Christian Specht (/)

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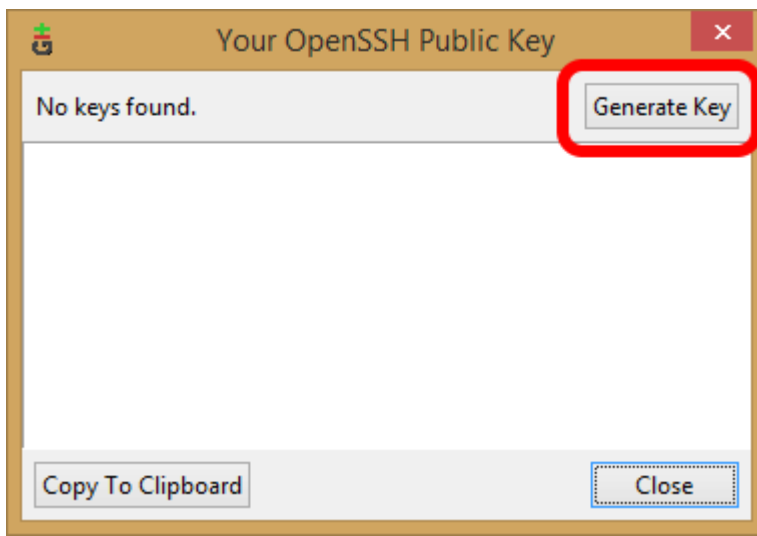
...and then tried to delete it again, because I created it with passphrase (https://help.github.com/articles/working-with-ssh-key-passphrases/), but I wanted to try a new one *without* passphrase instead.

But Git GUI didn't let me delete it. Generating a key disables the **Generate Key** button, and there's no **Delete Key** button:
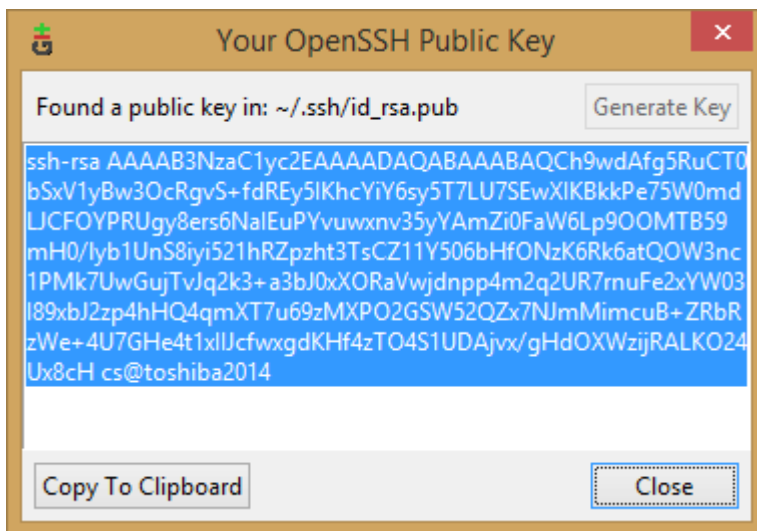
It's obvious from the screenshot that the key is in a file named `id_rsa.pub`, which is in a folder `.ssh` somewhere on my machine, and that I apparently just needed to delete this file.
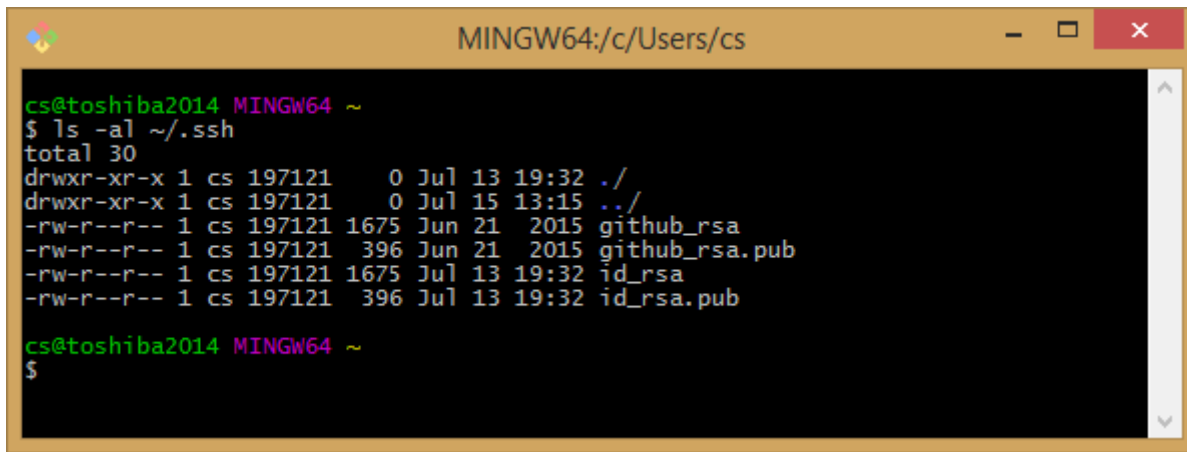
This is probably easy to solve for regular Git Bash / Linux users, but as a Windows user with no Git/Bash/Linux experience, it took me some time to find out how to do it.

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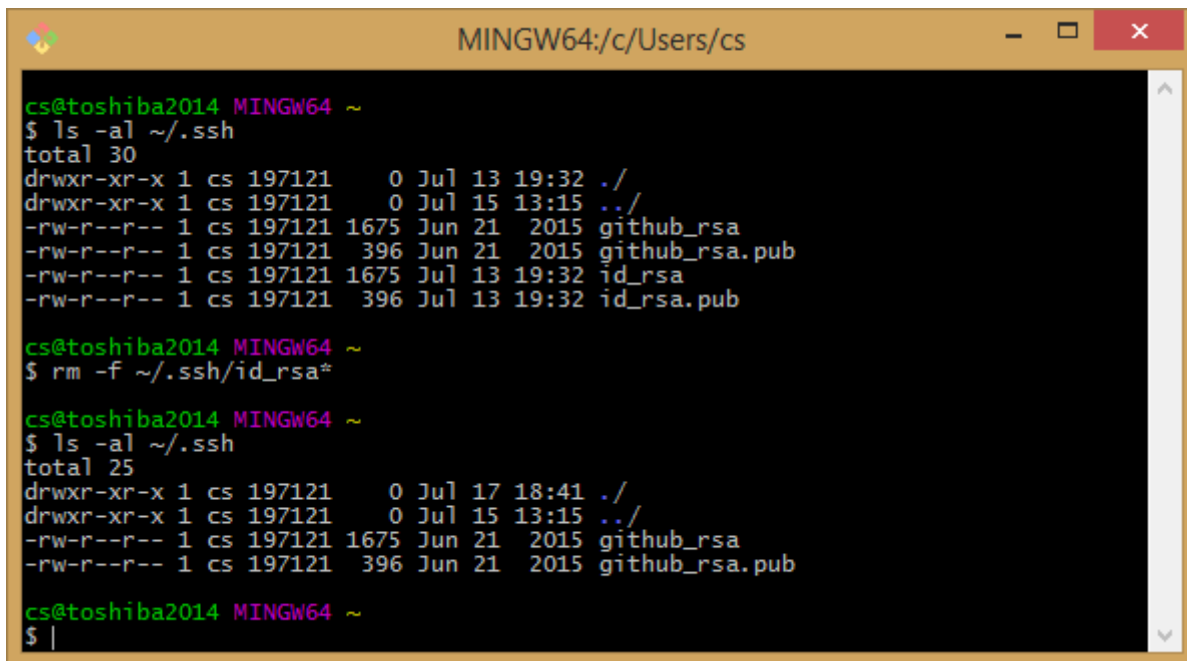
```
ls -al ~/.ssh
```

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:

...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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VBA Helpers (/vba-helpers/)

LINKS

 (https://stackoverflow.com/users/6884/)

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

 (https://github.com/christianspecht) (https://gitlab.com/christianspecht) (https://bitbucket.org/christianspecht) (https://www.linkedin.com/in/christian-specht/) (https://www.xing.com/profile/Christian_Specht29/)

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