How to manually connect to the Purdue VPN on a Mac

This document describes how to manually configure a Mac to connect to the Purdue VPN. Since this is a one-time process, try the following two steps to determine if VPN is already installed and ready to use. If the VPN is not configured as shown below then you can follow the subsequent steps to configure the VPN.

Make sure your computer has a working Internet connection:

One way to tell if the web browser and try surfing to a web site such as: http://www.purdue.edu. If you can get to that site then the Internet is working. If you can't get to that site, then you'll need to connect to the network. At home, the easiest way to do that is to plug an Ethernet cable into the computer. Then open the web browser and see if you can connect to: http://www.purdue.edu. If so, you can proceed with the Remote Desktop Connection steps below...

Check to see if the Purdue VPN has already been configured:

Look for the VPN icon on the top right of the Mac and click "Connect Purdue VPN" if it exists. *If the Purdue VPN option is not there, then proceed with the steps on the following pages.*
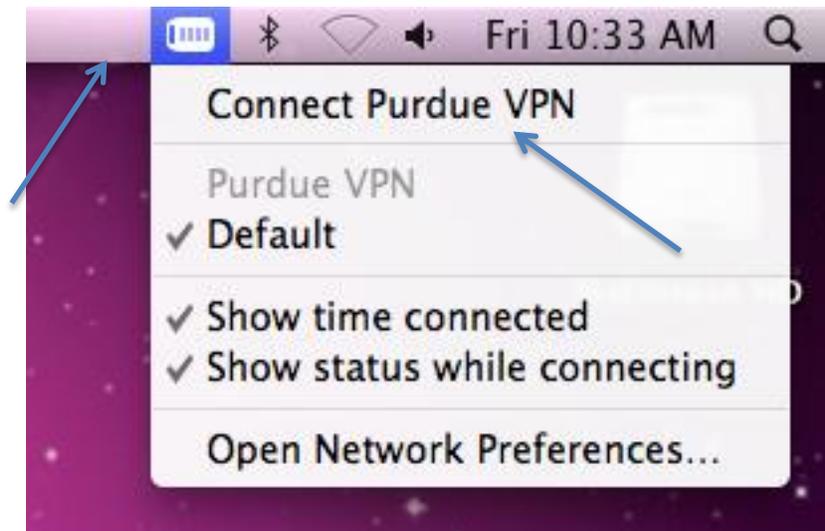
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Configure the Purdue VPN connection on your Mac:

Click the Apple on the top left corner and then click "System Preferences"
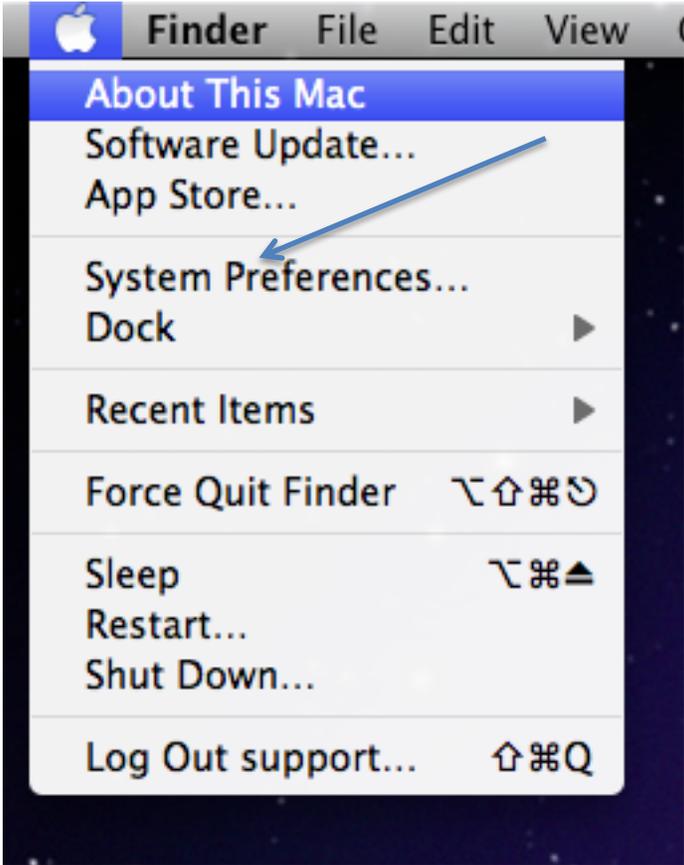
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In the window that just opened click the "Network" icon.
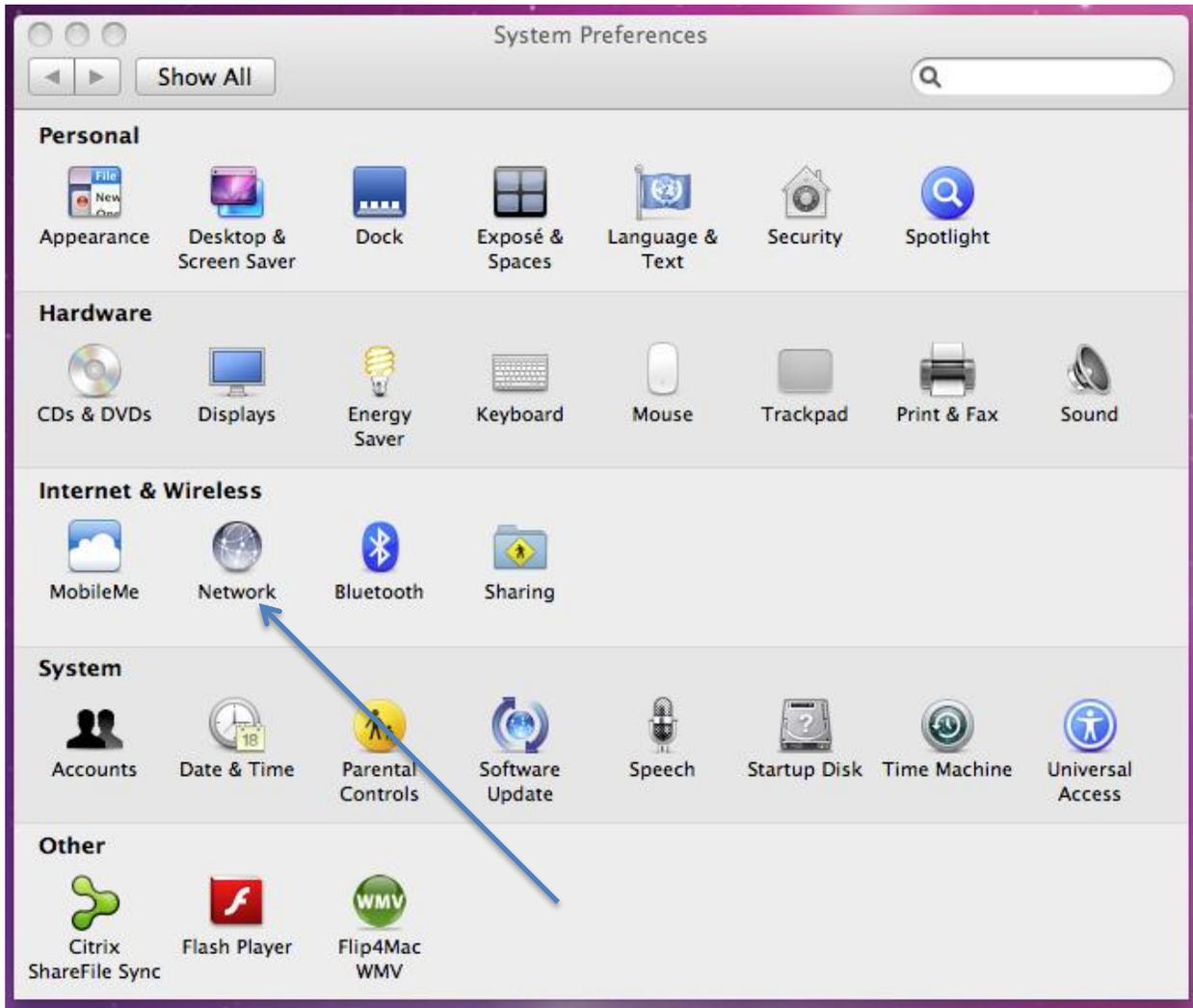
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Make sure that the "Lock" icon is unlocked.

Click on the "+" sign above the lock to add the VPN.
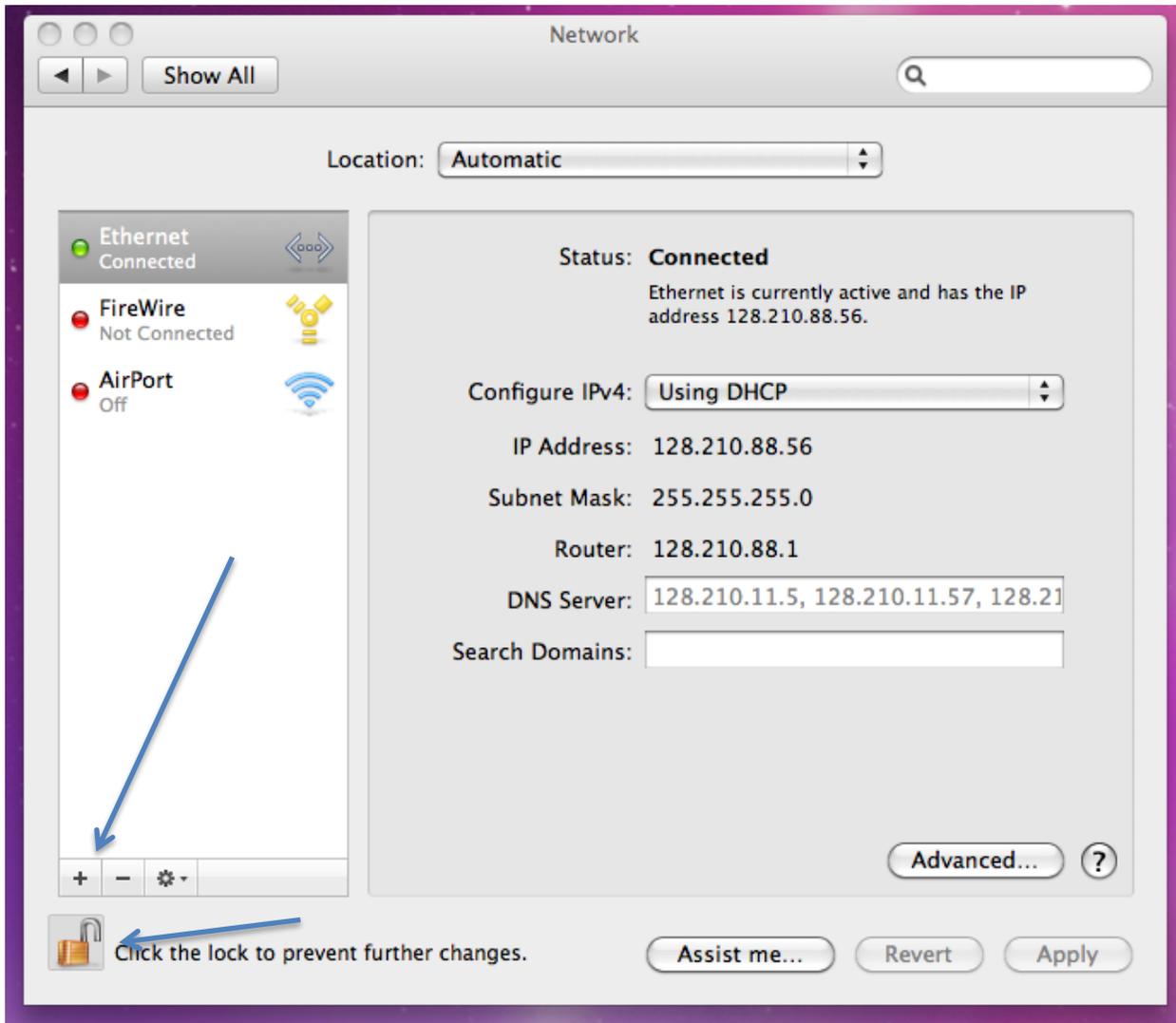
Now select "VPN" for the interface.

Select "L2TP over IPSec" for the VPN Type.

Type "Purdue VPN" for the "Service Name"

Click the "Create" button.
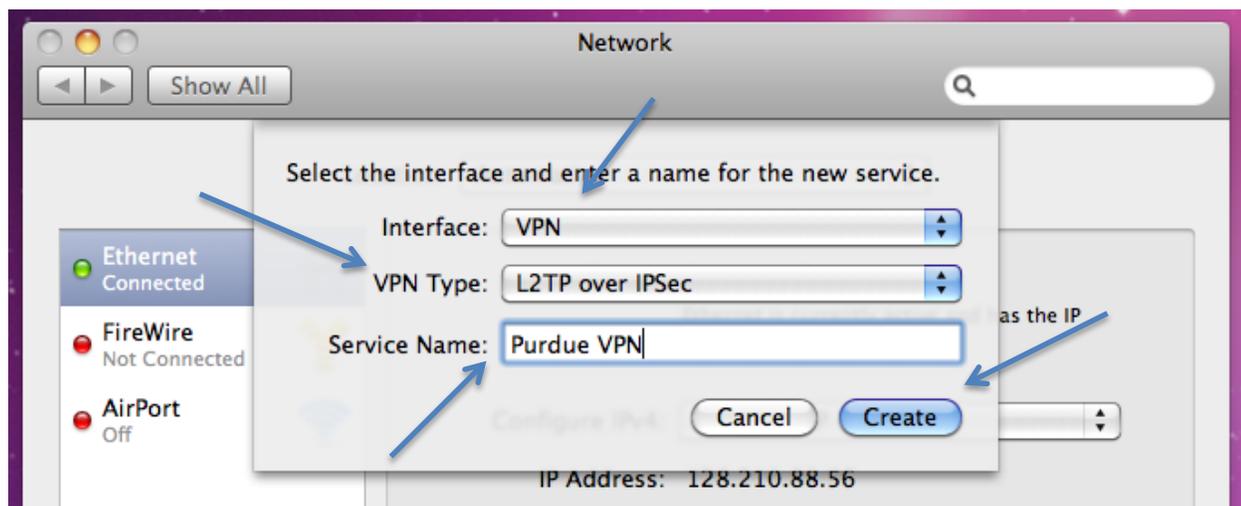
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Type "l2tp.purdue.edu" in the "Server Address" field

Type your Purdue user name in the "Account Name" field (without the @purdue.edu)

Click the "Authentication Settings…" button
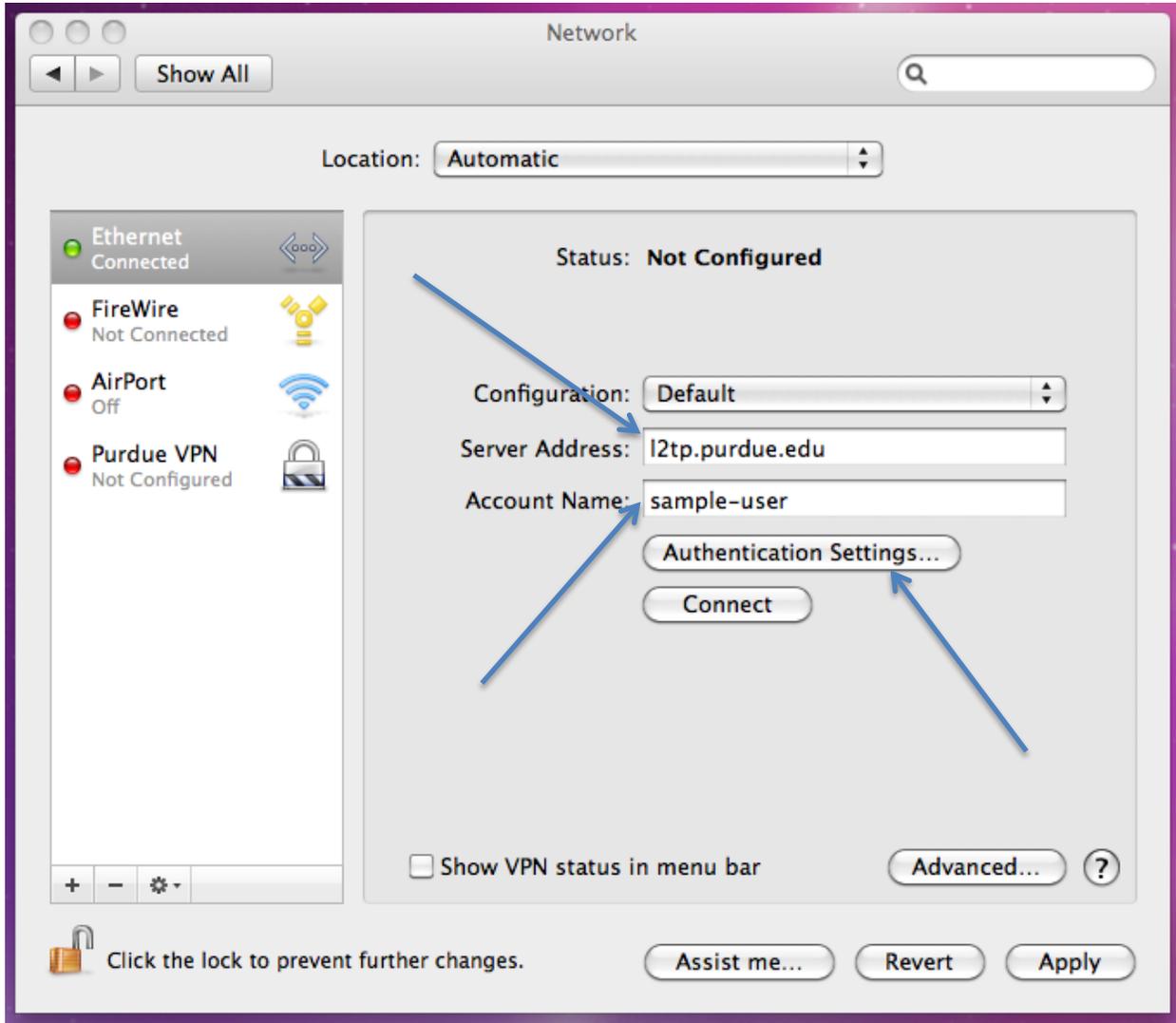
In the "Password" field enter your Purdue Password

In the "Shared Secret" field enter "PurdueVPN" it is case sensitive.

Click "Ok"
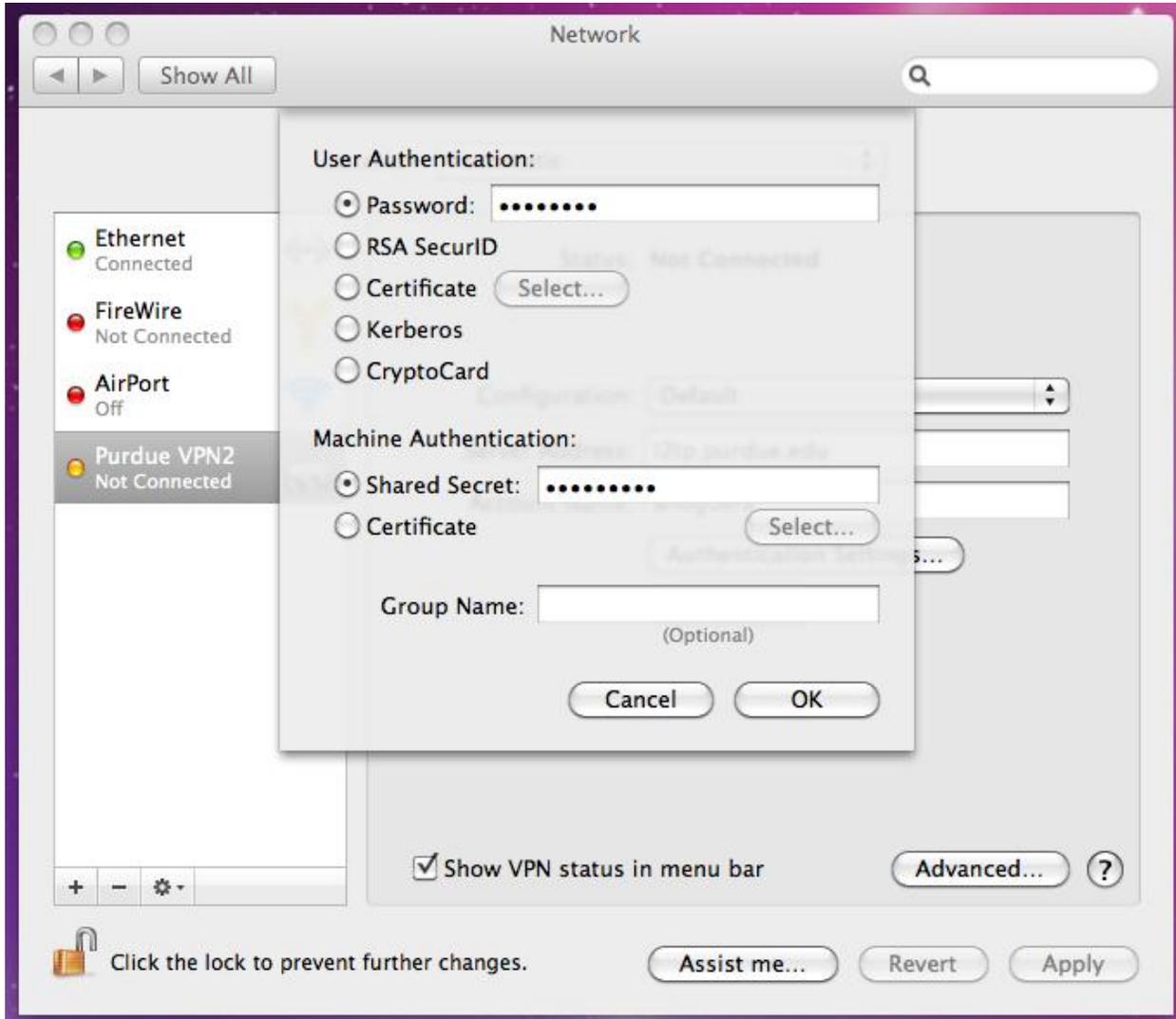
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Check the "Show VPN status in menu bar" box

A new icon will show on the top right corner of the screen.

Click "Apply" and then close the window.
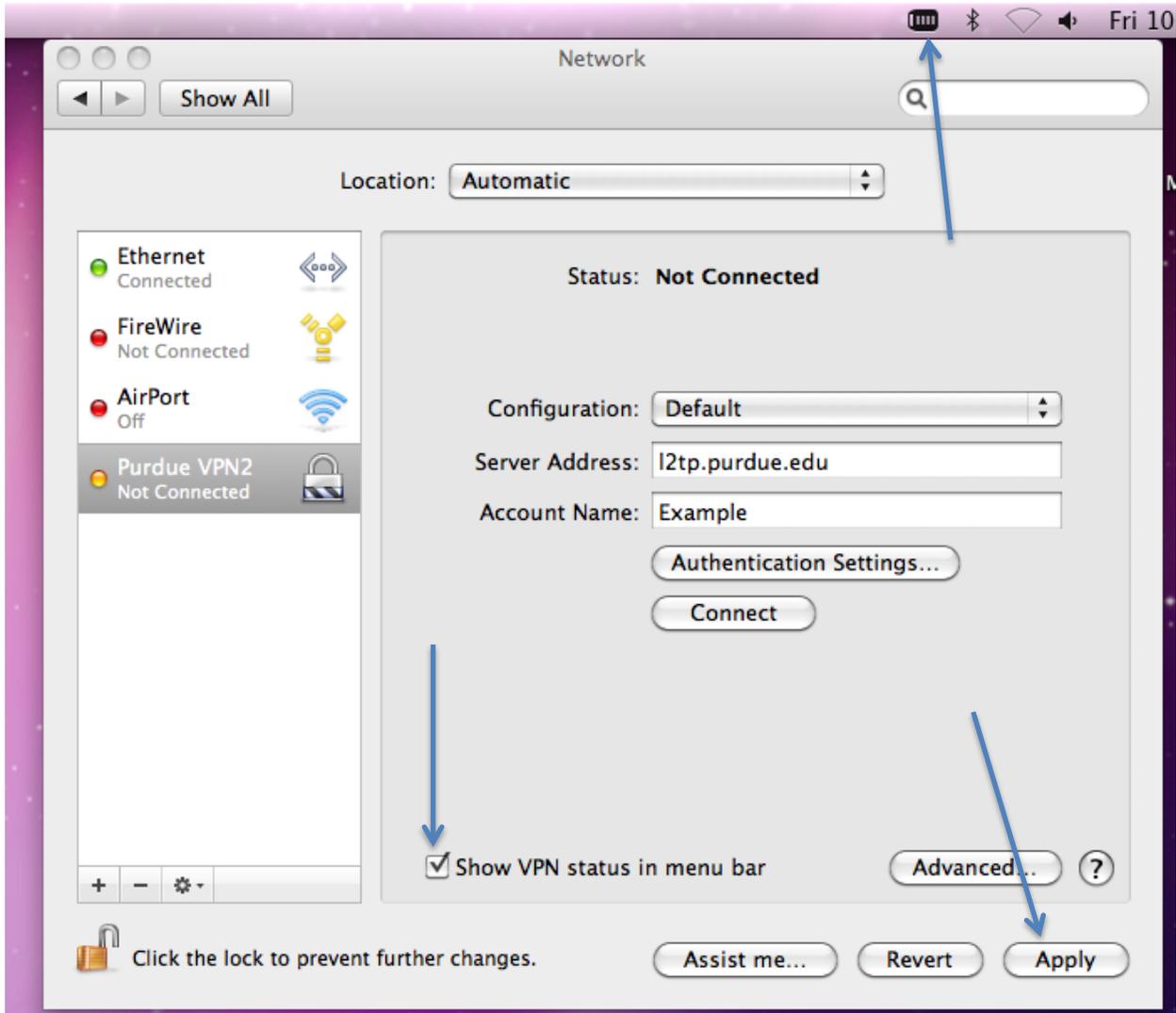
The one-time process of configuring the Purdue VPN on your Mac is now complete and the VPN is ready for use (see the first two items in this document).

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