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How To Use SSH in Unix or Linux shell script

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Q. How do I use ssh client program in a shell script under UNIX or Linux operating system?

A. SSH client is a program for logging into a remote machine and for executing commands on a remote machine. ssh connects and logs into the specified hostname. The user must prove his/her identity to the remote machine using one of several methods depending on the protocol version used. If command is specified, command is executed on the remote host instead of a login shell.



[1]

SSH general syntax

ssh user@hostname command

For example login into remote system called portal.nixcraft.com and find out who logged in, enter:

```
$ ssh admin@portal.nixcraft.com who
```

You can use same command in shell script. However, it will prompt for a password. To avoid password prompt you need to ssh keys based login as specified in [our article](#) ^[2] for password less login. Next, you can create a sample shell script as follows:

```
$ vi sshscript.sh
```

Type the following shell script lines:

```
#!/bin/bash
# Linux/UNIX box with ssh key based login enabled
SERVER="192.168.1.1"
# SSH User name
USR="admin"
OUT="out.txt"
ssh $USR@$host w > $OUT
```

Save and close the file. Type the following command to execute the script:

```
$ chmod +x sshscript.sh
$ ./sshscript.sh
```

You can see output of script with cat command:

```
$ cat out.txt
```

See more complex example in our shell [script directory](#) ^[3].

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URLs in this post:

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

[2] our article: <http://www.cyberciti.biz/nixcraft/vivek/blogger/2004/05/ssh-public-key-based-authentication.php>

[3] script directory: <http://bash.cyberciti.biz/monitoring/get-system-information-in-html-format/>

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