

END-USER GUIDE

Using the Hydra application

Connect through the gateway, understand the dashboard, choose an optional routing override, and read Hydra's live route status.

FOR LAN CLIENTS | END-USER INSTRUCTIONS



Start here

Most devices do not need a saved policy. Once your network administrator points your device to Hydra, the balanced VPN-only route applies automatically.

1 Connect Join the approved LAN and use Hydra as IPv4 gateway and DNS.	2 Open Browse to <code>https://hydra:8443</code> .	3 Check Confirm Gateway online and Route is available.	4 Choose Optionally change only this device's behavior.	5 Save Wait for the live route panel to report ready.
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Before you begin

- Your network administrator must configure your device or DHCP service to use Hydra's LAN address as the IPv4 gateway and DNS server.
- Hydra does not provide DHCP. Do not change network settings unless your administrator has supplied the correct values.
- The default name is `https://hydra:8443`. If that name is unavailable, use the LAN address supplied by your administrator.
- A self-signed certificate may cause a browser warning on first use. Confirm the address with your administrator before accepting the local certificate.

No sign-in for your own settings

The main dashboard identifies your device by the source IPv4 address Hydra observes. You can view and change only that address's options. The Administrator link is separate and requires the dedicated hydra account.

Read the dashboard

The first panel confirms which client Hydra sees and whether the service is ready.

Dashboard item	What it means
This client	The source IPv4 address whose override you are viewing.
Profiles	How many validated VPN profiles are available in the catalog.
Countries	How many country codes are represented by the imported catalog.
Pool target	The administrator-configured number of active tunnels Hydra aims to keep healthy.
Mode	gateway means client routing is enabled; control plane means it is not.
Gateway online	Pool, DNS, and minimum-capacity health are ready.

Optional connection behavior

The routing form creates a device-specific override. If you do nothing, Hydra uses the automatic balanced subnet route. A saved override affects new assignments for this source address; it does not move already established connections to a new public IP.

Route status

Status	Meaning	What to do
Route is available	New connections can use eligible healthy tunnels.	Nothing.
Preparing requested location	Hydra is safely starting a matching endpoint.	Wait; do not repeatedly save.
Hydra will retry	The selected endpoint could not become ready.	Wait or remove the location requirement.
Gateway routing is disabled	The server is in control-plane mode.	Contact the administrator.

Choose an affinity mode

Affinity controls how strongly Hydra tries to keep related new work on the same VPN endpoint.

Mode	Best for	Behavior	Tradeoff
Balanced - session safe	Everyday browsing and mixed apps	Keeps related destinations together while spreading unrelated work.	Best general-purpose balance.
Client sticky	Sensitive logins and apps that dislike IP changes	Keeps all new work from this device on one eligible endpoint for the lease.	Uses less pool diversity.
Maximum rotation	Frequent endpoint changes	Avoids the preceding endpoint for each new DNS assignment when possible.	Can trigger login or verification checks.

Maximum endpoint assignment lifetime

Use the slider to set the longest time Hydra may keep reusing one endpoint assignment for this device. The administrator's system maximum is the upper limit. This is an absolute age, not an inactivity timer.

- When the limit is reached, the next qualifying new assignment uses a different healthy endpoint when one is available.
- Existing TCP or UDP connections keep their original path while it drains; Hydra does not change their public address mid-connection.
- Lower values increase endpoint changes and may increase application verification prompts.

Recommended starting point

Use Balanced with the system maximum unless you know an application needs stronger stickiness or you explicitly want faster rotation.

Require a country, city, or server

Location controls are optional. Leave them at Any for the broadest healthy pool.

Country and city

- Choose a country first. The city list then shows cities available in that country.
- A country-only override may use any healthy server in that country.
- A city requires its country and limits new assignments to that exact location.

Exact server

- Type a server ID, city, or two-letter country code in Required server ID.
- Choose a result so the exact catalog ID is saved. Examples such as phx, phoenix, or us phoenix narrow the list.
- The server must match the selected country and city filters.

What happens if no live tunnel matches

Hydra keeps only this device's new traffic fail closed while it prepares a matching catalog endpoint in a replacement slot. The route panel shows selection, resolution, connection, health-check, ready, or retry progress. Other clients and your established sessions continue.

Fail closed means no silent substitution

Hydra will not quietly use another country or the direct Internet path when your saved location is unavailable. New DNS or IPv4 connections may pause until a compliant tunnel is healthy.

Save, restore defaults, and troubleshoot

The form applies to new routing decisions for this device.

Save an override

- Review affinity, lifetime, country, city, and server.
- Select Save override once. The page reports that the override was saved and then checks route availability.
- Wait for Route is available before starting a new connection.

Return to default-like behavior

Choose Balanced, set the lifetime to the displayed system maximum, choose Any country and Any city, clear Required server ID, and save. This produces the same broad connection behavior as the automatic subnet default, although a policy record may remain until it expires.

Common issues

Symptom	Likely cause	Action
hydra name does not open	Device is not using Hydra DNS or local certificate is not trusted.	Confirm gateway/DNS values and use the LAN address supplied by the administrator.
Internet pauses after choosing a location	No compliant tunnel is healthy yet.	Watch the route panel, wait for ready, or return location controls to Any.
IPv6 is unavailable	Expected product behavior.	Hydra blocks forwarded IPv6 to prevent a VPN bypass.
A login asks for verification	The application saw a new VPN public address.	Use Client sticky or a longer lifetime.
Gateway routing is disabled	Hydra is in control-plane mode or rebuilding.	Contact the administrator; do not bypass the configured gateway.

What Hydra can and cannot preserve

Hydra protects established flows, but no multi-endpoint VPN system can make every public-IP change invisible to every application.

Hydra preserves

- The original tunnel for an established tracked TCP or UDP flow.
- Related destination affinity within its valid window and absolute assignment limit.
- Existing sessions during planned drain when the application keeps using the same flows.

Hydra cannot guarantee

- Migration of a live connection after the underlying VPN tunnel fails.
- That applications spanning several hostnames or flows will never notice a public-IP change.
- IPv6 VPN service; forwarded IPv6 is intentionally blocked.

When continuity matters most

Select Client sticky, use a longer endpoint-assignment lifetime, and avoid changing location or exact-server settings during a sensitive session.

Quick reference

hydra:8443
default management address

Balanced
recommended everyday mode

Any
broadest location pool

Hydra is published by AntiDesign Software. Available limits and behavior may differ when an administrator changes system configuration.