

you prefer, you can use the [describe-instances](#) (AWS CLI) or [Get-EC2Instance](#) (AWS Tools for Windows PowerShell) command.

- **(IPv6 only) Get the IPv6 address of the instance**

If you've assigned an IPv6 address to your instance, you can optionally connect to the instance using its IPv6 address instead of a public IPv4 address or public IPv4 DNS hostname. Your local computer must have an IPv6 address and must be configured to use IPv6. You can get the IPv6 address of your instance using the Amazon EC2 console (check the **IPv6 IPs** field). If you prefer, you can use the [describe-instances](#) (AWS CLI) or [Get-EC2Instance](#) (AWS Tools for Windows PowerShell) command. For more information about IPv6, see [IPv6 Addresses \(p. 575\)](#).

- **Locate the private key**

Get the fully qualified path to the location on your computer of the `.pem` file for the key pair that you specified when you launched the instance.

- **Enable inbound SSH traffic from your IP address to your instance**

Ensure that the security group associated with your instance allows incoming SSH traffic from your IP address. The default security group does not allow incoming SSH traffic by default. For more information, see [Authorizing Inbound Traffic for Your Linux Instances \(p. 542\)](#).

Connecting to Your Linux Instance

Use the following procedure to connect to your Linux instance using an SSH client. If you receive an error while attempting to connect to your instance, see [Troubleshooting Connecting to Your Instance](#).

To connect to your instance using SSH

1. (Optional) You can verify the RSA key fingerprint on your running instance by using one of the following commands on your local system (not on the instance). This is useful if you've launched your instance from a public AMI from a third party. Locate the `SSH HOST KEY FINGERPRINTS` section, and note the RSA fingerprint (for example, `1f:51:ae:28:bf:89:e9:d8:1f:25:5d:37:2d:7d:b8:ca:9f:f5:f1:6f`) and compare it to the fingerprint of the instance.

- [get-console-output](#) (AWS CLI)

```
aws ec2 get-console-output --instance-id instance_id
```

Ensure that the instance is in the `running` state, not the `pending` state. The `SSH HOST KEY FINGERPRINTS` section is only available after the first boot of the instance.

2. In a command-line shell, change directories to the location of the private key file that you created when you launched the instance.
3. **Use the `chmod` command to make sure that your private key file isn't publicly viewable.** For example, if the name of your private key file is `my-key-pair.pem`, use the following command:

```
chmod 400 /path/my-key-pair.pem
```

4. Use the `ssh` command to connect to the instance. You specify the private key (`.pem`) file and `user_name@public_dns_name`. For Amazon Linux, the user name is `ec2-user`. For RHEL, the user name is `ec2-user` or `root`. For Ubuntu, the user name is `ubuntu` or `root`. For Centos, the user name is `centos`. For Fedora, the user name is `ec2-user`. For SUSE, the user name is `ec2-user` or `root`. Otherwise, if `ec2-user` and `root` don't work, check with your AMI provider.

```
ssh -i /path/my-key-pair.pem ec2-user@ec2-198-51-100-1.compute-1.amazonaws.com
```

You see a response like the following.

```
The authenticity of host 'ec2-198-51-100-1.compute-1.amazonaws.com (10.254.142.33)'  
can't be established.  
RSA key fingerprint is 1f:51:ae:28:bf:89:e9:d8:1f:25:5d:37:2d:7d:b8:ca:9f:f5:f1:6f.  
Are you sure you want to continue connecting (yes/no)?
```

5. (IPv6 only) Alternatively, you can connect to the instance using its IPv6 address. Specify the `ssh` command with the path to the private key (.pem) file and the appropriate user name. For Amazon Linux, the user name is `ec2-user`. For RHEL, the user name is `ec2-user` or `root`. **For Ubuntu, the user name is `ubuntu` or `root`.** For Centos, the user name is `centos`. For Fedora, the user name is `ec2-user`. For SUSE, the user name is `ec2-user` or `root`. Otherwise, if `ec2-user` and `root` don't work, check with your AMI provider.

```
ssh -i /path/my-key-pair.pem ec2-user@2001:db8:1234:1a00:9691:9503:25ad:1761
```

6. (Optional) Verify that the fingerprint in the security alert matches the fingerprint that you obtained in step 1. If these fingerprints don't match, someone might be attempting a "man-in-the-middle" attack. If they match, continue to the next step.
7. Enter yes.

You see a response like the following.

```
Warning: Permanently added 'ec2-198-51-100-1.compute-1.amazonaws.com' (RSA)  
to the list of known hosts.
```

Transferring Files to Linux Instances from Linux Using SCP

One way to transfer files between your local computer and a Linux instance is to use Secure Copy (SCP). This section describes how to transfer files with SCP. The procedure is similar to the procedure for connecting to an instance with SSH.

Prerequisites

- **Install an SCP client**

Most Linux, Unix, and Apple computers include an SCP client by default. If yours doesn't, the OpenSSH project provides a free implementation of the full suite of SSH tools, including an SCP client. For more information, go to <http://www.openssh.org>.

- **Get the ID of the instance**

You can get the ID of your instance using the Amazon EC2 console (from the **Instance ID** column). If you prefer, you can use the `describe-instances` (AWS CLI) or `Get-EC2Instance` (AWS Tools for Windows PowerShell) command.

- **Get the public DNS name of the instance**

You can get the public DNS for your instance using the Amazon EC2 console (check the **Public DNS (IPv4)** column; if this column is hidden, choose the **Show/Hide** icon and select **Public DNS (IPv4)**). If you prefer, you can use the `describe-instances` (AWS CLI) or `Get-EC2Instance` (AWS Tools for Windows PowerShell) command.

- **(IPv6 only) Get the IPv6 address of the instance**

If you've assigned an IPv6 address to your instance, you can optionally connect to the instance using its IPv6 address instead of a public IPv4 address or public IPv4 DNS hostname. Your local computer must have an IPv6 address and must be configured to use IPv6. You can get the IPv6 address of