



Cisco VPN Client & Windows 8 (32bit & 64bit) - Reason 442: Failed To Enable Virtual Adaptor - How To Fix It

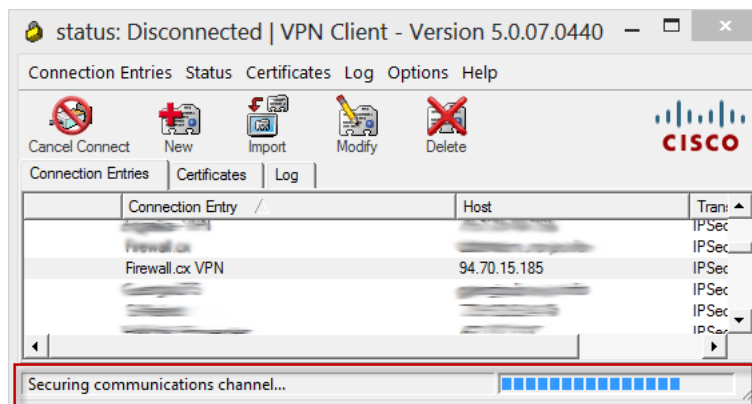
Introducing The Problem

The Cisco VPN client is one of the most popular Cisco tools used by administrators, engineers and end-users to connect to their remote networks and access resources.

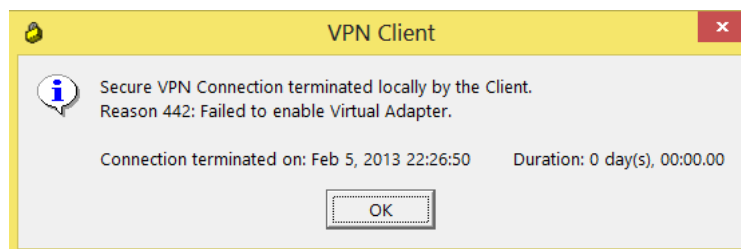
With the introduction of Windows 8, Cisco VPN users are faced with a problem – the Cisco VPN software installs correctly but fails to connect to any remote VPN network.

When trying to connect to a VPN network through a Windows 8 operating system (32 or 64 bit), the Cisco VPN client will fail to connect. As soon as the user double-clicks on the selected **Connection Entry**, the VPN client will begin its negotiation and request the username and password.

As soon as the credentials are provided, the VPN client shows the well-known **"Securing communications channel"** at the bottom of the windows application:



After a couple of seconds the Cisco VPN client will timeout, fail and eventually the connection is terminated. The user is then greeted by a pop up window explaining that the VPN failed with a **Reason 442: Failed to enable Virtual Adaptor** error:

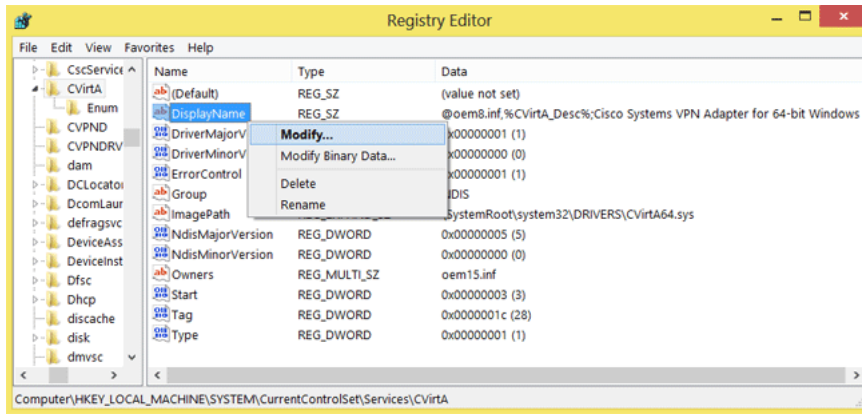


Introducing the Fix – Workaround

Thankfully the fix to this problem is simple and can be performed even by users with somewhat limited experience.

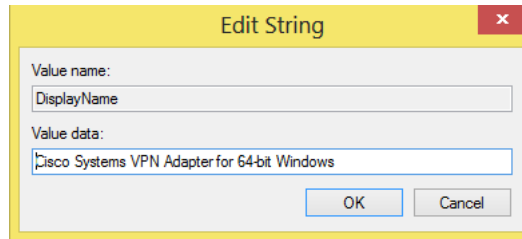
Here are 4 easy-to-follow steps to the solution:

1. Open your Windows Registry Editor by typing **regedit** in the Run prompt.
2. Browse to the Registry Key **HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SYSTEM\CurrentControlSet\Services\CVirtA**
3. From the window on the right, select and right-click on **DisplayName** and choose **Modify** from the menu. Alternatively, double-click on **DisplayName**:



4. For **Windows 8 32bit** (x86) operating systems, change the value data from **@oem8.inf,%CVirtA_Desc%;Cisco Systems VPN Adapter** to **Cisco Systems VPN Adapter**.

For **Windows 8 64bit** (x64) operating systems, change the value data from **@oem8.inf,%CVirtA_Desc%;Cisco Systems VPN Adapter for 64-bit Windows** to **Cisco Systems VPN Adapter for 64-bit Windows** (shown below):



When done editing the **Value data**, click on **OK** and close the Registry Editor.

You can now run the Cisco VPN Client and connect to your VPN network. Changes performed do not require a system restart.