

Christian Specht (/)

← DNS settings for GitHub Pages/Read the Docs, with only one A record (/2017/02/26/dns-settings-for-github-pages-read-the-docs-with-only-one-a-record/) | Running a combined Jekyll/PHP site on XAMPP → (/2017/10/04/running-a-combined-jekyll-php-site-on-xampp/)

Deleting an SSH key from Git Gui (/2017/08/18/deleting-ssh-key-from-git-gui/)

Aug 18 2017, 15:23:00 | tags: command-line (/tags/#command-line), source-control (/tags/#source-control), ssh (/tags/#ssh)

Update (Oct 06 2021):

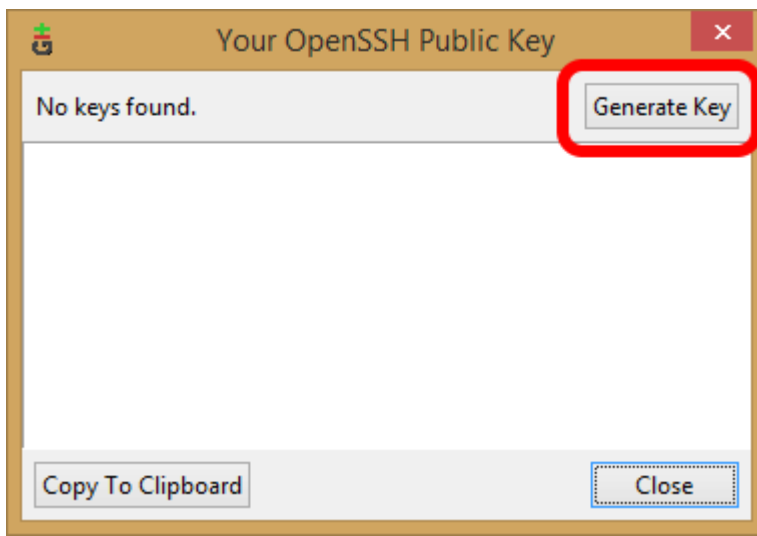
For Windows users: see Deleting an SSH key from Git Gui: the easy Windows solution (/2021/10/06/deleting-ssh-key-from-git-gui-the-easy-windows-solution/) for a much easier way, which I didn't know at the time when I wrote this post here.

For my current hobby project (<http://scm-backup.org>), I'm using Git and GitHub regularly for the first time.

I don't like using source control via the command line (*for Mercurial, I'm using TortoiseHG* (<https://tortoisehg.bitbucket.io/>)), so I'm still experimenting with several GUI clients in order to find the one I like best.

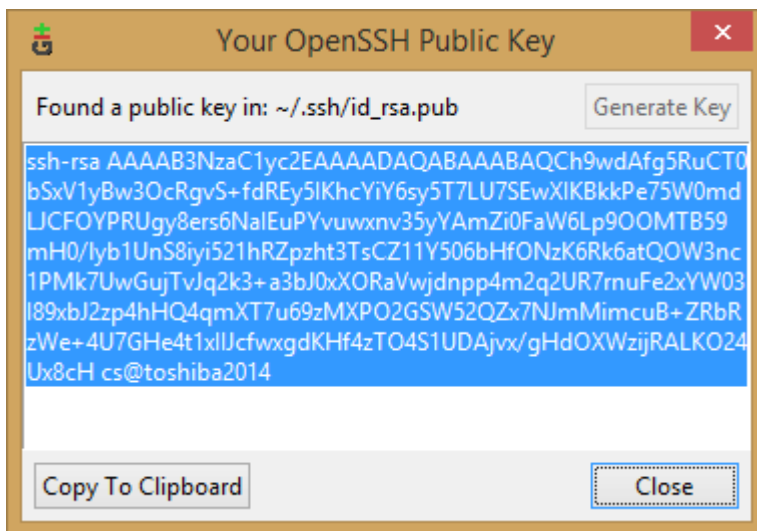
At the moment I'm evaluating the "official" GUI tools which come with the Git for Windows (<https://git-for-windows.github.io/>) download (git-gui (<https://git-scm.com/docs/>) and gitk (<https://git-scm.com/docs/gitk/>)), **and** I started connecting to GitHub with SSH (<https://help.github.com/articles/connecting-to-github-with-ssh/>) instead of user/password via https.

So I created my first SSH key in Git GUI via **Help ⇒ Show SSH key** and then **Generate Key**:



...and then tried to delete it again, because I created it with passphrase (<https://help.github.com/articles/working-with-ssh-key-passphrases/>), but I wanted to try a new one *without* passphrase instead.

But Git GUI didn't let me delete it. Generating a key disables the **Generate Key** button, and there's no **Delete Key** button:



It's obvious from the screenshot that the key is in a file named `id_rsa.pub`, which is in a folder `.ssh` somewhere on my machine, and that I apparently just needed to delete this file.

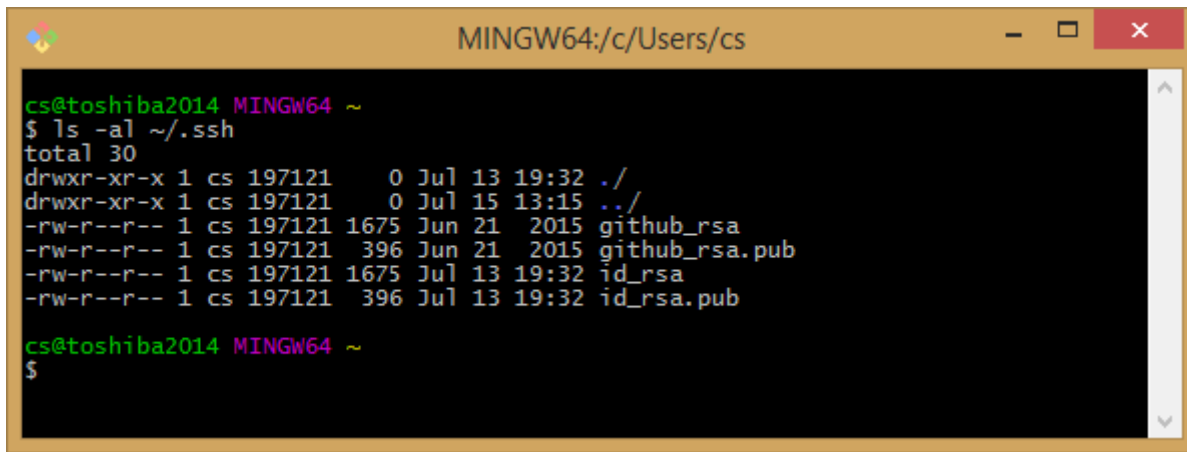
This is probably easy to solve for regular Git Bash / Linux users, but as a Windows user with no Git/Bash/Linux experience, it took me some time to find out how to do it.

Here's the solution:

1. List all keys

Show the content of the `.ssh` folder (<https://help.github.com/articles/checking-for-existing-ssh-keys/>) in Git Bash:

```
ls -al ~/.ssh
```



```
MINGW64:/c/Users/cs
cs@toshiba2014 MINGW64 ~
$ ls -al ~/.ssh
total 30
drwxr-xr-x 1 cs 197121 0 Jul 13 19:32 ./
drwxr-xr-x 1 cs 197121 0 Jul 15 13:15 ../
-rw-r--r-- 1 cs 197121 1675 Jun 21 2015 github_rsa
-rw-r--r-- 1 cs 197121 396 Jun 21 2015 github_rsa.pub
-rw-r--r-- 1 cs 197121 1675 Jul 13 19:32 id_rsa
-rw-r--r-- 1 cs 197121 396 Jul 13 19:32 id_rsa.pub
cs@toshiba2014 MINGW64 ~
$
```

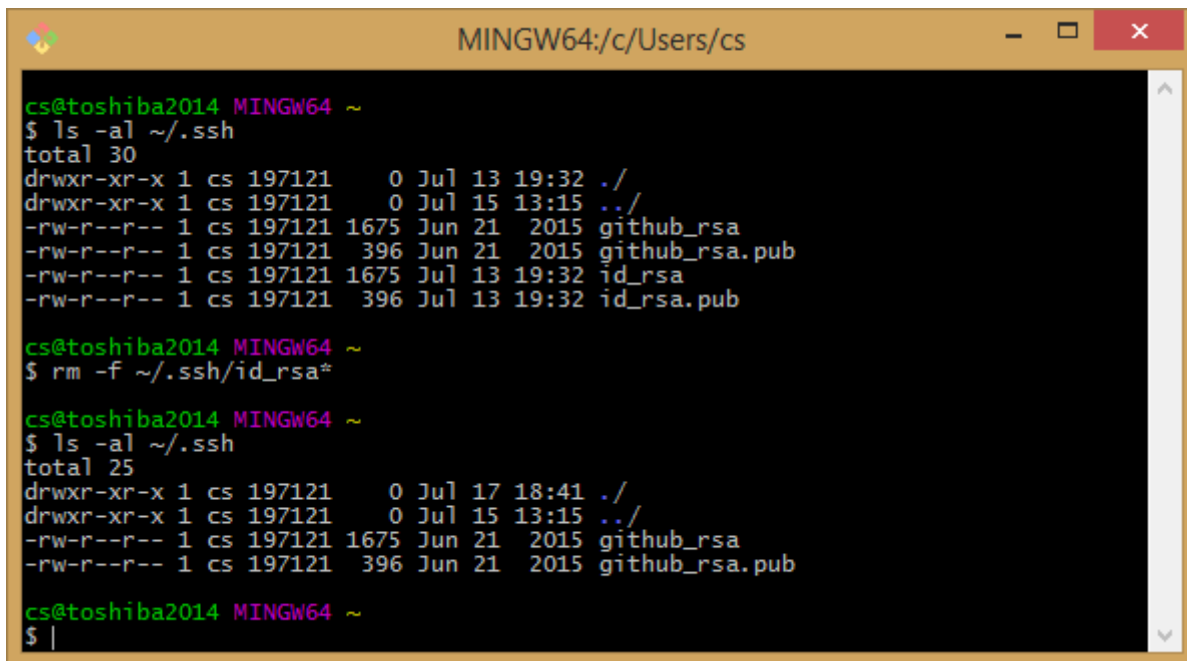
Apparently a SSH key consists of two files, in this case `id_rsa` and `id_rsa.pub`.
(the two `github_rsa` files are probably left from a previous GitHub Desktop (<https://desktop.github.com/>) installation some time ago)

2. Delete the `id_rsa` files

The Bash command for deleting files is `rm -f` (<https://stackoverflow.com/a/31301093/6884>), so I needed to do this:

```
rm -f ~/.ssh/id_rsa*
```

After this, the files are gone:



```
MINGW64:/c/Users/cs
cs@toshiba2014 MINGW64 ~
$ ls -al ~/.ssh
total 30
drwxr-xr-x 1 cs 197121 0 Jul 13 19:32 ./
drwxr-xr-x 1 cs 197121 0 Jul 15 13:15 ../
-rw-r--r-- 1 cs 197121 1675 Jun 21 2015 github_rsa
-rw-r--r-- 1 cs 197121 396 Jun 21 2015 github_rsa.pub
-rw-r--r-- 1 cs 197121 1675 Jul 13 19:32 id_rsa
-rw-r--r-- 1 cs 197121 396 Jul 13 19:32 id_rsa.pub
cs@toshiba2014 MINGW64 ~
$ rm -f ~/.ssh/id_rsa*
cs@toshiba2014 MINGW64 ~
$ ls -al ~/.ssh
total 25
drwxr-xr-x 1 cs 197121 0 Jul 17 18:41 ./
drwxr-xr-x 1 cs 197121 0 Jul 15 13:15 ../
-rw-r--r-- 1 cs 197121 1675 Jun 21 2015 github_rsa
-rw-r--r-- 1 cs 197121 396 Jun 21 2015 github_rsa.pub
cs@toshiba2014 MINGW64 ~
$ |
```

...and I can create a new SSH key by clicking **Generate Key** in the previously shown Git GUI window.

ABOUT ME



[CV \(/cv/\)](#)

[Contact \(/imprint/\)](#)

Developer for about 19 years, living in Kerpen, Germany (near Cologne). Working as an in-house developer (*C#/T-SQL/VBA*) and DBA at weinor (<http://www.weinor.de>), a mid-sized manufacturing company in Cologne.

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[Recordset.Net \(/recordset-net/\)](#)

[RoboShell Backup \(/roboshell-backup/\)](#)

[SCM Backup \(https://scm-backup.org/\)](https://scm-backup.org/)

[SimpleLeague \(/simpleleague/\)](#)

[VBA Helpers \(/vba-helpers/\)](#)

LINKS



Christian Specht

35,115

14 128 178

[\(https://stackoverflow.com/users/6884/\)](https://stackoverflow.com/users/6884/)

Open Hub

Christian Specht
1582 commits



[\(https://www.openhub.net/accounts/131837?ref=Detailed\)](https://www.openhub.net/accounts/131837?ref=Detailed)



[\(https://github.com/christianspecht\)](https://github.com/christianspecht)



[\(https://gitlab.com/christianspecht\)](https://gitlab.com/christianspecht)



[\(https://bitbucket.org/christianspecht\)](https://bitbucket.org/christianspecht)



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