

Table Of Contents

Table Of Contents 1

Install sshpass under Debian / Ubuntu Linux 2

How do I use sshpass? 2

How do I backup /var/www/html using rsync? 2

 Further readings: 2

[Home](#) > [Faq](#) > [BASH Shell](#)

sshpass: Login To SSH Server / Provide SSH Password Using A Shell Script

Posted by [Vivek Gite](#) <vivek@nixcraft.com>

How do I login over ssh without using [password less RSA / DSA](#) ^[2] public keys? How do I use ssh in a shell script? How do I login non-interactively performing password authentication with SSH and shell scripts?

You can use sshpass command to provide password for ssh based login. From the man page:

sshpass is a utility designed for running ssh using the mode referred to as "keyboard-interactive" password authentication, but in non-interactive mode.

[1]



ssh uses direct TTY access to make sure that the password is indeed issued by an interactive keyboard user. Sshpass runs ssh in a dedicated tty, fooling it into thinking it is getting the password from an interactive user.

The command to run is specified after sshpass' own options. Typically it will be "ssh" with arguments, but it can just as well be any other command. The password prompt used by ssh is, however, currently hardcoded into sshpass.



WARNING! These examples considered the least secure as simple ps command can expose password to

all users on the same host. I highly recommend using [ssh's public key](#) ^[2] authentication or [keychain software to set up secure passwordless](#) ^[3] SSH access

Install sshpass under Debian / Ubuntu Linux

Type the following command:

```
$ sudo apt-get install sshpass
```

How do I use sshpass?

Login to ssh server called server.example.com with password called t@uyM59bQ:

```
$ sshpass -p 't@uyM59bQ' ssh username@server.example.com
```

Under shell script you may need to disable host key checking:

```
$ sshpass -p 't@uyM59bQ' ssh -o StrictHostKeyChecking=no username@server.example.com
```

How do I backup /var/www/html using rsync?

Run rsync over SSH using password authentication, passing the password on the command line:

```
$ rsync --rsh="sshpass -p myPassword ssh -l username" server.example.com:/var/www/html/  
/backup/
```

Further readings:

- [keychain: Set Up Secure Passwordless SSH Access For Backup Scripts](#) ^[3]
- sshpass man page

4000+ howtos and counting! Want to read more Linux / UNIX howtos, tips and tricks? Subscribe to our [daily email](#) newsletter or [weekly newsletter](#) to make sure

you don't miss a single tip/tricks. Alternatively, subscribe via [RSS/XML](#) feed.

Article printed from Frequently Asked Questions About Linux / UNIX: <http://www.cyberciti.biz/faq/>

URL to article: <http://www.cyberciti.biz/faq/noninteractive-shell-script-ssh-password-provider/>

URLs in this post:

[1] Image: <http://www.cyberciti.biz/faq/category/bash-shell/>

[2] password less RSA / DSA: <http://www.cyberciti.biz/faq/ssh-password-less-login-with-dsa-publickey-authentication/>

[3] keychain software to set up secure passwordless: <http://www.cyberciti.biz/faq/ssh-passwordless-login-with-keychain-for-scripts/>

Copyright © 2006-2010 [nixCraft](#). All rights reserved. This print / pdf version is for personal non-commercial use only. More details <http://www.cyberciti.biz/tips/copyright>.