

SSH into a Cisco Router/Switch

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7:41 PM

To setup SSH for a router or a switch, you would need a hostname and a domain name.

The device would then translate your hostname and domain name to create a Fully Qualified Domain Name (FQDN) and it stores the SSH keys with the fqdn.

- 1) Setup a hostname for the device using -- "**hostname whatevername**"
- 2) Create a username and corresponding password using the command - "**username whatevername secret/password whateverpass**"
- 3) Now configure a domain name using the command "**ip domain name whatevername**"
- 4) Now you will have to create an SSH key pair which is used to encrypt and decrypt data. The command is - "**crypto key generate rsa**"
- 5) The device would then ask you for the size of the key you would want. The default is 2048 bits. You can choose a preferred size.
- 6) You would now have to setup SSH on the device which can be done by using the command "**ip ssh version 2**". It is recommended that you use SSH version 2.
- 7) You can now create virtual terminals using the command "**line vty 0 5**".
- 8) Now is the time to let the SSH service know that we will be using local usernames and passwords which can be done by using the command - "**login local**".
- 9) If you want to disable telnet due to security reasons and disable telnet access, use the command "**transport input ssh**". This has to be configured in the vty lines.
- 10) You can see the status of SSH using the command "**show ip ssh**".

The "**exec-timeout minutes seconds**" command helps you set an inactivity timeout for the vty lines.

VOILA! SSH is now setup on your networking device. You can now remotely access your device using SSH.

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