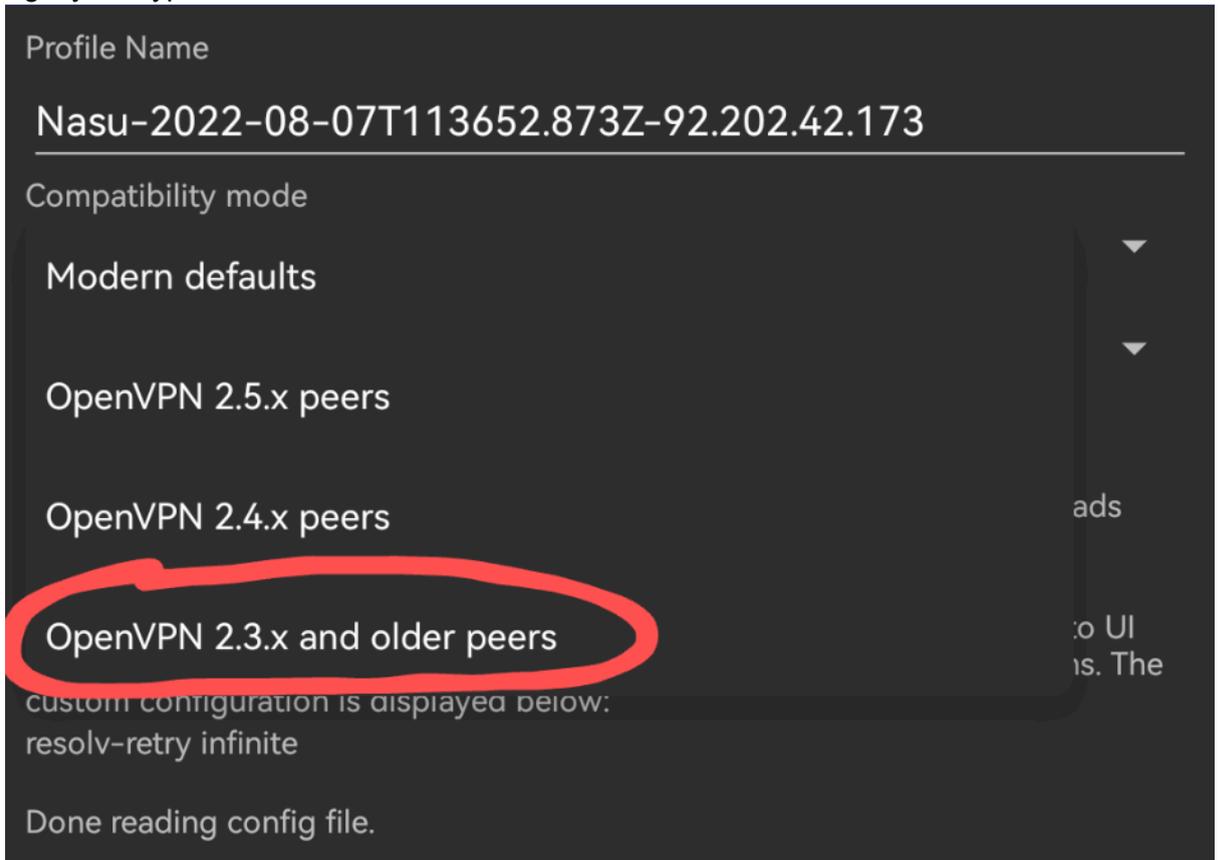   3. Save and import the profile to the OpenVPN client. Replace when necessary.

Verify your result by opening an IP checker like https://ipinfo.io and Umamusume. You should be able to play the game while keeping your normal traffic away from the VPN, which will greatly improve latency and performance.


# Android

1. Download the OpenVPN client from here:
   https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=de.blinkt.openvpn
2. Obtain your OpenVPN profile by the methods mentioned in part 4.
3. Open the app.
4. Import the OpenVPN profile.
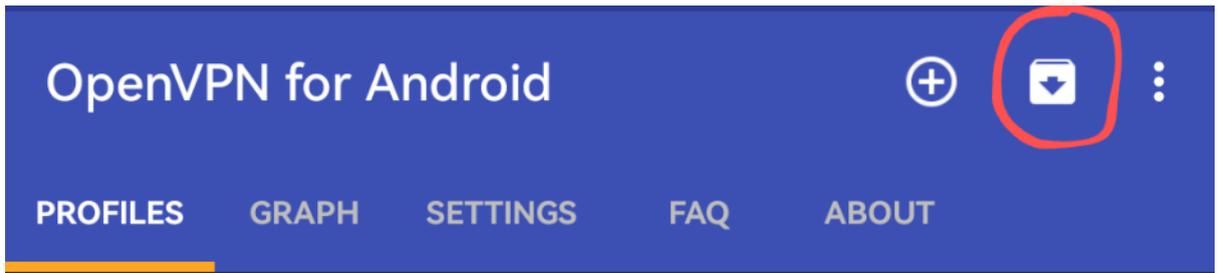
5. Make sure to check this or it will fail to connect due to VPNGate hosters using a legacy encryption method.



Profile Name

Nasu-2022-08-07T113652.873Z-92.202.42.173

Compatibility mode

Modern defaults

OpenVPN 2.5.x peers

OpenVPN 2.4.x peers                                    ads

OpenVPN 2.3.x and older peers                        to UI
                                                      is. The
custom configuration is displayed below:
resolv-retry infinite

Done reading config file.

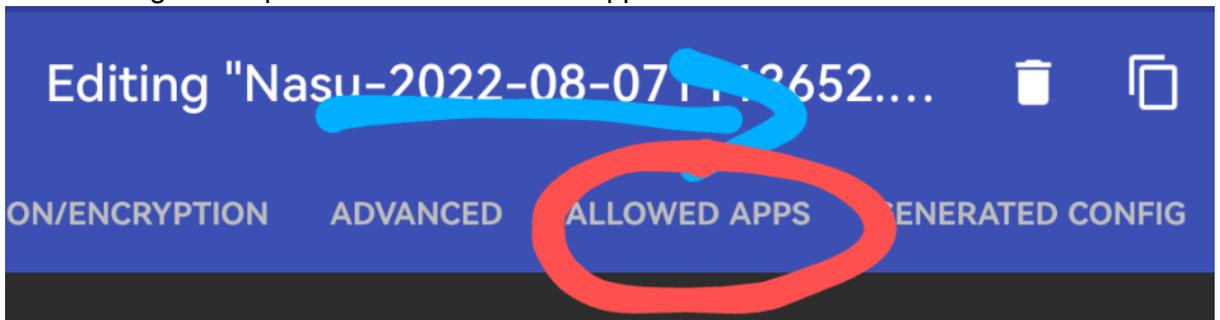6. Press the tick icon and tap on the profile name to start the connection.

## Split tunneling

Optionally, but strongly recommended, to speed up other applications, you may choose to only let Umamusume's traffic flow through VPN:
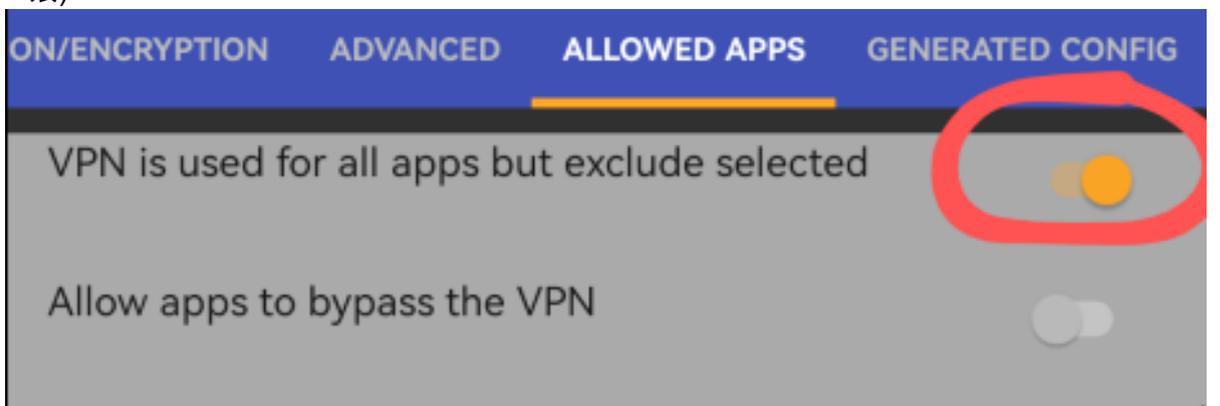
1. Click on the pen icon of the previously-imported profile.
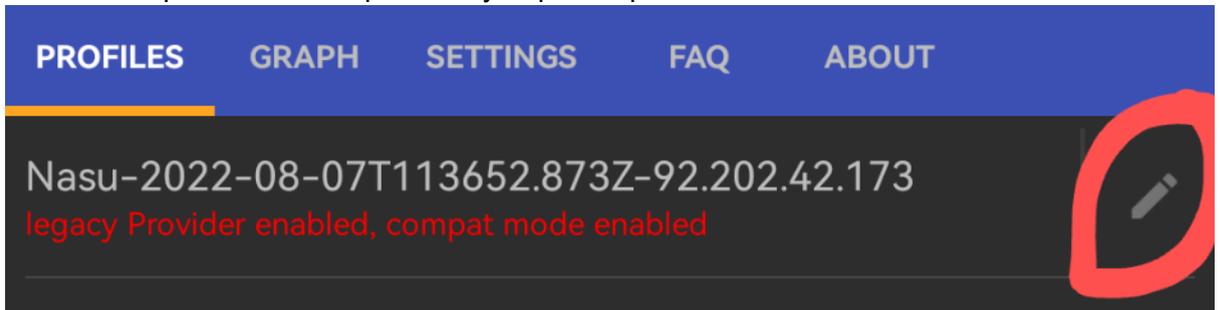


2. Scroll through the top tabs and find "Allowed Apps".



3. Uncheck this option, and scroll through the application list to check Umamusume (ウマ娘)



4. Return to the main menu and connect as usual.

## iOS

1. Open the App store and search for "openvpn". It should be the first item. (Make sure to not download any other apps as they are probably fake)
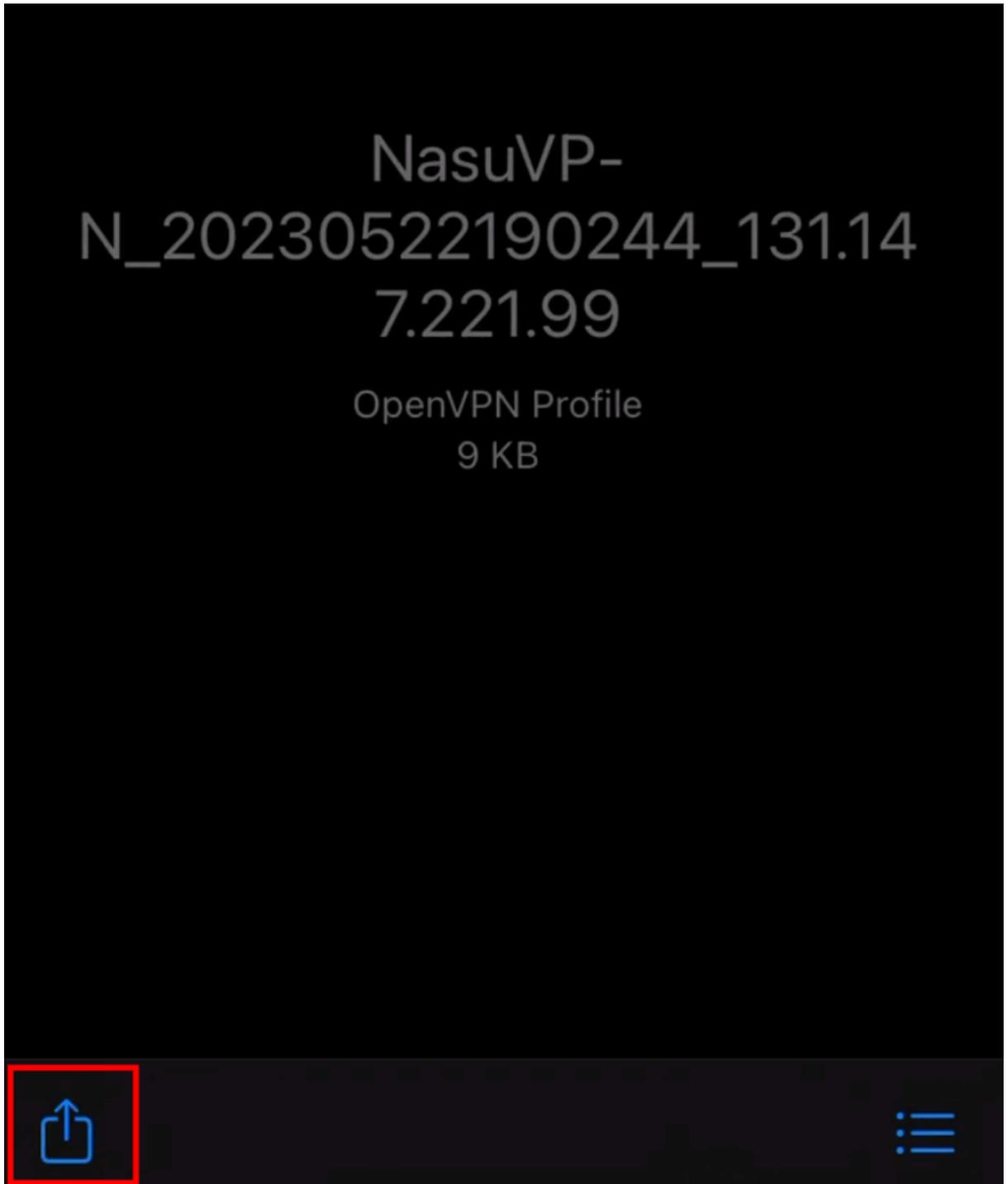2. Click the "Get" or the cloud icon to download the app.
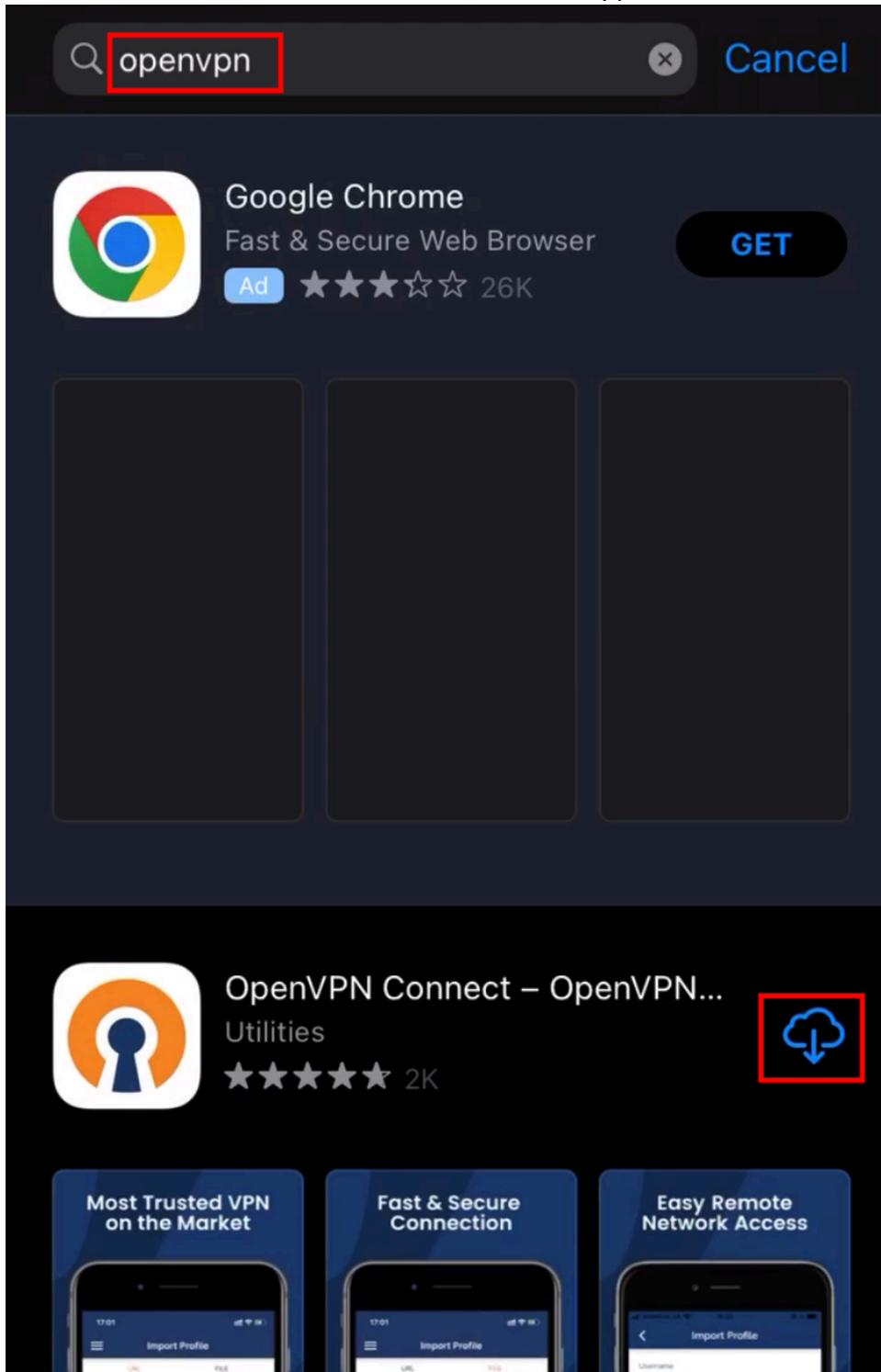


3. Obtain your OpenVPN profile by the methods mentioned in part 4.
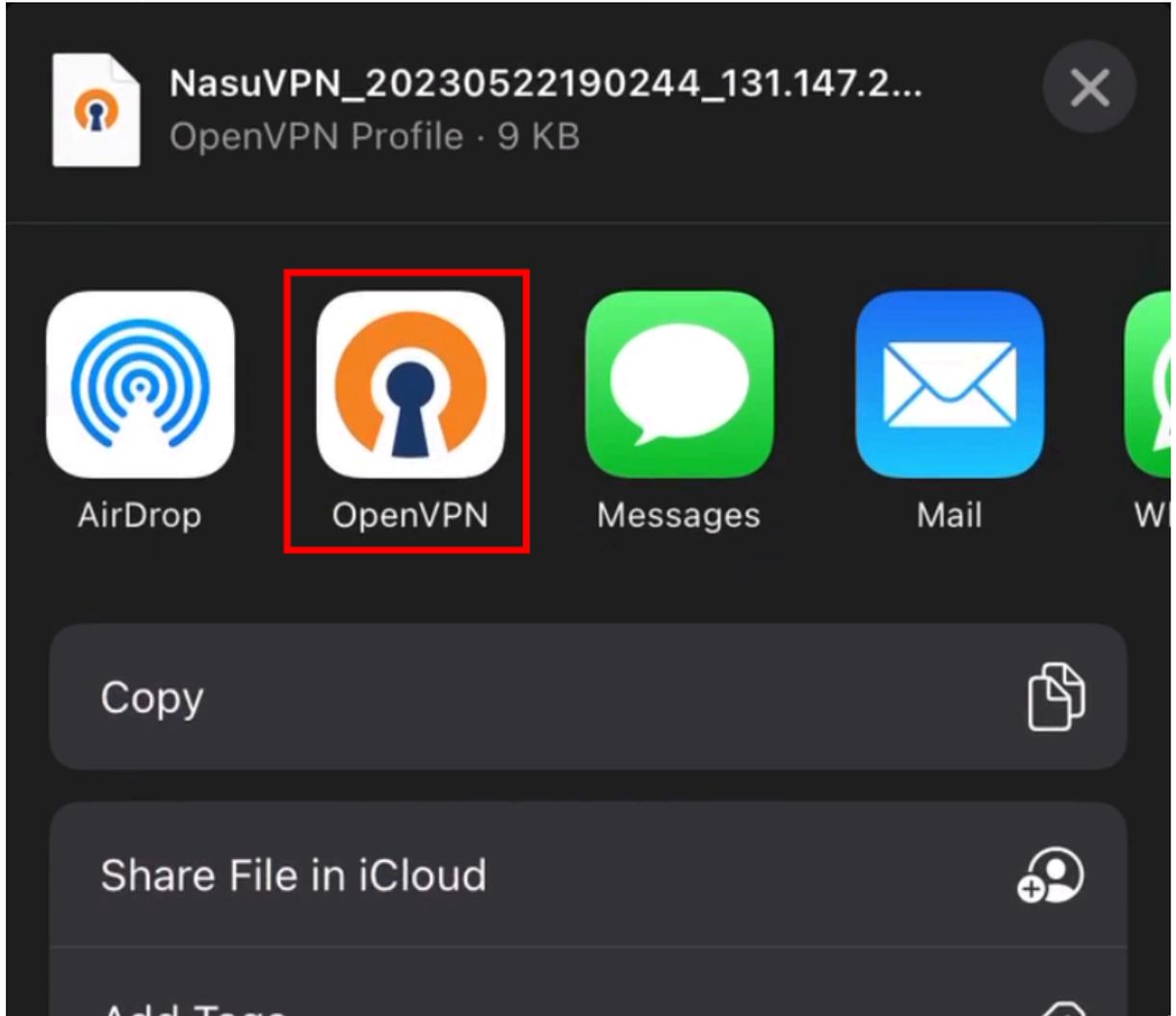4. Open the Files app, and navigate to "iCloud > Downloads.
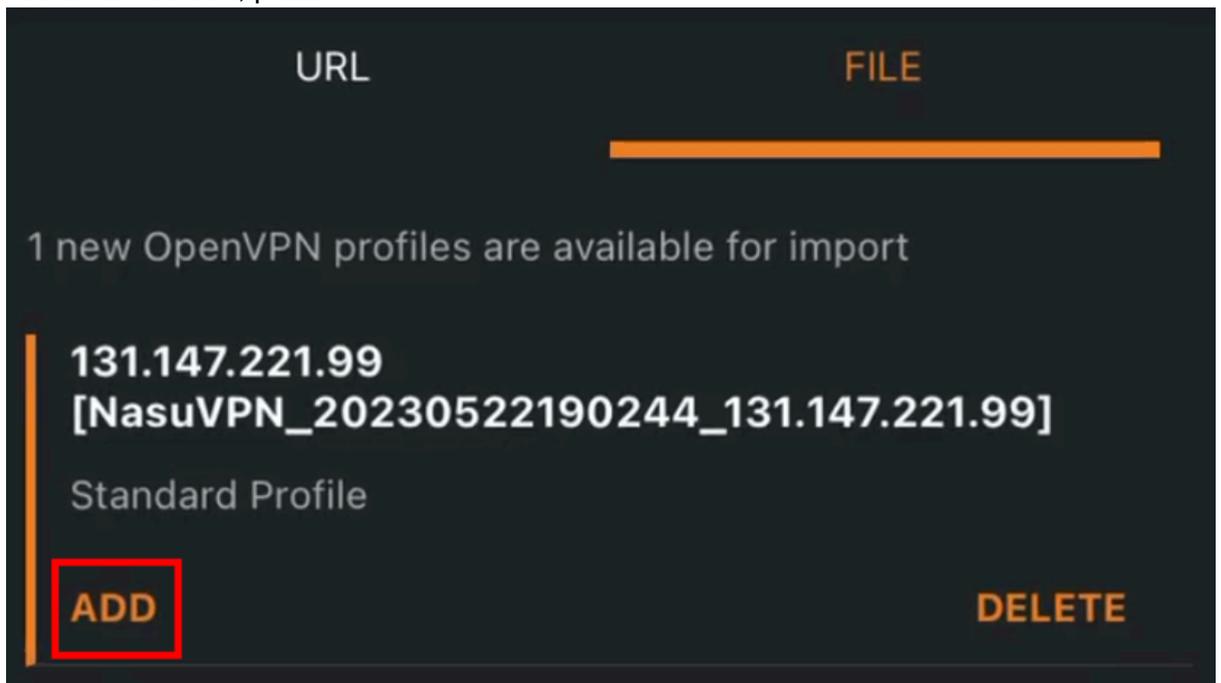
5. Click on the profile you had just obtained.
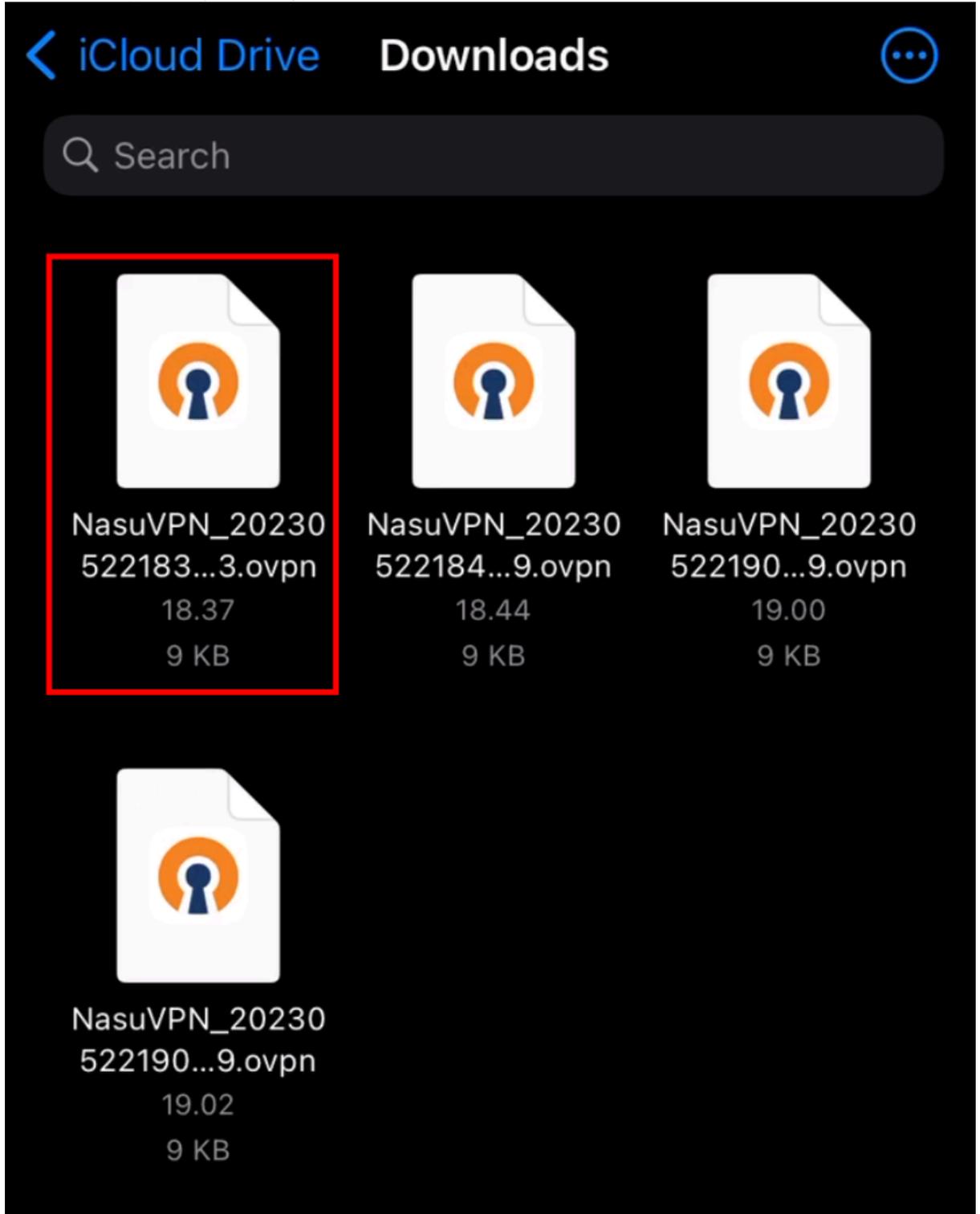
6. Click on the "Share" icon on the left-bottom corner.

NasuVP-
N_20230522190244_131.14
7.221.99

OpenVPN Profile
9 KB

7. Choose "OpenVPN".



8. At the new screen, press "ADD".

9. Press "Connect".

Profile Name

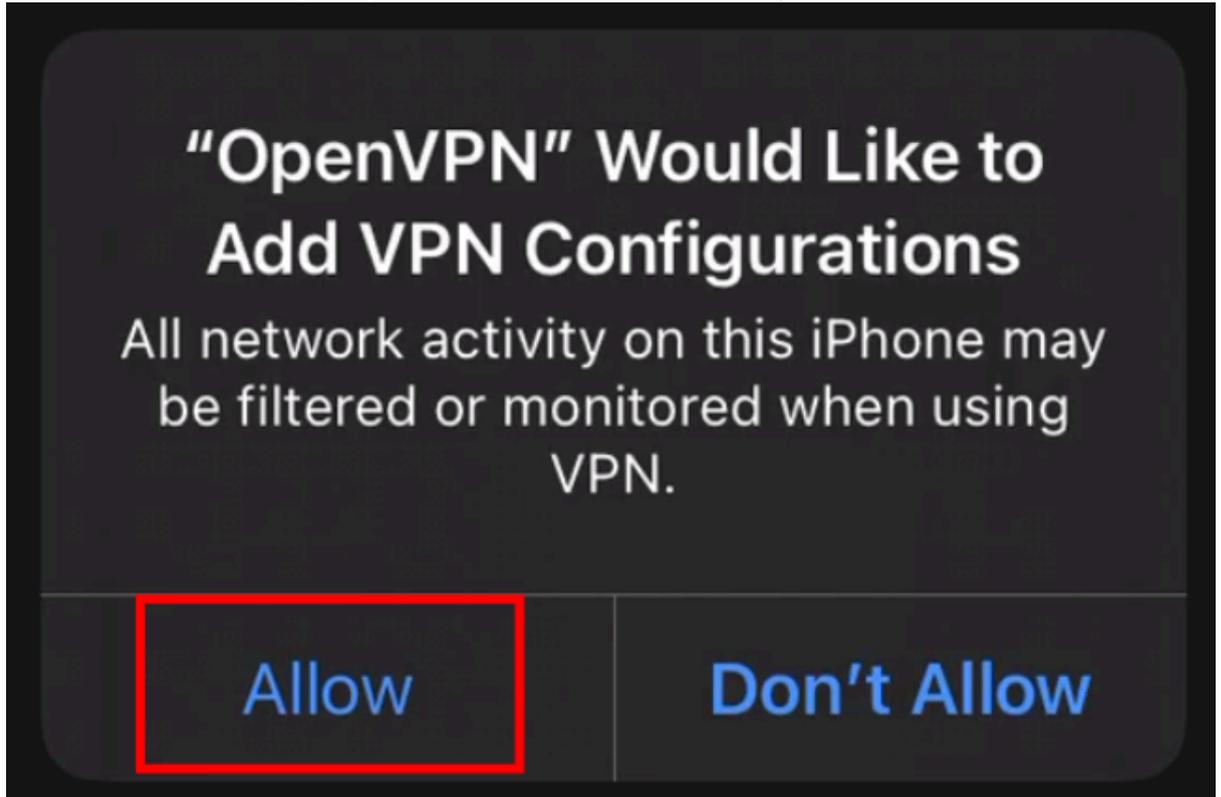131.147.221.99 [NasuVPN_20230522190244_131....

Server Hostname (locked)

131.147.221.99

PROFILES          CONNECT

10. Choose "Allow" on the prompt. Authenticate when necessary.



11. The connection should be established shortly.

# 6. FAQ

1. After connecting, the game still doesn't connect.
   - Make sure you don't have any kind of firewall/antivirus on your device that would interfere with the connection. (e.g., Cloudflare WARP)
   - If you are idle for some time (10 minutes or so), the connection may be disconnected. Simply reconnect to resume.
2. I cannot connect to the server!
   a. You may be using an outdated profile. Re-obtain your profile by referencing the steps in step 4.
   b. Your ISP may be blocking VPN connections. For example, countries with network censorship, enterprise/school networks, or firewalled networks.
   c. The server may be misbehaving. Change to another profile.
   d. Every 3 months, VPNGate's certificate will expire. We can't do anything about this and we need to wait them to update it.
   (Reference: https://openvpn.net/faq/some-common-errors-and-solutions/ )
3. When connecting to DMM, it shows something like "Certificate Error"!
   This is a known issue where DMM will rotate its IP address from time to time. If you have used the IP pinner, it may have used the old IP to connect which may lead to another site. Simply re-run the IP pinner and remove the old entries in the hosts file.