

Automation Demo

This is a small demo that will show the concepts of application automation

Objectives

- Discuss and explain issues of authentication and access with automation
- Understand secrets management and discuss potential software solutions
- Discuss and understand the creation and use of SSH/RSA keys
- Discuss and understand software automation solutions

Outcomes

At the end of this demonstration you will be able to deploy two sample applications. The first involving pre-seeding a root password for a database (MariaDB) and pre-seeding 3 records into the database via automation software and from a private GitHub repo. The second will involve deploying a small NodeJS application and application code as well as a proxy frontend from a private GitHub repo.

Setup

For this demonstration, you need to have Packer, Vagrant, and VirtualBox installed. If you completed the Tooling Assignment then you will have the correct tools.

You can clone the sample code I will be using—issue the command:

```
git clone https://github.com/jhajak/packer-vagrant-build-scripts.git
```

In this repo, under the folder named Packer > itmt430 you will find a detailed Readme.md. The content of that link will be reprinted here.

Initial Problem

How can you clone code from a private GitHub Repo? When you do so on the command line you are prompted for a password. This breaks automation. Git and GitHub have a solution. You can add an RSA Public Key to GitHub (called a Deploy Key) and clone over SSH as opposed to https.

Pre-steps

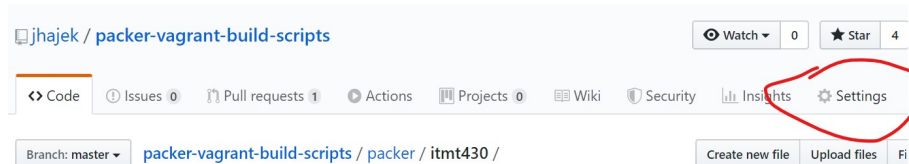
Secrets management (passwords, keys, key/value pairs) is the one of the main focuses of cyber-security as well as any application health. In building a application via automation tools, we have the concern of how we will place secrets into our new Operating System as well as how we will retrieve application code securely from a private GitHub repository.

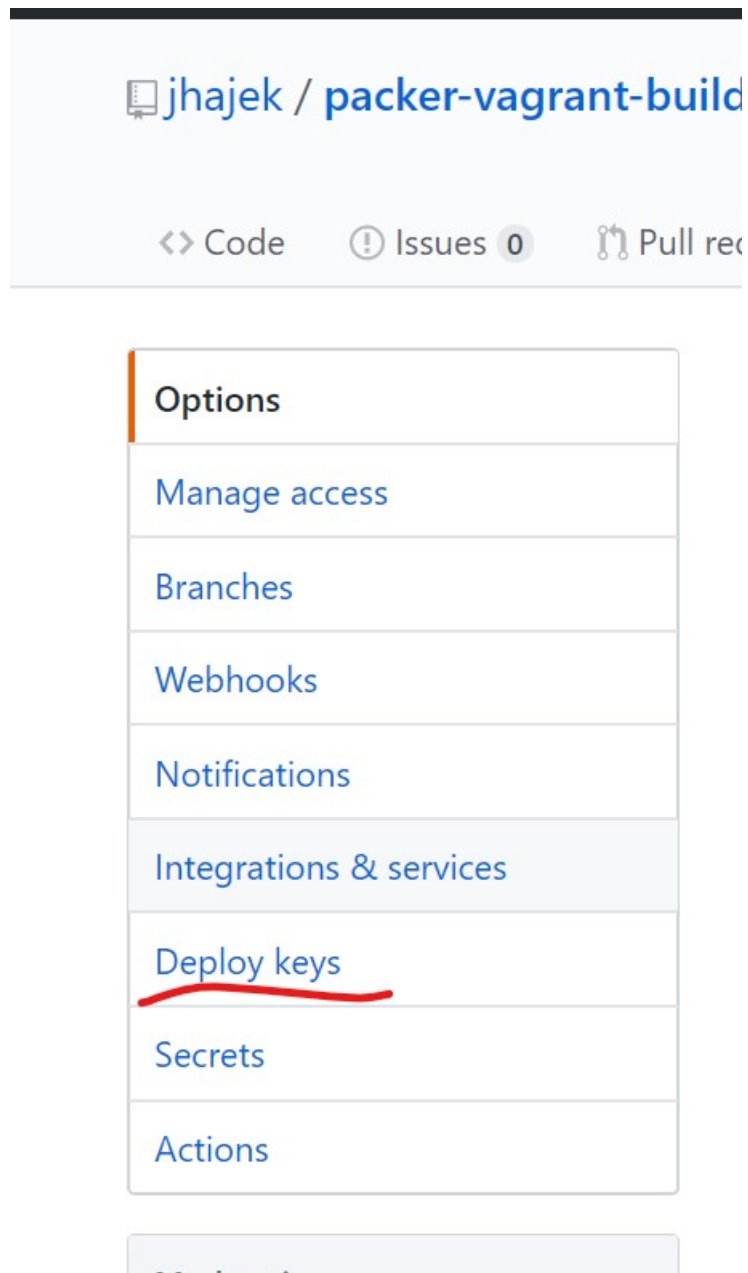
We will be using SSH/RSA keys to authenticate between your system and GitHub. You might have heard these referred to as public/private key authentication. You will need to generate a keypair. This can be done by issuing the following command from a shell on Mac, Linux, and PowerShell/Windows:

`ssh-keygen`

You can accept the defaults by hitting enter. In this case we don't want a passcode for our key. If you have not generated a keypair before, two files `id_rsa` and `id_rsa.pub` will be generated in the `~/.ssh` directory. One is the private key, one is the public key.

Upon being made an admin of your team's GitHub repo, you will now have the ability to add public keys to your repo. GitHub refers to these as **Deploy Keys**.





Open your Public Key and paste the content into a new GitHub Deploy Key. Give the name a very descriptive key name so you can remember where the key is located. You don't want to be reusing keys or passing them around. You can generate and add as many keys as you want to.

```

controller@lenovo-laptop: ~/.ssh$ ssh-keygen
Generating public/private rsa key pair.
Enter file in which to save the key (/home/controller/.ssh/id_rsa):
Enter passphrase (empty for no passphrase):
Enter same passphrase again:
Your identification has been saved in /home/controller/.ssh/id_rsa.
Your public key has been saved in /home/controller/.ssh/id_rsa.pub.
The key fingerprint is:
SHA256:/8QL69Pv4F8JhDyT7LWxZPZkLDJLGu8oI3gkc8Imgs0 controller@lenovo-laptop
The key's randomart image is:
+---[RSA 2048]-----+
|+oo.      *o|
|ooE .    o * =o=|
|+      @ = +|
|..      o * .|
|+ S + o |
|. o o . o . .|
|. . ooo+ . .|
|. * . o .|
|. o . + + +|
+----[SHA256]-----+
controller@lenovo-laptop: ~/.ssh$ ls
id_rsa      id_rsa_apit      id_rsa_macos      id_rsa_nano      id_rsa_pi3      known_hosts      raspberry-pi-priv
id_rsa.pub  id_rsa_apit.pub  id_rsa_macos.pub  id_rsa_nano.pub  id_rsa_pi3.pub  known_hosts.old
controller@lenovo-laptop: ~/.ssh$

```

Figure 1: *ssh-keygen* output

```

controller@lenovo-laptop: ~/.ssh$ cat id_rsa.pub
ssh-rsa AAAAB3NzaC1yc2EAAAADAQABAAQKDv3b35jdgr0YclLhh1PLZMWw5LHUwSvyZJ6ntet+XQqg1bbY2/jG7NCJYwXfYUAGOuHA4CaDNJCR3MP
qqoxe+6b5EigQNDQITbZnreOroVyKGYuaL5/V7qEuqleMAeQSLU7IsUjLSeeI92rVAC2Fu8bHKxa+zoDnvBMxzWb4FVNdycrcgEs3AhR/NjgYpsRZfmFsT89
qZ2pihsBrICgQNT1pvgYjRXkAugTttbNpeeIcWuajTti09PxZmjPclB9wC5KTU702fkQ0bbBZ93QneaPUiG1bhOQjYJcfBKTfsGHm7uJdtJ7kkEqP3pQwdL
Ku01e6oC6tXBWYDe047j controller@lenovo-laptop
controller@lenovo-laptop: ~/.ssh$

```

Figure 2: *id_rsa.pub*

Deploy keys / Add new

Title

Key-On-My-Windows-Laptop

Key

```

ssh-rsa
AAAAB3NzaC1yc2EAAAADAQABAAQKDv3b35jdgr0YclLhh1PLZMWw5LHUwSvyZJ6ntet+XQqg1bbY2/jG7NCJ
YwXfYUAGOuHA4CaDNJCR3MPqqoxe+6b5EigQNDQITbZnreOroVyKGYuaL5/V7qEuqleMAeQSLU7IsUjLSeeI92rVA
C2fu8bHKxa+zoDnvBMxzWb4FVNdycrcgEs3AhR/NjgYpsRZfmFsT89qZ2pihsBrICgQNT1pvgYjRXkAugTttbNpeeIcW
uajTti09PxZmjPclB9wC5KTU702fkQ0bbBZ93QneaPUiG1bhOQjYJcfBKTfsGHm7uJdtJ7kkEqP3pQwdLKu01e6oC6tXBW
YDe047j controller@lenovo-laptop

```

☐ Allow write access

Can this key be used to push to this repository? Deploy keys always have pull access.

Add key

Figure 3: *How to add a new key*

SSH Config

What happens when we run this command?

```
# replace hajek.git with your teams or your own private repo name  
git clone git@github.com:illinoistech-itm/hajek.git
```

You are prompted with a yes/no prompt, which will prevent an automated cloning.

```
controller@lenovo-laptop:~/.ssh$ git clone git@github.com:illinoistech-itm/hajek.git  
Cloning into 'hajek'...  
The authenticity of host 'github.com (140.82.113.4)' can't be established.  
RSA key fingerprint is SHA256:nThbg6kXUpJWGl7E1IGOCspRomTxdCARLviKw6E5SY8.  
Are you sure you want to continue connecting (yes/no)?
```

There is a way to disable the fingerprinting. It involves creating a file called `config` and placing it in your `~/.ssh` directory. This `config` file is an SSH default file that any SSH connection will read automatically. This helps setup FQDNs or complicated file paths and saves you the time to type them. The file should contain this content at the least:

```
Host github.com  
Hostname github.com  
IdentityFile /home/vagrant/.ssh/id_rsa  
StrictHostKeyChecking no
```

- The value `StrictHostKeyChecking` is what turns off the fingerprint checking.
- The `IdentityFile` value should point to your private key location (`id_rsa`)

After adding the `config` file, we now encounter a file permission error. You will see the issue here is that GitHub requires the file to be permission 600 if you are on Linux or Mac, but not Windows.

One aspect of cloning via SSH is we now introduce the concept of fingerprinting, or anti-man-in-the-middle.

Packer User-Variables

In this example we will be using Packer and Vagrant. Packer will be used to construct and automate the build of our application. Packer makes use of `scp` commands during its post-provisioner phase in order to allow files and other secrets to be transferred.

<https://www.packer.io/docs/templates/user-variables.html>

```

controller@lenovo-laptop:~$ git clone git@github.com:illinoistech-itm/hajek.git
Cloning into 'hajek'...
Bad owner or permissions on /home/controller/.ssh/config
fatal: Could not read from remote repository.

Please make sure you have the correct access rights
and the repository exists.
controller@lenovo-laptop:~$ ls -la ~/.ssh/config
-rw-rw-rw- 1 controller controller 106 Feb 27 10:35 /home/controller/.ssh/config
controller@lenovo-laptop:~$ chmod 600 ~/.ssh/config
controller@lenovo-laptop:~$ git clone git@github.com:illinoistech-itm/hajek.git
Cloning into 'hajek'...
Warning: Permanently added 'github.com,192.30.253.112' (RSA) to the list of known hosts.
remote: Enumerating objects: 319, done.
remote: Counting objects: 100% (319/319), done.
remote: Compressing objects: 100% (253/253), done.
remote: Total 6169 (delta 189), reused 181 (delta 58), pack-reused 5850
Receiving objects: 100% (6169/6169), 185.75 MiB | 6.20 MiB/s, done.
Resolving deltas: 100% (3724/3724), done.
Checking out files: 100% (674/674), done.
controller@lenovo-laptop:~$

```

Figure 4: *bad-permission*

What we need to set username and passwords securely in Packer

- 1) Issue the command inside of the folder, `cp variables-sample.json variables.json`
 - 1) The `variables.json` file contains key value pairs of variables and passwords to be passed into the provisioner shell script.
 - 2) This renames the file `variables-sample.json` to `variables.json` (There is an entry in the `.gitignore` so you cannot accidentally `git push` your passwords).
- 2) Edit the `variables.json` file replacing default values with your own
- 3) Issue the command `packer build --var-file=./variables.json ubuntu18044-itmt430-database.json` and `packer build --var-file=./variables.json ubuntu18044-itmt430-webserver.json` to begin the install with password, usernames, and RSA private key properly seeded
- 4) This way we can securely build the system, deploy it and when building it pass in passwords via environment variables

Webserver contents

- 1) This application has an Nginx webserver running on port 80.
- 2) It has a Nodejs Hello World application running on port 3000.
- 3) It has an Nginx route to the Nodejs app located at `/app`

Database contents

- 1) System will create a `.my.cnf` file which allows for password-less authentication
- 2) System will pre-seed MariaDB or MySQL root password