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Use SFTP to transfer files

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Overview

The SSH File Transfer Protocol (SFTP), also known as the Secure File Transfer Protocol, enables secure file transfer capabilities between networked hosts. Unlike the Secure Copy Protocol (SCP), SFTP additionally provides remote file system management functionality, allowing applications to resume interrupted file transfers, list the contents of remote directories, and delete remote files.

The command-line secure file transfer program (`sftp`) and graphical SFTP clients, such as WinSCP and Fetch, use SSH2 encryption to authenticate and establish secure channels between networked hosts. Although SFTP clients are functionally similar to FTP clients, they employ different protocols; consequently, you cannot use a standard FTP client to connect to an SFTP server.

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IU hostnames

At Indiana University, specify the following hostnames for SFTP file transfers involving these UITS (ahaw) resources (authenticate using your IU username (ajgc) and passphrase (acpu)):

System	Hostname
Big Red II (bcqt)	`bigred2.uits.iu.edu`
Carbonate (aolp)	`carbonate.uits.iu.edu`
Karst (bezu)	`karst.uits.iu.edu`
Research Database Complex (amuw)	`rdc.uits.iu.edu`
Scholarly Data Archive (aiyi)	`sftp.sdarchive.iu.edu`
Mercury (merc) (Pages (alcr))	`mercury.uits.indiana.edu`
Webserve (awkz)	`webserve.iu.edu`

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Graphical SFTP clients

Graphical SFTP clients simplify file transfers by allowing you to drag and drop icons from one window to another. Each icon represents a file or directory, and each window represents a computer's file system. When you open the program, you specify the name of the remote host to which you want to connect, and then authenticate (alqk) with your username and password for that host.

For IU, students, faculty, and staff, two graphical SFTP clients, CyberDuck (for OS X) and WinSCP (for Windows), are available for free download from IUware (https://iuware.iu.edu/). Both applications also are available for use on the computers in the IU Bloomington and IUPUI Student Technology Centers (ahbs) (STCs). Additionally, WinSCP is available for use on personal Windows workstations via IUanyWare (bbbr). For more, see At IU, what SSH/SFTP clients are supported and where can I get them? (ahjh)

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Command-line SFTP

You can use command-line SFTP on systems running Linux, or from the Terminal in OS X. To start an SFTP session, at the shell (agvf) prompt, enter:

```
sftp username@hostname
```

For example, if your username is `darvader`, to connect to your account on the host `deathstar.empire.gov`, enter:

```
sftp darvader@deathstar.empire.gov
```

Enter your password when prompted.

Some standard command-line SFTP commands include:

Command	Function
`cd`	Change the directory on the remote host.
`chmod`	Change the permissions of files on the remote host.
`chown`	Change the owner of files on the remote host.
`exit` (or `quit`)	Close the connection to the remote host, and exit SFTP.
`get`	Copy a file from the remote host to the local computer.
`help` (or `?`)	Get help on the use of SFTP commands.
`lcd`	Change the directory on the local computer.
`lls`	List the contents of the current directory on the local computer.
`lmkdir`	Create a directory on the local computer.
`ln` (or `symlink`)	Create a symbolic link (abbe) for a file on the remote host.

Command	Function
`lpwd`	Show the present working directory on the local computer.
`ls` (or `dir`)	List the contents of the current directory on the remote host.
`lumask`	Change the local `umask` value.
`mkdir`	Create a directory on the remote host.
`put`	Copy a file from the local computer to the remote host.
`pwd`	Show the present working directory on the remote host.
`rename`	Rename a file on the remote host.
`rm`	Delete a file on the remote host.
`rmdir`	Remove a directory on the remote host (the directory usually has to be empty).
`version`	Display the SFTP version.
`!`	Pop out to the shell prompt to enter other commands. To return to SFTP, enter `exit` . If you combine `!` with a command (e.g., `!pwd`), SFTP executes the command without popping you out to the shell prompt.

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Related documents
Using an SFTP program, how can I change file permissions on Webserve? (amkz)
Recommended tools for encrypting data containing HIPAA-regulated PHI (ayzi)

This is document akqg *in the Knowledge Base.*
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