

1.113.7

Set up secure shell (OpenSSH)

Weight 4

Linux Professional Institute Certification — 102

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Description of Objective

1.113.7 Set up secure shell (OpenSSH)

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.

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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/sshrc` — global login script for SSH

`sshd` — SSH server program

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

“Secure SHell”

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

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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.)

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

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```
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.

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Commands

scp

```
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

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Commands

sftp

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

ftp-like command line interface to scp.
Only provided with more recent ssh versions.

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

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

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X Forwarding

```
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.

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X Forwarding *ctd...*

- ▶ 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).

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Advanced Usage

Port Forwarding

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"
```

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Advanced Usage

SSH Keys

- ▶ 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.

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Advanced Usage

SSH Authentication Agent

- ▶ `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`.

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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`

Advanced Usage

Other “frontends”

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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