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Activity 2: SSH Key-Based Authentication and Setting up Git

1. Objectives:

- 1.1 Configure remote and local machine to connect via SSH using a KEY instead of using a password
- 1.2 Create a public key and private key
- 1.3 Verify connectivity
- 1.4 Setup Git Repository using local and remote repositories
- 1.5 Configure and Run ad hoc commands from local machine to remote servers

Part 1: Discussion

It is assumed that you are already done with the last Activity (**Activity 1: Configure Network using Virtual Machines**). *Provide screenshots for each task*.

It is also assumed that you have VMs running that you can SSH but requires a password. Our goal is to remotely login through SSH using a key without using a password. In this activity, we create a public and a private key. The private key resides in the local machine while the public key will be pushed to remote machines. Thus, instead of using a password, the local machine can connect automatically using SSH through an authorized key.

What Is ssh-keygen?

Ssh-keygen is a tool for creating new authentication key pairs for SSH. Such key pairs are used for automating logins, single sign-on, and for authenticating hosts.

SSH Keys and Public Key Authentication

The SSH protocol uses public key cryptography for authenticating hosts and users. The authentication keys, called SSH keys, are created using the keygen program.

SSH introduced public key authentication as a more secure alternative to the older .rhosts authentication. It improved security by avoiding the need to have password stored in files and eliminated the possibility of a compromised server stealing the user's password.

However, SSH keys are authentication credentials just like passwords. Thus, they must be managed somewhat analogously to usernames and passwords. They should have a proper termination process so that keys are removed when no longer needed.

Task 1: Create an SSH Key Pair for User Authentication

1. The simplest way to generate a key pair is to run *ssh-keygen* without arguments. In this case, it will prompt for the file in which to store keys. First,

the tool asked where to save the file. SSH keys for user authentication are usually stored in the users .ssh directory under the home directory. However, in enterprise environments, the location is often different. The default key file name depends on the algorithm, in this case *id_rsa* when using the default RSA algorithm. It could also be, for example, *id_dsa* or *id_ecdsa*.

- 2. Issue the command *ssh-keygen -t rsa -b 4096*. The algorithm is selected using the -t option and key size using the -b option.
- 3. When asked for a passphrase, just press enter. The passphrase is used for encrypting the key, so that it cannot be used even if someone obtains the private key file. The passphrase should be cryptographically strong.
- 4. Verify that you have created the key by issuing the command *ls -la .ssh*. The command should show the .ssh directory containing a pair of keys. For example, id rsa.pub and id rsa.

```
vboxuser@workstation:~$ ssh-keygen -t rsa -b 4096
Generating public/private rsa key pair.
Enter file in which to save the key (/home/vboxuser/.ssh/id_rsa): Enter pass
ase (empty for no passphrase):
Enter same passphrase again:
Your identification has been saved in /home/vboxuser/.ssh/id_rsa
Your public key has been saved in /home/vboxuser/.ssh/id_rsa.pub
The key fingerprint is:
SHA256:JkbkRgsbbXCBPKMc3utwLj+/ZcMts5MD0M0WSNyp+yM vboxuser@workstation
The key's randomart image is:
+---[RSA 4096]----+
    .+**+ .
   . =0=.+
   + 000 +
      oooS
   . 0.0+ .
      оВ..
   . + Eo*=
   0.000.+
+----[SHA256]----+
vboxuser@workstation:~$ ls -la ~/.ssh
total 24
drwx----- 2 vboxuser vboxuser 4096 Sep 10 18:26
drwxr-x--- 15 vboxuser vboxuser 4096 Aug 25 18:36
-rw----- 1 vboxuser vboxuser 3389 Sep 10 18:26 id rsa
-rw-r--r-- 1 vboxuser vboxuser 746 Sep 10 18:26 id_rsa.pub
```

Task 2: Copying the Public Key to the remote servers

- 1. To use public key authentication, the public key must be copied to a server and installed in an *authorized_keys* file. This can be conveniently done using the *ssh-copy-id* tool.
- 2. Issue the command similar to this: ssh-copy-id -i ~/.ssh/id rsa user@host

- 3. Once the public key has been configured on the server, the server will allow any connecting user that has the private key to log in. During the login process, the client proves possession of the private key by digitally signing the key exchange.
- 4. On the local machine, verify that you can SSH with Server 1 and Server 2. What did you notice? Did the connection ask for a password? If not, why?

```
vboxuser@workstation:~$ ssh vboxuser@192.168.31.133
Welcome to Ubuntu 22.04.4 LTS (GNU/Linux 6.8.0-40-generic x86 64)
 * Documentation: https://help.ubuntu.com
 * Management: https://landscape.canonical.com
 * Support:
                  https://ubuntu.com/pro
Expanded Security Maintenance for Applications is not enabled.
0 updates can be applied immediately.
Enable ESM Apps to receive additional future security updates.
See https://ubuntu.com/esm or run: sudo pro status
The list of available updates is more than a week old.
To check for new updates run: sudo apt update
New release '24.04.1 LTS' available.
Run 'do-release-upgrade' to upgrade to it.
Last login: Sun Aug 25 18:43:28 2024 from 192.168.31.58
vboxuser@server2:~$ exit
logout
Connection to 192.168.31.133 closed.
vboxuser@workstation:~$ ssh vboxuser@192.168.31.75
vboxuser@192.168.31.75's password:
Welcome to Ubuntu 22.04.4 LTS (GNU/Linux 6.8.0-40-generic x86_64)
```

Reflections:

Answer the following:

- How will you describe the ssh-program? What does it do?
 SSH (Secure Shell) is a protocol and program used for secure communication between a local and a remote machine. It enables users to log in and execute commands on a remote system, ensuring that all data transmitted is encrypted to protect against eavesdropping and tampering. ssh is commonly used for secure remote administration, file transfers, and tunneling.
- 2. How do you know that you already installed the public key to the remote servers?
 - You can verify that the public key is installed on the remote server by attempting to SSH into the server without being prompted for a password. Additionally, you can check the authorized_keys file on the remote server to see if your public key is

listed there. Running the ssh -v user@host command provides verbose output and helps confirm whether key-based authentication is being used.

Part 2: Discussion

Provide screenshots for each task.

It is assumed that you are done with the last activity (**Activity 2: SSH Key-Based Authentication**).

Set up Git

At the heart of GitHub is an open-source version control system (VCS) called Git. Git is responsible for everything GitHub-related that happens locally on your computer. To use Git on the command line, you'll need to download, install, and configure Git on your computer. You can also install GitHub CLI to use GitHub from the command line. If you don't need to work with files locally, GitHub lets you complete many Git-related actions directly in the browser, including:

- Creating a repository
- Forking a repository
- Managing files
- Being social

Task 3: Set up the Git Repository

1. On the local machine, verify the version of your git using the command *which git*. If a directory of git is displayed, then you don't need to install git. Otherwise, to install git, use the following command: *sudo apt install git*

```
vboxuser@workstation:~$ sudo apt install git
[sudo] password for vboxuser:
Reading package lists... Done
Building dependency tree... Done
Reading state information... Done
The following packages were automatically installed and are no longer requ
 libwpe-1.0-1 libwpebackend-fdo-1.0-1
Use 'sudo apt autoremove' to remove them.
The following additional packages will be installed:
  git-man liberror-perl
Suggested packages:
 git-daemon-run | git-daemon-sysvinit git-doc git-email git-gui gitk gitw
 git-cvs git-mediawiki git-svn
The following NEW packages will be installed
 git git-man liberror-perl
0 to upgrade, 3 to newly install, 0 to remove and 6 not to upgrade.
Need to get 4,146 kB of archives.
After this operation, 21.0 MB of additional disk space will be used.
Do you want to continue? [Y/n] y
Get:1 http://ph.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu jammy/main amd64 liberror-perl a
17029-1 [26.5 kB]
Get:2 http://ph.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu jammy-updates/main amd64 git-man
1:2.34.1-1ubuntu1.11 [955 kB]
Get:3 http://ph.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu jammy-updates/main amd64 git amd
2.34.1-1ubuntu1.11 [3.165 kB]
```

2. After the installation, issue the command *which git* again. The directory of git is usually installed in this location: *user/bin/git*.

```
vboxuser@workstation:~$ which git
/usr/bin/git
```

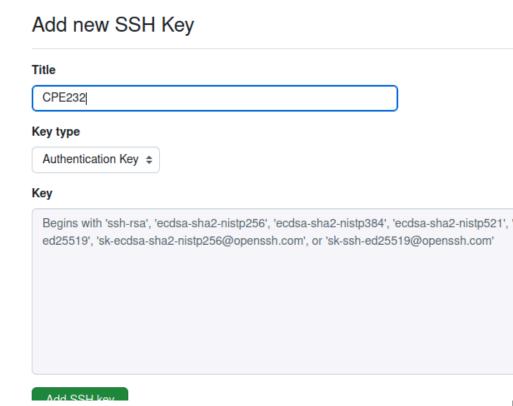
3. The version of git installed in your device is the latest. Try issuing the command *git --version* to know the version installed.

```
vboxuser@workstation:~$ git --version
git version 2.34.1
```

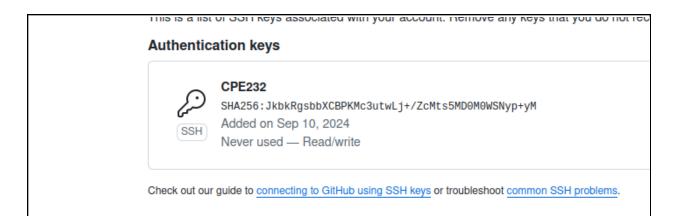
- 4. Using the browser in the local machine, go to www.github.com.
- 5. Sign up in case you don't have an account yet. Otherwise, login to your GitHub account.
 - a. Create a new repository and name it as CPE232_yourname. Check Add a README file and click Create repository.



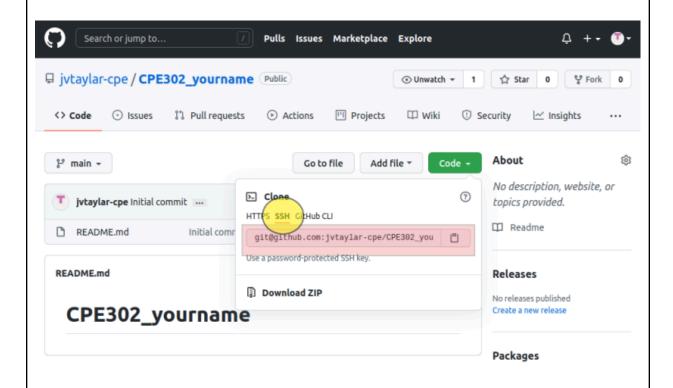
b. Create a new SSH key on GitHub. Go your profile's setting and click ASSH and GPG keys. If there is an existing key, make sure to delete it. To create a new SSH keys, click New SSH Key. Write CPE232 key as the title of the key.



c. On the local machine's terminal, issue the command cat .ssh/id_rsa.pub and copy the public key. Paste it on the GitHub key and press Add SSH key.



d. Clone the repository that you created. In doing this, you need to get the link from GitHub. Browse to your repository as shown below. Click on the Code drop down menu. Select SSH and copy the link.



e. Issue the command git clone followed by the copied link. For example, git clone git@github.com:jvtaylar-cpe/CPE232_yourname.git. When prompted to continue connecting, type yes and press enter.

```
vboxuser@workstation:~$ git clone git@github.com:Tssukkii/CPE232_BR]
Cloning into 'CPE232_BRINGUELA'...
The authenticity of host 'github.com (20.205.243.166)' can't be estated to be substituted by the continue conformal continue conformal continue connecting (yes/no/[fingerprint]):
Warning: Permanently added 'github.com' (ED25519) to the list of known to continue connecting (yes/no/[fingerprint]):
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Warning: Permanently added 'github.com' (ED25519) to the list of known to continue connecting (yes/no/[fin
```

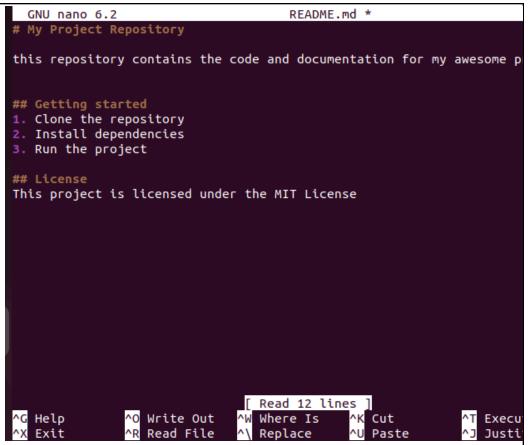
f. To verify that you have cloned the GitHub repository, issue the command *Is*. Observe that you have the CPE232_yourname in the list of your directories. Use CD command to go to that directory and LS command to see the file README.md.

```
vboxuser@workstation:~$ ls

CPE232_BRINGUELA Documents Music Public Templates
Desktop Downloads Pictures snap Videos
vboxuser@workstation:~$
```

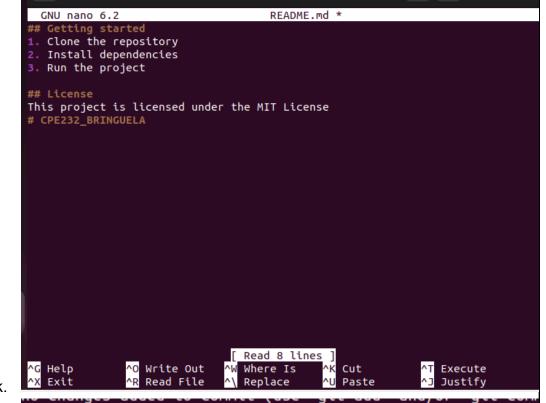
- g. Use the following commands to personalize your git.
 - git config --global user.name "Your Name"
 - git config --global user.email <u>yourname@email.com</u>
 - Verify that you have personalized the config file using the command cat ~/.gitconfig

h. Edit the README.md file using nano command. Provide any information on the markdown file pertaining to the repository you created. Make sure to write out or save the file and exit.



i. Use the *git status* command to display the state of the working directory and the staging area. This command shows which changes have been staged, which haven't, and which files aren't being tracked by Git. Status output does not show any information regarding the committed project history. What is the result of issuing this command?

j. Use the command *git add README.md* to add the file into the staging git area.



vboxuser@workstation:~/CPE232 BRINGUELA\$ git add README.mc

I. Use the *git commit -m "your message"* to create a snapshot of the staged changes along the timeline of the Git projects history. The use of this command is required to select the changes that will be staged for the next commit.

```
vboxuser@workstation:~/CPE232_BRINGUELA$ git commit -m "Added project
on to README.md"
[main 2909e55] Added project description to README.md
1 file changed, 8 insertions(+), 1 deletion(-)
```

m. Use the command *git push <remote><branch>* to upload the local repository content to GitHub repository. Pushing means to transfer commits from the local repository to the remote repository. As an example, you may issue *git push origin main*.

```
vboxuser@workstation:~/CPE232_BRINGUELA$ git push origin
Enumerating objects: 5, done.
Counting objects: 100% (5/5), done.
Delta compression using up to 2 threads
Compressing objects: 100% (2/2), done.
Writing objects: 100% (3/3), 405 bytes | 405.00 KiB/s, do
Total 3 (delta 0), reused 0 (delta 0), pack-reused 0
To github.com:Tssukkii/CPE232_BRINGUELA.git
    2dfc724..2909e55 main -> main
```