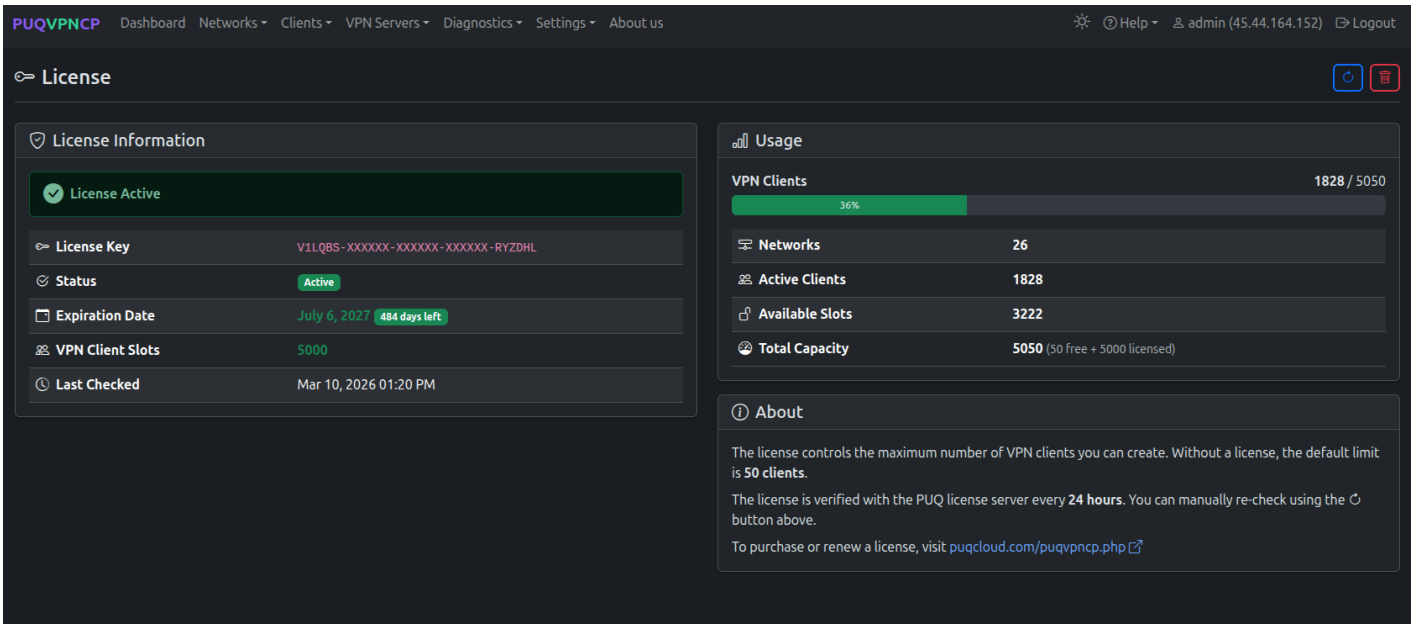
03. Initial Setup

After installing PUQVPNCP, follow these steps to configure the server for production use.

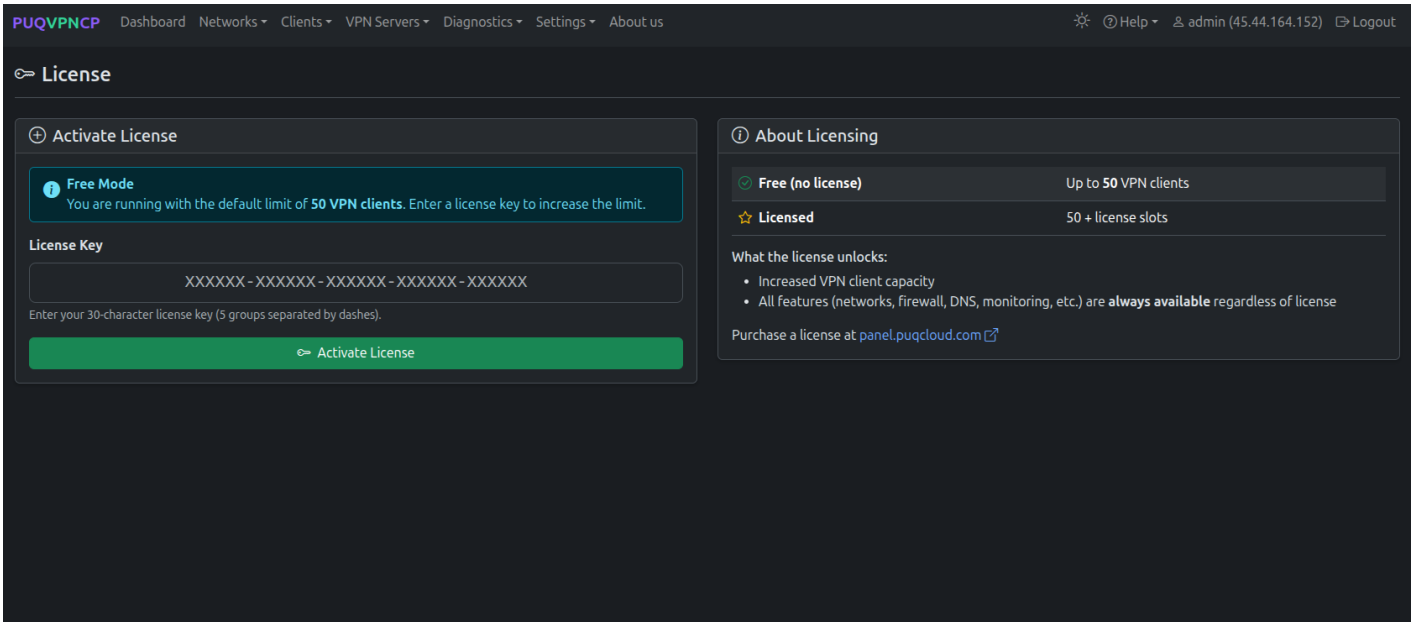
Step 1: Activate the License

1. Navigate to **Settings > License**
2. Enter your license key
3. Click **Save**



License page — enter your license key

After activation, the license status will show **Valid** with the expiration date.



License activated successfully

> **Purchase a license:** https://puqcloud.com/store/puqvpncp

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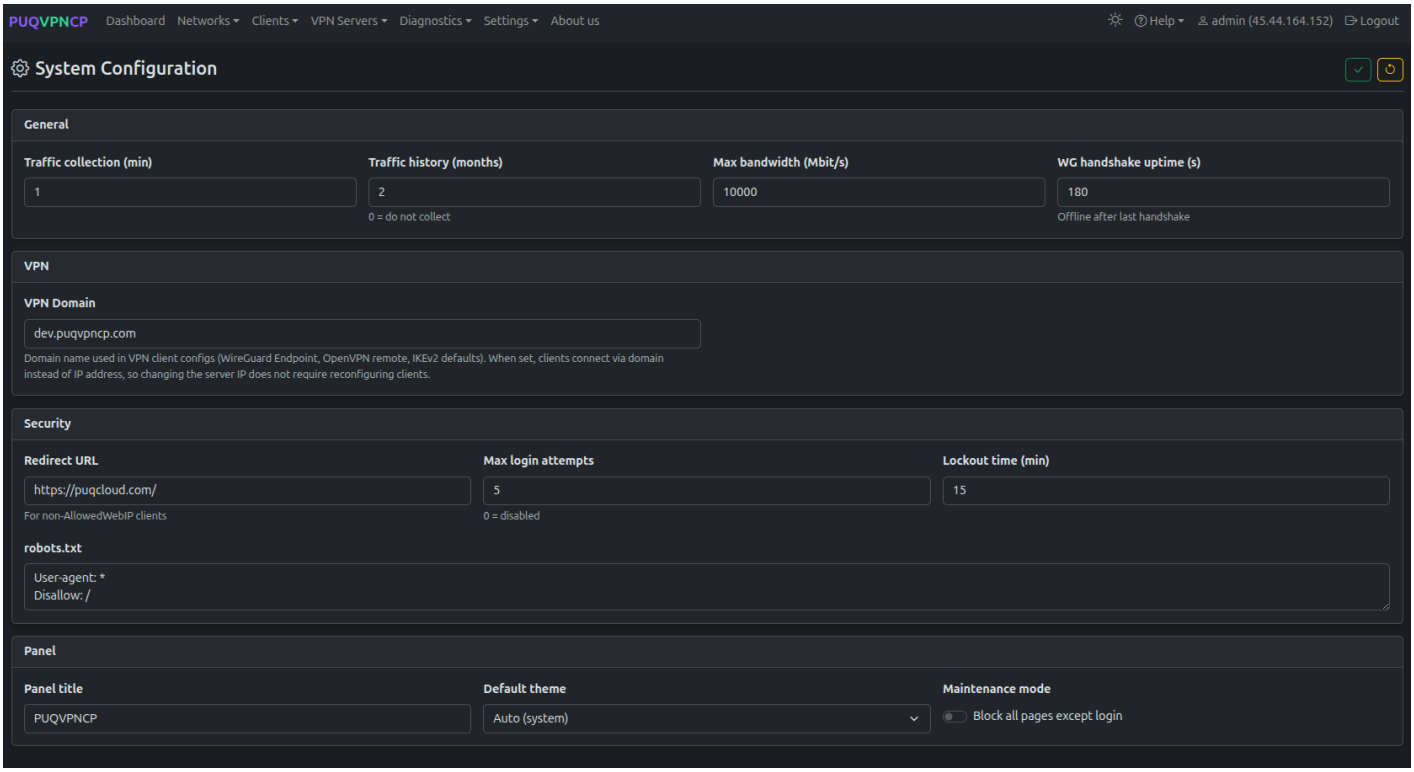
Step 2: System Configuration

Navigate to **Settings > System** to configure the core settings.



System configuration page

General Settings

Setting	Description	Default
Traffic collection (min)	How often traffic counters are read from iptables	1
Traffic history (months)	How long traffic data is retained	2
Max bandwidth (Mbit/s)	Global server bandwidth limit for TC	10000
WG handshake uptime (s)	Client considered offline after this many seconds without a WireGuard handshake	180
AWG handshake uptime (s)	Client considered offline after this many seconds without an AmneziaWG handshake	180

VPN Domain

Set the **VPN Domain** field (e.g., `vpn.example.com`) to use a domain name instead of IP in client configurations. This way, if you change your server IP, clients will not need to be reconfigured.

> “

> **Tip:** Point your domain's A record to the server IP before setting this field.

Security

Setting	Description
Redirect URL	URL to redirect unauthorized web access attempts
Max login attempts	Lock the account after N failed attempts (0 = disabled)
Lockout time (min)	How long the account is locked
robots.txt	Content for `/robots.txt` (blocks search engines by default)

Panel

Setting	Description
Panel title	Browser tab title
Default theme	Auto (system) / Light / Dark
Maintenance mode	Block all pages except login

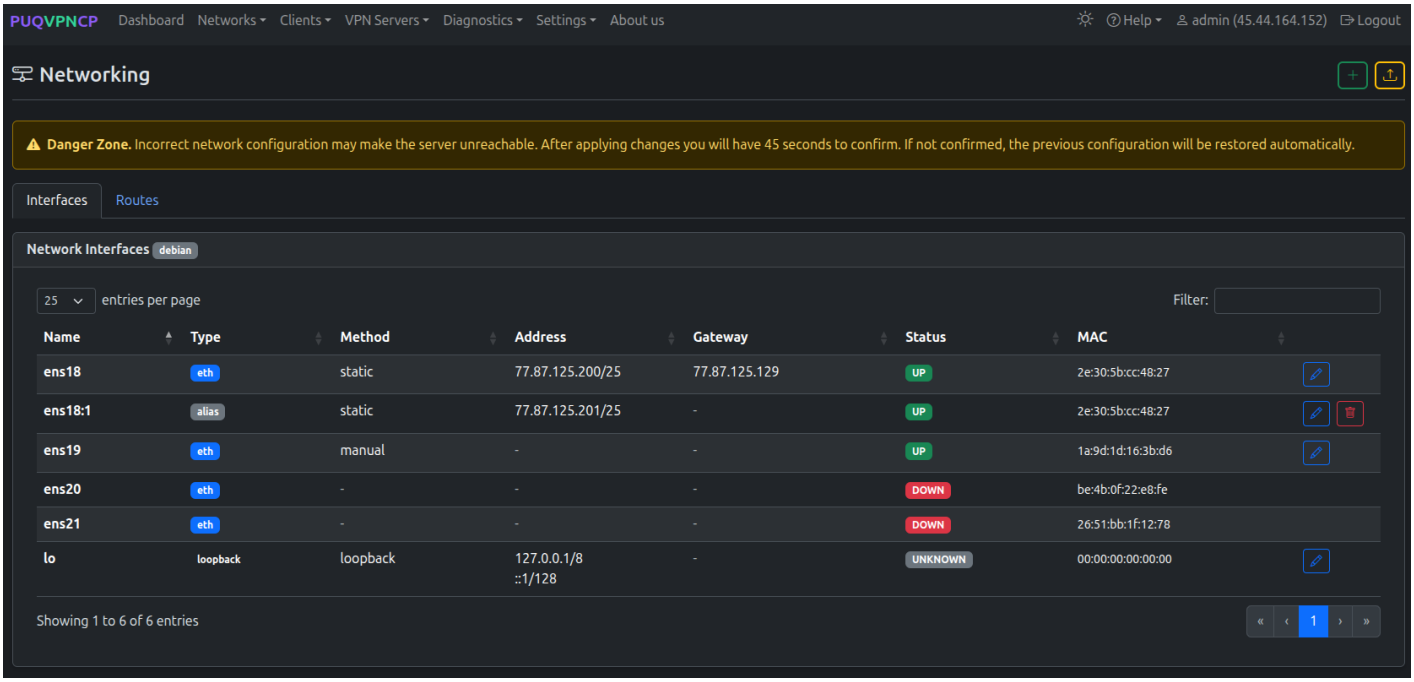
Step 3: Enable SSL (Let's Encrypt)

1. Ensure your domain points to the server IP (DNS A record)
2. Go to **Settings > System**
3. In the **SSL / Let's Encrypt** section, set:
   - **Enabled** = `Yes`
   - **Domain** = your domain (e.g., `vpn.example.com`)
   - **Email** = your email for Let's Encrypt notifications
4. Click **Save** and then **Reload**

After reload, the web interface will be available on `https://your-domain.com` (port 443).

Step 4: Configure Networking

Navigate to **Settings > Networking** to manage server network interfaces and routes.

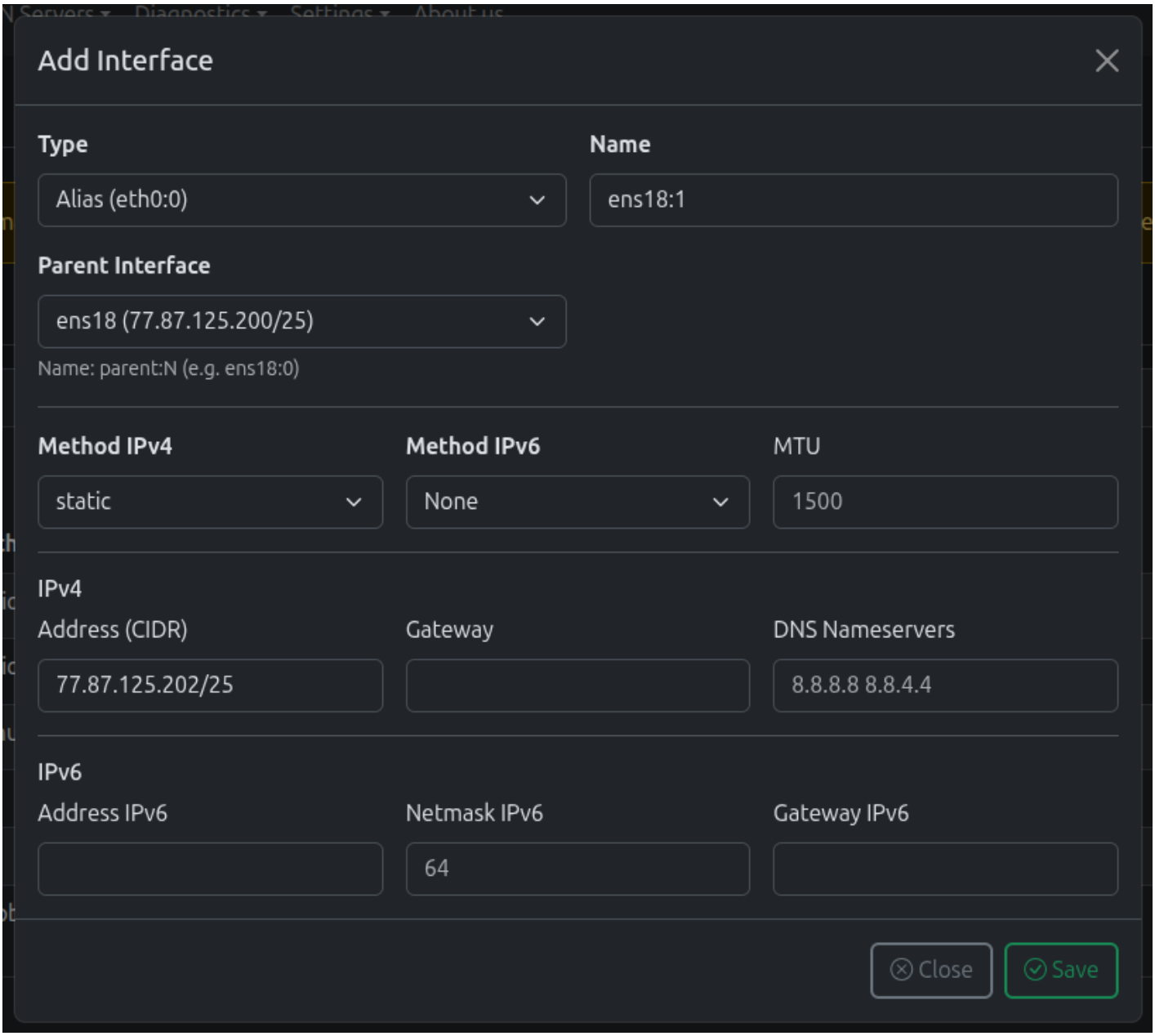


Network interfaces list

> **Danger Zone.** Incorrect network configuration may make the server unreachable. After applying changes you will have **45 seconds to confirm**. If not confirmed, the previous configuration will be restored automatically.

Adding an Interface

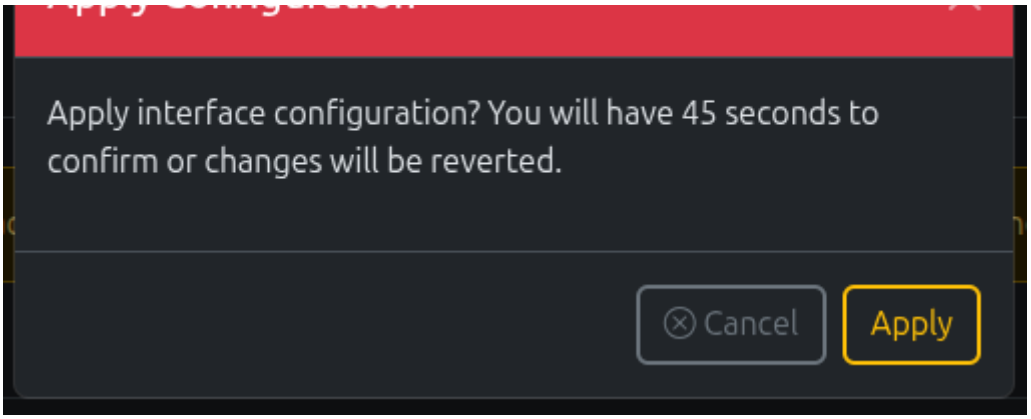
Click the **+** button to add a new interface (alias or VLAN).



Add network interface dialog

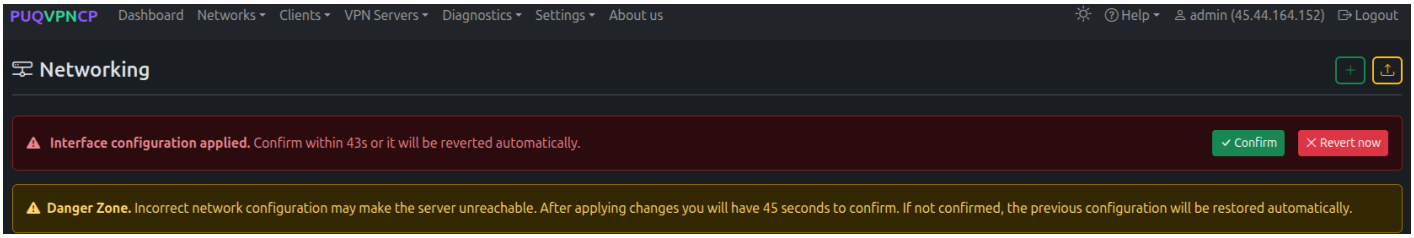
Applying Configuration

After making changes, click **Apply**. A confirmation dialog warns about the 45-second timeout:



Apply configuration confirmation — 45-second safety timeout

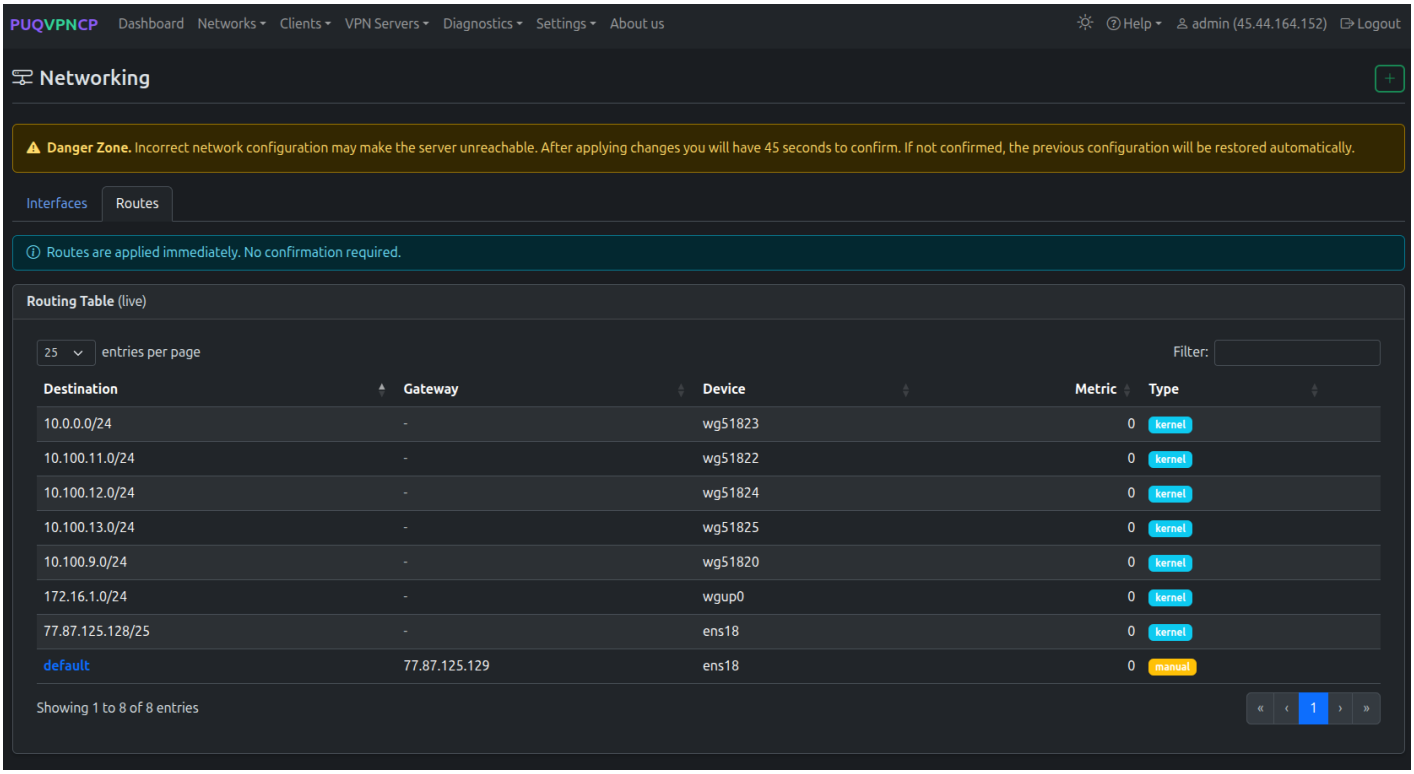
Once applied, you must confirm within the timeout or changes will be reverted:



Configuration applied — confirm within 45 seconds or changes will be reverted

Routes

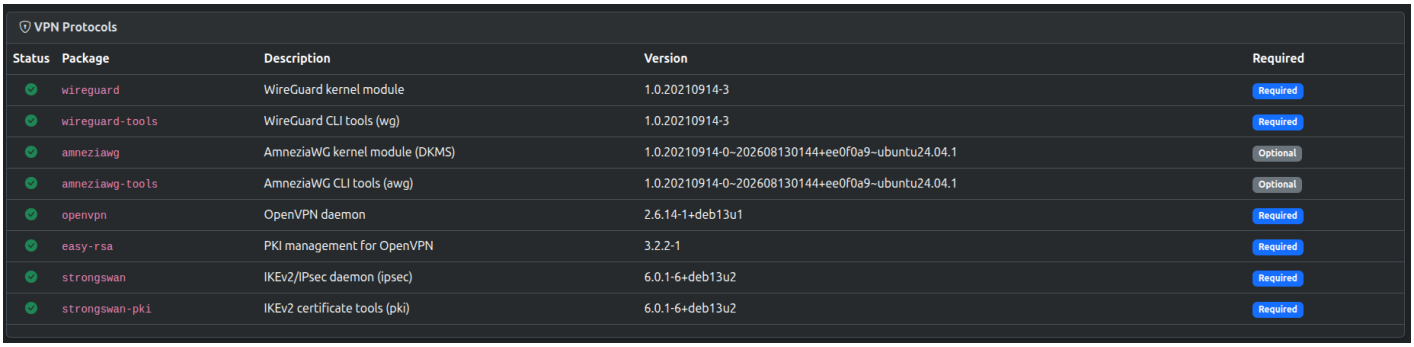
Switch to the **Routes** tab to view the current routing table.



System routing table (live)

Step 5: Environment Check

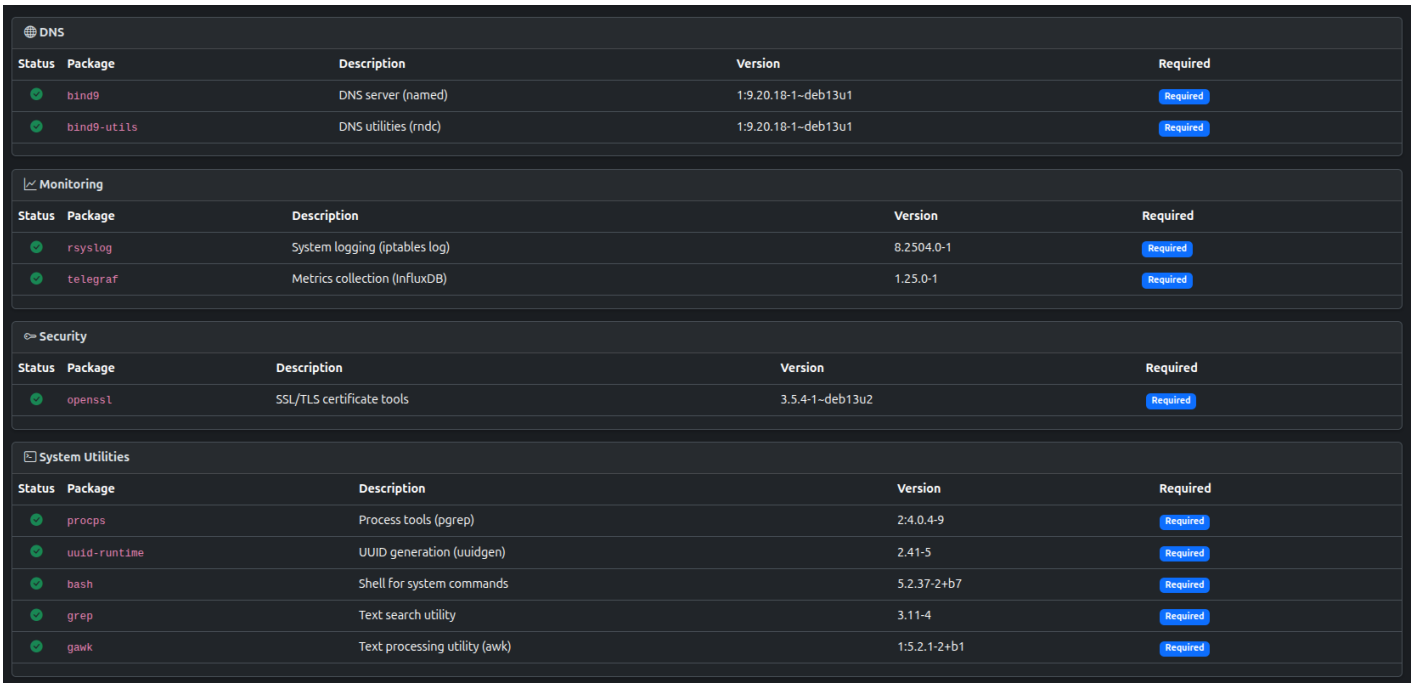
Navigate to **Settings > Environment** to verify all required packages are installed.



Environment check — VPN protocols section

The page shows:

- **VPN Protocols** — wireguard, amneziawg, amneziawg-tools, openvpn, easy-rsa, strongswan
- **Network & Firewall** — iproute2, iptables, ipset
- **DNS** — bind9, bind9-utils
- **Monitoring** — rsyslog, telegraf
- **Security** — openssl
- **System Utilities** — procps, uuid-runtime, bash, grep, gawk

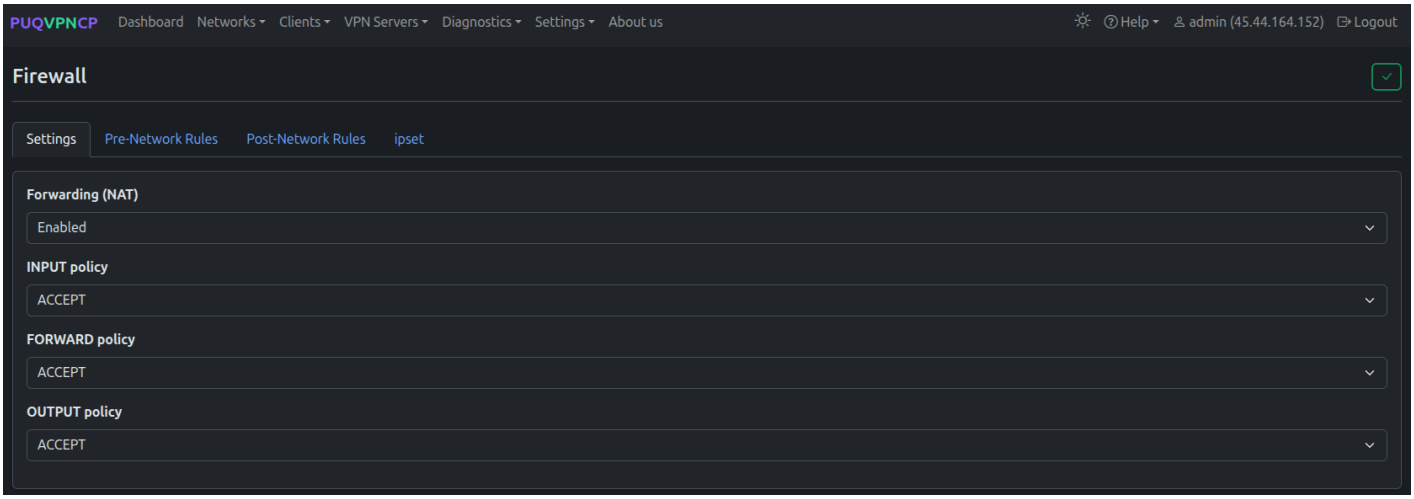


Environment check — DNS, Monitoring, and Security sections

Missing packages are highlighted and can be installed using the copy button.

Step 6: Configure Firewall

Navigate to **Settings > Firewall** to set up global firewall policies.



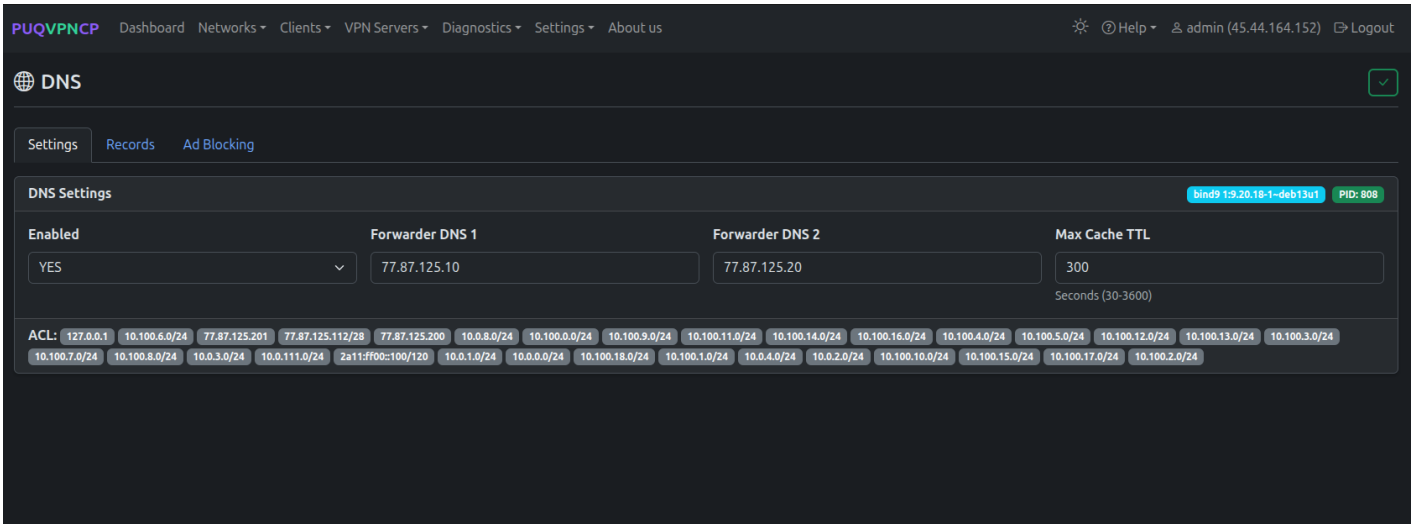
Firewall settings — global policies

Setting	Description
Forwarding (NAT)	Enable/Disable NAT for VPN clients
INPUT policy	Default action for incoming packets
FORWARD policy	Default action for forwarded packets
OUTPUT policy	Default action for outgoing packets

> **Important:** Keep **Forwarding (NAT)** enabled for VPN clients to access the internet.

Step 7: Configure DNS

Navigate to **Settings > DNS** to configure the built-in bind9 DNS server.



DNS server configuration

Set the **Forwarders** field to upstream DNS servers (e.g., `8.8.8.8, 8.8.4.4`). This allows VPN clients to use the server as their DNS resolver.

Next Steps

After completing the initial setup:

1. **Create a Network** — define your first VPN network with a subnet
2. **Add Clients** — create VPN client accounts
3. **Configure VPN Protocols** — set up WireGuard, AmneziaWG, OpenVPN, or IKEv2

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