

# Remote access — implementation notes (v1 WireGuard)

WireGuard v1 — implementation and deploy

## Table of contents

App (developer settings)

Android VPN consent (WireGuard)

Production deploy (no new nginx HTTP paths)

1. Database
2. config.php — required keys
3. BE packages and permissions
4. Cron (session cleanup)
5. Verify
6. Browser

WireGuard data plane (UDP, not nginx)

VPN process (AIDL)

WireGuard third-party (Android)

Tests

Source: `REMOTE_ACCESS_IMPL.md` — section links work in PDF viewers that support internal anchors.

See the full proposal: 20260602\_REVERSE\_SSH\_proposals\_summary.md.

## App (developer settings)

- Dropdown: **Disabled** | **WireGuard** (lab) | **RSSH** (alpha — outbound reverse SSH, no VPN)
- Pref key: `dev_remote_access_mode` (AppPreferences)
- **Disabled**: notifies BE (`status:disable`), tears down VPN, stops `RemoteAccessService`
- **WireGuard**: foreground service; jittered poll **1–7 min** → `heartbeat.php` with type: `ra`
- Heartbeat URL derived from crash upload URL (`.../api/heartbeat.php`)
- Session credentials persisted until `expires_at`; expiry tears down tunnel locally
- Userspace WG via third-party/wireguard-android (`:tunnel / GoBackend`) in isolated process `com.foxx.androidcast:vpn`; main app controls via AIDL (`IVpnService / VpnServiceClient`); TUN fallback only if `GoBackend` fails

## Android VPN consent (WireGuard)

WireGuard on Android **must** use `VpnService` (see `DeveloperSettingsActivity` → `VpnService.prepare()`). This is **not avoidable** on stock devices:

| UX                     | WireGuard (v1, lab)                                 | RSSH (alpha essential)               |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| One-time system dialog | Yes — “Allow VPN?”                                  | No VPN permission                    |
| Status-bar key icon    | Yes while tunnel up                                 | No                                   |
| Full-device routing    | TUN interface (split routes in config, still a VPN) | No L3 tunnel                         |
| Outbound from phone    | UDP to BE : 51820                                   | HTTPS poll + outbound SSH to bastion |

There is no supported “hidden VPN” on non-root Android: any TUN creator is classified as a VPN app. **RSSH** (foreground service + existing HTTPS poll + outbound SSH reverse tunnel) is the **alpha deliverable** agreed by project owners — device initiates, operator reaches a forwarded port on the bastion, without VPN consent or status-bar key. See Rev. 3 Q&A and ROADMAP.md § Remote access. Uses the **existing crashes vhost** — no new nginx location blocks for HTTP.

| Piece         | Path                                                                                                    |
|---------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Migration     | <code>sql/migrations/007_remote_access.sql</code>                                                       |
| Repository    | <code>src/RemoteAccessRepository.php</code>                                                             |
| WG peers      | <code>src/WireGuardPeerProvisioner.php</code> ( <code>wg set wg0 peer ...</code> )                      |
| Device API    | <code>public/api/heartbeat.php</code> (type: <code>ra</code> )                                          |
| Admin API     | <code>public/api/remote_access.php</code>                                                               |
| UI            | <code>?view=remote_access</code> (nav + hub card)                                                       |
| RBAC          | <code>remote_access_view</code> , <code>remote_access_operate</code> , <code>remote_access_admin</code> |
| RBAC admin UI | <code>?view=rbac</code> — global roles (root), company roles, privilege sets                            |
| Cron          | <code>scripts/purge_remote_access.php</code> (hourly recommended)                                       |

## RBAC rules (enforced in API)

| Permission                         | Scope                                                              |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <code>remote_access_view</code>    | List devices/sessions/events in allowed companies                  |
| <code>remote_access_operate</code> | Open session; close <b>own</b> sessions                            |
| <code>remote_access_admin</code>   | Whitelist devices; close <b>any</b> session in company             |
| Global admin / root                | All companies; root edits global roles via <code>?view=rbac</code> |

Privilege sets (`remote_access_user`, `remote_access_admin`) on `company_memberships.permissions.json` grant extra actions to member rows — see crash console README § RBAC.

## Flow

1. Device polls with `{type:ra, status:enable, capabilities:[wireguard], tunnel_mode:wireguard}`.
2. BE upserts `remote_access_devices`; returns wait until device is **whitelisted** and operator **opens session**.
3. Next eligible poll returns `action:connect` + ephemeral WG credentials; BE runs `wg set` when `provision_peers=true`.
4. Disable from app → `status:disable` → closes sessions, removes peers.

## URLs (production)

- Dashboard: `https://apps.f0xx.org/app/androidcast_project/crashes/?view=remote_access`
- Heartbeat: `.../crashes/api/heartbeat.php`
- Admin API: `.../crashes/api/remote_access.php`

## Production deploy (no new nginx HTTP paths)

After syncing PHP/JS to the BE tree under  
`.../androidcast_project/android_cast/examples/crash_reporter/backend/`:

### 1. Database

Migration **007** (already applied on prod per deploy notes). Tables auto-create on SQLite dev; MariaDB should use the migration file once as root.

## 2. config.php — required keys

```
'remote_access' => [
  'wg_endpoint' => 'ra.apps.f0xx.org:51820',    // public UDP hostname:port (FE DNAT → BE)
  'wg_server_public_key' => '...',              // wg show wg0 public-key on BE – REQUIRED
  'wg_interface' => 'wg0',
  'provision_peers' => true,                    // wg set on connect/close
  'require_wg_tools' => true,                  // reject connect if wg genkey missing
  'session_ttl_s' => 3600,
  'min_poll_interval_s' => 45,                 // poll rate limit per device
],
```

**Critical:** wg\_server\_public\_key must match the live wg0 interface. Empty value makes connect credentials unusable on real devices.

## 3. BE packages and permissions

```
apk add wireguard-tools wireguard-tools-wg
```

```
sudo -u www-data wg show wg0
```

## 4. Cron (session cleanup)

```
0 * * * * cd /var/www/.../backend && php81 scripts/purge_remote_access.php --hours=24
```

Use php81 when Alpine default php is 8.5+ without the session module; FPM is php-fpm81.

## 5. Verify

```
cd examples/crash_reporter/backend
chmod +x scripts/ra_*.sh scripts/verify_remote_access_prod.sh scripts/test_remote_access_api.sh
./scripts/verify_remote_access_prod.sh
BASE=https://apps.f0xx.org/app/androidcast_project/crashes ./scripts/test_remote_access_api.sh
BASE=https://apps.f0xx.org/app/androidcast_project/crashes ./scripts/ra_e2e_cli.sh
```

**Linux CLI device simulator** (same heartbeat payloads as the app): REMOTE\_ACCESS\_VALIDATION.md.

## 6. Browser

Hard-refresh after deploying public/assets/js/remote\_access.js.

## WireGuard data plane (UDP, not nginx)

HTTP control plane stays on FE→BE :80. **WireGuard traffic is UDP** — configure at the **FE firewall/DNAT**, not in nginx:

Internet UDP :51820 → FE DNAT → BE wg0 :51820

Hostname ra.apps.f0xx.org (or similar) should resolve to the FE public IP. Devices use wg\_endpoint from config/connect payload.

## VPN process (AIDL)

| Component              | Process                     | Role                                                         |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| VpnServiceClient       | main (com.foxx.androidcast) | Binds to IVpnService; async apply/tearDown + state callbacks |
| AndroidCastVpnService  | :vpn                        | AIDL stub; worker thread for tunnel ops                      |
| WireGuardVpnEngine     | :vpn                        | GoBackend + TUN fallback                                     |
| RemoteAccessVpnService | :vpn                        | VpnService TUN when GoBackend fails                          |
| GoBackend\$VpnService  | :vpn                        | WireGuard tunnel library VPN entry (manifest merge)          |

Developer settings still uses VpnService.prepare(Activity) for the one-time consent dialog (same app UID).

**Crash capture:** CrashReporter.install() registers uncaught handlers in :vpn (scenario vpn\_service, process com.foxx.androidcast:vpn). Reports persist to shared app storage and upload via :crashwatcher. Lab: scripts/simulate-vpn-crashes.sh (debug APK + MODE=device, or MODE=upload for BE ingest validation).

## WireGuard third-party (Android)

```
bash scripts/init-third-party-submodules.sh # or ./rebuild.sh (includes init + :tunnel build)
./gradlew :tunnel:assembleDebug :app:assembleDebug
```

Gradle fails fast if the submodule is missing. VPN runs in :vpn (AndroidCastVpnService + AIDL); WireGuardVpnEngine uses GoBackend with TUN fallback in the same process.

## Tests

```
./gradlew :app:testDebugUnitTest --tests 'com.foxx.androidcast.remoteaccess.*'
bash examples/crash_reporter/backend/scripts/test_rbac_api.sh
bash examples/crash_reporter/backend/scripts/test_remote_access_api.sh
BASE=https://apps.f0xx.org/app/androidcast_project/crashes bash examples/crash_reporter/backend/scripts/test_remote_access_api.sh
BASE=https://apps.f0xx.org/app/androidcast_project/crashes bash examples/crash_reporter/backend/scripts/ra_e2e_cli.sh
```

CLI validation guide: REMOTE\_ACCESS\_VALIDATION.md.