

1.113.7 Set up secure shell (OpenSSH) Weight 4

Linux Professional Institute Certification — 102

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Outline

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1 Context

Topic 113 Networking Services [24]

- 1.113.1** Configure and manage inetd, xinetd, and related services [4]
- 1.113.2** Operate and perform basic configuration of sendmail [4]
- 1.113.3** Operate and perform basic configuration of Apache [4]
- 1.113.4** Properly manage the NFS, smb, and nmb daemons [4]
- 1.113.5** Setup and configure basic DNS services [4]
- 1.113.7** Set up secure shell (OpenSSH) [4]

2 Objectives

Description of Objective

The candidate should be able to obtain and configure OpenSSH. This objective includes basic OpenSSH installation and troubleshooting, as well as configuring `sshd` to start at system boot.

Key files, terms, and utilities include:

`/etc/hosts.allow` — TCP Wrappers file: `sshd` is linked against TCP Wrappers

`/etc/hosts.deny` — TCP Wrappers file: `sshd` is linked against TCP Wrappers

`/etc/nologin` — if present, only `root` can log in; others shown content of this file

`/etc/ssh/sshd_config` — `sshd` configuration

`/etc/ssh/known_hosts` — holds public host keys of hosts to verify their identity when connect to them

`/etc/sshrd` — global login script for SSH

sshd — SSH server program

ssh-keygen — Generates public/private key pairs for host keys, user keys

3 What is SSH?

“Secure SHell”

A functional replacement of the ancient `rsh` command, except with encryption and authentication.

4 Versions of SSH

Versions

Commercial SSH Finnish company. Original authors of SSH.

OpenSSH Split from last free version of commercial SSH. Development led by OpenBSD team.

Draft “secsh” RFC.

Alternative implementations exist (Putty, Net::SSH::Perl, etc.)

5 SSH commands and utilities

Commands

ssh Run a shell command on a remote host

sshd SSH server daemon

scp Copy files using SSH

sftp An ftp-like interface into `scp`

ssh-keygen Generate an SSH key pair

ssh-agent, **ssh-add** SSH key forwarding

5.1 ssh

Commands

```
ssh [options] host [command]
```

Run a shell command on a remote host.

Acts like a normal shell command. ie: STDIN, STDOUT work as normal.

Without a *command*, ssh runs an interactive login.

5.2 scp

Commands

```
scp user@host:path/file user2@host2:path/file2
```

Copy a file over ssh.

user defaults to current login, *user@host* maybe omitted for local files, *path* is relative to \$HOME

5.3 sftp

Commands

```
sftp user@host:path
```

ftp-like command line interface to scp.

Only provided with more recent ssh versions.

6 Advanced usage

6.1 Redirecting stdin and stdout

Redirecting stdin and stdout

Remember that STDIN and STDOUT still work as normal (unlike telnet):

```
ssh remote tar zcf - /remotepath > localfile.tar.gz
```

6.2 X forwarding

Advanced Usage

```
ssh -X host
```

Login to *host* and “forward” X11 connections back to the local Xserver.

A “fake” \$DISPLAY and `xauth` environment are created, and the X11 data is passed back over the same SSH connection.

Advanced Usage

- Forwarding X over SSH is secure and easy, but slower than not doing it.
- On a local LAN, the encryption is probably unnecessary—use normal X methods such as `rstart` instead (`rstart` can use ssh for authentication anyway).

- Specialised X11 caching methods (eg: LBX) can get better performance than ssh compression over slow links.
- There are concerns over connecting to a hostile remote machine and forwarding X back again, so don't forward X by default. A hostile remote site may forward damaging commands back down the link to your X server (ie your screen and keyboard).

6.3 Port Forwarding

Advanced Usage

Arbitrary ports can also be forwarded over the SSH connection, to add security to other protocols (or bypass poor firewall policies...)

```
# .fetchmailrc example
poll localhost protocol pop3 port 11110:
  preconnect "ssh -C -f user@host.com \
    -L 11110:host.com:110 sleep 10"
```

7 Authenticating with User Keys

Advanced Usage

- Public key authentication. More secure alternative to password login.
- Generate a public/private “key pair” with `ssh-keygen`.
- **Keep the private key secret.**
- Append the public key into your (remote) `~/.ssh/authorized_keys` to allow access.


```
$ cat identity.pub » ~/.ssh/authorized_keys ←
```
- More powerful automation (scripting) possibilities.

7.1 ssh-agent

Advanced Usage

- `ssh-agent` allows key information to be “forwarded” between its child processes—even across nested ssh sessions.
- Start `ssh-agent` in your X-session or login scripts, and run `ssh-add` to add keys.
- `ssh-askpass` is (basically) an X11 version of `ssh-add`.

8 SSH from Windows

Advanced Usage

Putty Includes command line `pscp.exe` `scp` clone too.

<http://www.chiark.greenend.org.uk/~sgtatham/putty/>

Winscp Graphical SCP client.

<http://winscp.vse.cz/eng>

9 Other frontends

Advanced Usage

KDE kio_fish Provides `ssh://konquerer` paths.

tramp.el Transparent access to remote files for emacs.

rsh-compatible Anything that can use rsh (eg: CVS)

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