

Wi-Fi bridge Port forwarding

This functionality requires SLZB-OS v3.4.5.dev0 or higher.

In **NAPT** bridge mode SLZB runs a separate Wi-Fi network and gives its devices internet access over its own Ethernet or 4G/LTE connection (for Ultima3 with LTE addon). The devices themselves stay behind NAPT and nothing outside can reach them.

Port forwarding opens one service of such a device. You choose an **external port** on SLZB, and SLZB passes everything that arrives on it to the chosen **client port** of a Wi-Fi client. This way you can open, for example, the web interface of device that lives in the SLZB Wi-Fi network.

Rule `TCP 8080 → 192.168.4.2:80`: a request to port **8080** of SLZB reaches port **80** of the Wi-Fi client **192.168.4.2**.

Requirements

- **U device.**
- **Wi-Fi bridge enabled:**
 - Mode > Ethernet to Wi-Fi bridge, bridge type NAPT;
 - or, on the 4G/LTE page, Enable 4G/LTE Internet to Wi-Fi bridge mode.
- **For access through a VPN:** WireGuard or Tailscale enabled on the VPN page.

Setup

1. Open the Mode page and scroll to the Port forwarding card below the bridge settings.
2. Check the top row of the card: Wi-Fi bridge (NAPT) should be Active, and Ethernet / LTE address and VPN address show the addresses you will connect to.
3. Connect the device you need to the SLZB Wi-Fi network. It appears in the suggestions of the Wi-Fi client field.
4. Click Add rule and fill in the row (see *Rule fields*).
5. Click Save. The rule takes effect within a few seconds, no reboot needed. The Status column shows the result.

Rule fields

Name	Protocol	Interface	External port	Wi-Fi client (IP or MAC)	Client port	Status
☒	TCP	Ethernet / LTE				- x

Field	What to enter
Checkbox	The rule is enabled. A disabled rule is kept but has no effect.
Name	Any label up to 23 chars, for example "Garage camera".
Protocol	TCP (web and most services), UDP or TCP+UDP .
Interface	Ethernet / LTE: access from your local network (or from the LTE side). VPN: access through the WireGuard / Tailscale tunnel.
External port	The port of SLZB you will connect to: 1-49151 .
Wi-Fi client	The client's IP (192.168.4.2) or MAC (a4:cf:12:3b:9e:01). You can pick it from the suggestions of connected clients.
Client port	The port of the service on the client itself: 1-65535 .

IP or MAC

Clients get their address from DHCP, and it can change after they reconnect.

A rule with a **MAC** finds the client's current IP by itself; it is shown next to the status.

A rule with an **IP** suits a client with a static address.

Examples

Device's web interface from your home network

TCP · Ethernet / LTE · 8080 → a4:cf:12:3b:9e:01 : 80

Open in a browser on a PC in the same network.

The same device through Tailscale or WireGuard

TCP · VPN · 8081 → a4:cf:12:3b:9e:01 : 80

Open `http://<SLZB VPN address>:8081`, for example `http://100.101.40.68:8081`, from any device of your tailnet or VPN network.

Both ways at once

Create two rules as above with **different** external ports (8080 and 8081). One external port cannot serve both Ethernet and VPN.

Rule status

Status	Meaning	What to do
Active	The rule is in effect.	—
Disabled	The rule's checkbox is cleared.	Enable it and save.
Wi-Fi bridge (NAPT) is not running	The bridge is off or in transparent mode.	Enable the NAPT bridge (see <i>Requirements</i>).
No address on this interface	No Ethernet / LTE address, or the VPN is not connected.	Check the network or the VPN page.
Client not found (no DHCP lease)	No device with this MAC got an address in the SLZB network.	Connect the client to the SLZB Wi-Fi, check the MAC.
Not in the Wi-Fi bridge network	The IP does not belong to the SLZB Wi-Fi network.	Use an address of the network shown in "Wi-Fi network".
Port is used by SLZB	A service of SLZB itself runs on this external port.	Choose another external port.
Too many rules	The internal forwarding table is full.	Disable or delete rules you do not need.
...	The rules were just saved and not checked yet.	Wait a few seconds.

Limitations

- **Up to 10 rules.** A `TCP+UDP` rule counts as one.
- **External ports 1-49151.** Higher ports are used by the NAPT bridge itself.
- **One rule, one interface.** A rule with Ethernet / LTE does not work through the VPN, and the other way round. For both, create two rules with different external ports.
- **SLZB's own ports are never forwarded:** the web interface (`80`), the Zigbee radio TCP ports (`6638` by default) and other services of the device. Such rules get the status Port is used by SLZB.
- **Ethernet / LTE means the active uplink.** When SLZB fails over from Ethernet to backup LTE, the rules move to the LTE address within a few seconds.
- **From inside the SLZB Wi-Fi network** a forwarded port cannot be reached on the external address of SLZB. Wi-Fi clients reach each other directly at their `192.168.4.x` addresses.
- **Mobile internet:** SLZB on LTE usually cannot be reached from the internet (carrier CGNAT). Use the VPN.
- **A factory reset** deletes all rules.

Security

Every rule opens a service of a Wi-Fi client to anyone who can reach that address of SLZB.

- Forward only the ports you need, and disable rules you do not use.
- Protect the client's own web interface with a password: SLZB does not check who connects.
- For access from outside your home, prefer the VPN interface to opening ports on your router.
- With Tailscale, access to SLZB follows your tailnet's access policy (ACL).

The port is open one way on the other side too.

Incoming packets to a rule's external port reach the client from any interface, but replies only go out through the chosen one. A TCP connection from the other side never completes, but UDP packets towards the client do get through. Keep this in mind for UDP services.

09Troubleshooting

The status is "Active", but the page does not open

Make sure you connect to the address of the interface chosen in the rule: the Ethernet / LTE address for Ethernet / LTE, the VPN address for VPN. Check that the service on the client listens on the client port and that the client's own firewall allows the connection.

The rule stopped working after the client reconnected

The client got a new IP from DHCP. Use its MAC in the rule instead of the IP, and SLZB will find the current address by itself.

It works over Ethernet but not through the VPN

Check the VPN status on the VPN page and that the rule uses the VPN interface. With Tailscale, check that your tailnet's ACL allows connections to this port of SLZB.

Red text below the buttons about a damaged file

The rule file on the device could not be read, and the rules are not in effect. Check the rules in the table and save them again; the file is rewritten.

Saving fails with an error about the same external port

Two enabled rules use the same external port with overlapping protocols. Change the port of one of them.

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