

How do I access my SSH public key?

Asked 11 years, 11 months ago Modified 5 months ago Viewed 1.5m times



I've just generated my RSA key pair, and I wanted to add that key to GitHub.

857

I tried `cd id_rsa.pub` and `id_rsa.pub`, but no luck. How can I access my SSH public key?



[git](#) [ssh](#) [rsa](#)



235

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edited Aug 8, 2018 at 18:20



[Peter Mortensen](#)

30.4k 21 102 124

asked Sep 30, 2010 at 6:03



[sscirrus](#)

54k 41 132 219



possible duplicate of [How do I find my RSA key fingerprint?](#) – [kenorb](#) Mar 26, 2015 at 21:37

4 @kenorb You mean that Q is a duplicate of this? This question was asked two years earlier. :) – [sscirrus](#) Apr 3, 2015 at 16:45

Yes, the other seems to be better positioned (based on the wording, etc.), it has more views and votes within shorter period of time which indicates it's much more popular. See: [Should I vote to close a duplicate question, even though it's much newer, and has more up to date answers?](#) Once duplicate, both answers could be merged into one. – [kenorb](#) Apr 3, 2015 at 17:14 ✎

8 `pbcopy < ~/.ssh/id_rsa.pub` worked for me! Check this [GitHub article](#) – [Connor Leech](#) Jun 18, 2018 at 17:23 ✎

23 Answers

Sorted by:

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Highest score (default)



`cat ~/.ssh/id_rsa.pub` OR `cat ~/.ssh/id_dsa.pub`

1441

You can list all the public keys you have by doing:



`$ ls ~/.ssh/*.pub`



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edited Jul 18, 2014 at 20:43

answered Sep 30, 2010 at 6:05



[Mitch Dempsey](#)

37.5k 6 65 73



14 Even though I see the file in the place it's referring to (C:/Users/Me/.ssh/id_rsa.pub), these commands are producing an error: No such file or directory. I'm doing this from Git Bash, MyPC ~/.ssh – [sscirrus](#) Sep 30, 2010 at 6:17 ✎

3 @sscirus: In windows, you can use `type` command. Or just open the `.pub` file in notepad and paste it to github. – [Peter Štibraný](#) Sep 30, 2010 at 6:20 ✎

Thanks a lot Peter, for the answer and the edit. Make it an answer and I'll accept :) – [sscirus](#) Sep 30, 2010 at 6:22 ✎

3 @sscirus: accept this one ... it works as well (under unix or cygwin) – [Peter Štibraný](#) Sep 30, 2010 at 6:23

41 on Mac OS X: `cat ~/.ssh/id_rsa.pub` – [karlingen](#) Apr 9, 2014 at 8:40 ✎

Copy the key to your clipboard.

276

```
$ pbcopy < ~/.ssh/id_rsa.pub
# Copies the contents of the id_rsa.pub file to your clipboard
```



Warning: it's important to copy the key exactly without adding newlines or whitespace. Thankfully the `pbcopy` command makes it easy to perform this setup perfectly.

and paste it wherever you need.

More details on the process, check: [Generating SSH Keys](#).

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edited Sep 11, 2020 at 1:30

answered Jan 18, 2013 at 5:28



DD_

7,441

11

37

61

7 `sudo apt-get install xclip -y` for those users who doesn't have `pbcopy` working. – [bigbiggerpepe](#) Jun 29, 2016 at 6:20 ✎

5 `sudo apt-get install -y xclip` followed by `alias pbcopy="xclip -sel clip"` and then `pbcopy < ~/.ssh/id_rsa.pub` OR simply `xclip -selection clipboard < ~/.ssh/id_rsa.pub` – [gebbissimo](#) Mar 8, 2019 at 12:29 ✎

You may try to run the following command to show your RSA fingerprint:

61

```
ssh-agent sh -c 'ssh-add; ssh-add -l'
```

or public key:



```
ssh-agent sh -c 'ssh-add; ssh-add -L'
```

If you've the message: 'The agent has no identities.', then you've to generate your RSA key by `ssh-keygen` first.

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edited Mar 28, 2015 at 15:02

answered Mar 26, 2015 at 21:35



kenorb

143k 76 653 708

3 This is good for when you don't know the path of the key beforehand. It's not always in `~/.ssh/`.
– [rudolfbyker](#) Jun 25, 2019 at 6:37

Tried it out, works on Mac, Win10 (in git bash) and Ubuntu. – [Filip Haglund](#) May 12, 2020 at 19:22

2 Using `ssh-add -L` is by far the better option as not every SSH key is an RSA key sitting in the `~/.ssh` folder. I much prefer to use my PGP key for authentication and so I do not have a `~/.ssh/id_rsa.pub` file at all. – [steinybot](#) May 23, 2020 at 2:40



If you're on Windows use the following, select all, and copy from a Notepad window:

37

```
notepad ~/.ssh/id_rsa.pub
```



If you're on OS X, use:



```
pbcopy < ~/.ssh/id_rsa.pub
```

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edited Aug 8, 2018 at 18:27

answered Mar 14, 2014 at 4:20



Peter Mortensen

30.4k 21 102 124



nsuinteger

1,443 12 20



Mac, Ubuntu, Linux compatible machines, use this command to print public key, then copy it:

26

```
$ cat ~/.ssh/id_rsa.pub
```



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answered May 23, 2021 at 21:35



Tellisense

1,508 10 10



Here's how I found mine on OS X:

21

1. Open a terminal
2. (You are in the home directory) `cd .ssh` (a hidden directory)
3. `pbcopy < id_rsa.pub` (this copies it to the clipboard)



If that doesn't work, do an `ls` and see what files are in there with a `.pub` extension.

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edited Aug 8, 2018 at 18:25

answered Oct 24, 2013 at 15:33



Peter Mortensen

30.4k 21 102 124



Mark

732 8 12



On terminal `cat ~/.ssh/id_rsa.pub`

14 explanation



1. **cat** is a standard Unix utility that reads files and prints output
2. `~` Is your Home User path
3. **./ssh** - your hidden directory contains all your ssh certificates
4. **id_rsa.pub** OR **id_dsa.pub** are RSA public keys, (the private key located on the client machine). the primary key for example can be used to enable cloning project from remote repository securely to your client end point.

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answered Nov 11, 2018 at 16:34



avivamg

9,652 1 60 46



After you generate your SSH key you can do:

12

```
cat .ssh/id_rsa.pub |pbcopy
```



which will copy your ssh key into your clipboard.

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answered Jan 18, 2014 at 0:08



Brett

548 4 11



If you're using windows, the command is:

10



```
type %userprofile%\ssh\id_rsa.pub
```

Run code snippet

Copy snippet to answer

[Expand snippet](#)

it should print the key (if you have one). You should copy the entire result. If none is present, then do:

```
ssh-keygen -t rsa -C "your.email@example.com" -b 4096
```

[Run code snippet](#)[Copy snippet to answer](#)[Expand snippet](#)[Share](#) [Edit](#) [Follow](#)

edited Sep 25, 2018 at 14:32

answered May 2, 2018 at 12:43

[Jghayes525](#)**103** 1 5

If you are using Windows PowerShell, the easiest way is to:

10

```
cat ~/.ssh/id_<key-type-here>.pub | clip
```

That will copy the key to your clipboard for easy pasting.

So, in my instance, I use ed25519 since RSA is now fairly hackable:

```
cat ~/.ssh/id_ed25519.pub | clip
```

Because I find myself doing this a lot, I created a function and set a simple alias I could remember in my PowerShell profile (learn more about PowerShell profiles [here](#). Just add this to your Microsoft.PowerShell_profile.ps1 :

```
function Copy-SSHKey {  
    Get-Content ~/.ssh/id_ed25519.pub | clip  
}
```

```
Set_Alias -Name sshkey -Value Copy-SSHKey
```

Then, in a PowerShell console, run `. $profile` to load the functions. Then from now on all you will need to do is run `sshkey`, and then paste the key into wherever you need via the clipboard.

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edited Aug 8, 2018 at 18:31

answered May 21, 2017 at 17:16

[Peter Mortensen](#)**30.4k** 21 102 124[Riley Taylor](#)**101** 1 3

Open your id_dsa.pub or some_name.pub file with gedit and copy-paste the contents!

7

Just use:



~/.ssh\$ gedit some_name.pub

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edited Aug 8, 2018 at 18:23



Peter Mortensen

30.4k 21 102 124

answered Oct 21, 2013 at 14:22



sbdv0

79 1 1

When i do so, its opening a blank file. Its not showing any text in it. But when i browse through file manager, i'm able to see the text. – [iamprem](#) Mar 7, 2015 at 20:51



If you only have your **private** key available, you can generate the public key from it:

7

```
ssh-keygen -y
```



or



```
ssh-keygen -y -f path/to/private_key
```

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answered Nov 13, 2020 at 15:58



Kontrollfreak

1,740 12 22



Use:

7

```
# sudo su
# cd /home/user/.ssh
.ssh# gedit id_rsa.pub
```



Then copy the entire file without any spaces. Click your icon at the top right of the GitHub page, go to settings, and add ssh.

Paste the copy into the space. It may prompt for your GitHub password. Enter it. Save.

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edited Aug 8, 2018 at 18:30



Peter Mortensen

30.4k 21 102 124

answered May 5, 2017 at 16:16



yavorcik

111 2 5



The following command will save the SSH key on the clipboard. You only need to paste at the desired location.

7



```
cat ~/.ssh/id_rsa.pub | pbcopy
```



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edited Aug 8, 2018 at 18:33



Peter Mortensen

30.4k 21 102 124

answered Jun 29, 2018 at 22:14



Prabhat Kasera

1,109 11 28

This is my favourite way. – iamkeir Dec 2, 2019 at 12:45



In UBUNTU +18.04

6

```
ssh-keygen -o -t rsa -b 4096 -C "email@example.com"
```



And After that Just Copy And Paste



```
cat ~/.ssh/id_rsa.pub
```

or

```
cat ~/.ssh/id_dsa.pub
```

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answered Dec 17, 2018 at 11:02



Shabeer K

1,362 16 21



It can be found on this path (default path):

5

```
/Users/john/.ssh
```



john is your Mac username.



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edited Aug 8, 2018 at 18:32



Peter Mortensen

30.4k 21 102 124

answered Feb 28, 2018 at 10:08



Waseem Sarwar

2,537 19 18



Just to give a new perspective to that question, if you use github, you could find your public key at: [https://github.com/\\${USERNAME}.keys](https://github.com/${USERNAME}.keys)

3



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answered Aug 9, 2021 at 6:36



JOduMont

45 3





Open terminal nano ~/.ssh/id_rsa.pub

3

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answered Dec 21, 2013 at 9:30



Nick Wood

670 6 9



On a Mac, you can do this to copy it to your clipboard (like `cmd + c` shortcut)

```
cat ~/Desktop/ded.html | pbcopy
```

2

```
pbcopy < ~/.ssh/id_rsa.pub
```



and to paste `pbpaste > ~/Documents/id_rsa.txt`



or, use `cmd + v` shortcut to paste it somewhere else.

~/.ssh is the same path as `/Users/macbook-username/.ssh`

You can use Print work directory: `pwd` command on terminal to get the path to your current directory.

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edited Apr 11, 2018 at 17:53

answered Mar 28, 2018 at 19:43



Jun711

2,764 4 25 48



`id_rsa.pub` is not a directory so you can not use `cd` to open it.

2

instead you can use the command `cd ~/.ssh` to access the folder containing your keys, then use `cat id_rsa.pub`, `nano id_rsa.pub` OR `gedit id_rsa.pub` to access the key file.



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answered Apr 4 at 9:10



Martin Onegh

71 2



On Mac/unix and Windows:

1

`ssh-keygen` then follow the prompts. It will ask you for a name to the file (say you call it `pubkey`, for example). Right away, you should have your key fingerprint and your key's randomart image visible to you.



Then just use your favourite text editor and enter command `vim pubkey.pub` and it (your `ssh-rsa` key) should be there.

Replace `vim` with `emacs` or whatever other editor you have/prefer.

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answered Feb 26, 2020 at 3:53



sawreals

338 4 15

even though I cannot find the file on terminal or finder, opening the file with text editor works... thanks
– [dvdmn](#) Jun 25, 2020 at 14:58



I use Git Bash for my Windows.

1

```
$ eval $(ssh-agent -s) //activates the connection
```



- some output



```
$ ssh-add ~/.ssh/id_rsa //adds the identity
```

- some other output

```
$ clip < ~/.ssh/id_rsa.pub //THIS IS THE IMPORTANT ONE. This adds your key to your clipboard.
```

Go back to GitHub and just paste it in, and voilà! You should be good to go.

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answered Jun 20, 2019 at 15:19



J.W

955 4 12 20



ssh-add is used to show the public key.

0

```
man ssh-add
```



- L Lists public key parameters of all identities currently represented by the agent.



On my Linux system I copy it using `xclip`

```
ssh-add -L | xclip
```

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answered Mar 24 at 15:23



manero

1

-
- 1 Hi manero :) Welcome! There are already a number of answers around the usage of `ssh-add`, could you provide more specifics that would make your Answer more unique? It may otherwise get flagged as a duplicate answer (not a bad thing, just a tidy up process in stackoverflow). Having said that I would suggest checking all existing answers for any overlap in your thinking in the future. Happy StackOverflowing!
– [tjheslin1](#) Mar 24 at 16:53
-

