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# 3 Steps to Perform SSH Login Without Password Using ssh-keygen & ssh-copy-id

by Ramesh Natarajan on November 20, 2008



You can login to a remote Linux server without entering password in 3 simple steps using ssky-keygen and ssh-copy-id as explained in this article.



**ssh-keygen** creates the public and private keys.

**ssh-copy-id** copies the local-host's public key to the remote-host's `authorized_keys` file. ssh-copy-id also assigns proper permission to the remote-host's home, `~/.ssh`, and `~/.ssh/authorized_keys`.

This article also explains 3 minor annoyances of using ssh-copy-id and how to use ssh-copy-id along with ssh-agent.

## Step 1: Create public and private keys using ssh-key-gen on local-host

```
jsmith@local-host$ [Note: You are on local-host here]
```

```
jsmith@local-host$ ssh-keygen  
Generating public/private rsa key pair.
```

```
Enter file in which to save the key (/home/jsmith/.ssh/id_rsa):[Enter key]
Enter passphrase (empty for no passphrase): [Press enter key]
Enter same passphrase again: [Press enter key]
Your identification has been saved in /home/jsmith/.ssh/id_rsa.
Your public key has been saved in /home/jsmith/.ssh/id_rsa.pub.
The key fingerprint is:
33:b3:fe:af:95:95:18:11:31:d5:de:96:2f:f2:35:f9 jsmith@local-host
```

## Step 2: Copy the public key to remote-host using ssh-copy-id

```
jsmith@local-host$ ssh-copy-id -i ~/.ssh/id_rsa.pub remote-host
jsmith@remote-host's password:
Now try logging into the machine, with "ssh 'remote-host'", and check in:
```

```
.ssh/authorized_keys
```

to make sure we haven't added extra keys that you weren't expecting.

**Note:** ssh-copy-id **appends** the keys to the remote-host's .ssh/authorized\_key.

## Step 3: Login to remote-host without entering the password

```
jsmith@local-host$ ssh remote-host
Last login: Sun Nov 16 17:22:33 2008 from 192.168.1.2
[Note: SSH did not ask for password.]

jsmith@remote-host$ [Note: You are on remote-host here]
```

The above 3 simple steps should get the job done in most cases.

We also discussed earlier in detail about performing SSH and SCP from [openSSH to openSSH](#) without entering password.

If you are using SSH2, we discussed earlier about performing SSH and SCP without password from [SSH2 to SSH2](#) , from [OpenSSH to SSH2](#) and from [SSH2 to OpenSSH](#).

## Using ssh-copy-id along with the ssh-add/ssh-agent

When no value is passed for the *option -i* and If *~/.ssh/identity.pub* is not available, *ssh-copy-id* will display the following error message.

```
jsmith@local-host$ ssh-copy-id -i remote-host
/usr/bin/ssh-copy-id: ERROR: No identities found
```

If you have loaded keys to the *ssh-agent* using the *ssh-add*, then *ssh-copy-id* will get the keys from the *ssh-agent* to copy to the remote-host. i.e, it copies the keys provided by **ssh-add -L** command to the remote-host, when you don't pass *option -i* to the *ssh-copy-id*.

```
jsmith@local-host$ ssh-agent $SHELL
```

```
jsmith@local-host$ ssh-add -L
The agent has no identities.
```

```
jsmith@local-host$ ssh-add
Identity added: /home/jsmith/.ssh/id_rsa (/home/jsmith/.ssh/id_rsa)
```

```
jsmith@local-host$ ssh-add -L
ssh-rsa AAAAB3NzaC1yc2EAAAABIwAAAQEAsJIEILxftj8aSxMa3d8t6JvM79DyBV
aHrtPhTYpq7kIEMUNzApnyxsHpH1tQ/0w== /home/jsmith/.ssh/id_rsa

jsmith@local-host$ ssh-copy-id -i remote-host
jsmith@remote-host's password:
Now try logging into the machine, with "ssh 'remote-host'", and check in:

.ssh/authorized_keys
```

to make sure we haven't added extra keys that you weren't expecting.  
[Note: This has added the key displayed by ssh-add -L]

## Three Minor Annoyances of ssh-copy-id

Following are few minor annoyances of the ssh-copy-id.

1. **Default public key:** ssh-copy-id uses ~/.ssh/identity.pub as the default public key file (i.e when no value is passed to *option -i*). Instead, I wish it uses id\_dsa.pub, or id\_rsa.pub, or identity.pub as default keys. i.e If any one of them exist, it should copy that to the remote-host. If two or three of them exist, it should copy identity.pub as default.
2. **The agent has no identities:** When the *ssh-agent* is running and the *ssh-add -L* returns "The agent has no identities" (i.e no keys are added to the ssh-agent), the ssh-copy-id will still copy the message "The agent has no identities" to the remote-host's authorized\_keys entry.
3. **Duplicate entry in authorized\_keys:** I wish ssh-copy-id validates duplicate entry on the remote-host's authorized\_keys. If you execute ssh-copy-id multiple times on the local-host, it will keep appending the same key on the remote-host's authorized\_keys file without checking for duplicates. Even with duplicate entries everything works as expected. But, I would like to have my authorized\_keys file clutter free.

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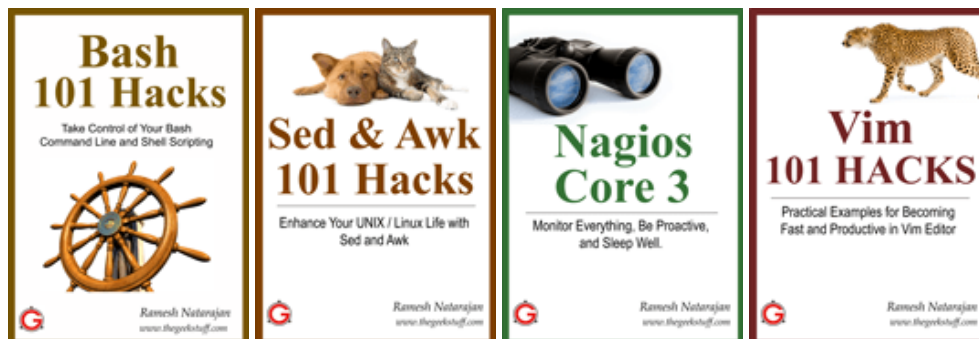
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[password](#), [ssh](#), [ssh no pasword](#), [ssh-add](#), [ssh-agent](#), [ssh-copy-id](#), [ssh-keygen](#), [ssh2](#)

{ 70 comments... [add one](#) }

- sathiya November 21, 2008, 6:47 am

nice article...

i used to use this ssh-keygen for generating the keys, and copy the keys using scp.  
But this ssh-copy-id is new...

users feel great about this, when your environment needs to use more than one  
servers frequently

[Link](#)

- [mk\\_michael](#) December 6, 2008, 3:06 pm

Hi, I've also never heard about ssh-copy-id, great thing. You can also use the  
"keychain" tool.

[Link](#)

- [Jadu Saikia](#) December 8, 2008, 10:47 pm

Nice article Ramesh.

[Link](#)

- [domainnameyahoo](#) April 29, 2009, 3:03 am

hi,

Thats strange, i follow all these steps and others step founded in google.

None is worked, ssh still asking me for password.  
I use Centos and FC9

[Link](#)

- Ramesh Natarajan April 30, 2009, 6:23 pm

**@Sathiya,**

Yeah, lot of people overlook ssh-copy-id, as you can still copy the keys manually.

**@mk\_michael,**

I believe you are talking about the [keychain tool that is mentioned in gentoo.org](#). I  
have not used this before. Thanks for bringing this to our attention. I'll check it out.

**@Jadu Saikia,**

Thanks for your comments. I appreciate it.

**@domainnameyahoo,**

You may want to run the ssh in debug mode to identify what could be the problem.  
Please refer to section 4 in the [5 Basic Linux SSH Client Commands](#) on how to  
debug ssh client connection.

[Link](#)

- [Jayachandran](#) August 11, 2009, 8:46 pm

Geeks,

If ssh-copy-id command not found on your system please use the following method.

```
#scp ~/.ssh/id_rsa.pub user@remotehost:/home/user/
```

This will ask you the password of the user you have mentioned

```
#cat id_rsa.pub >> /home/user/.ssh/authorized_keys
```

that's it, you have done it.

[Link](#)

- [Faheem](#) November 1, 2009, 10:38 pm

when I execute the command

```
ssh-copy-id -i ~/.ssh/id_rsa.pub ip.ip.ip.ip
```

I get the following error.

```
root@ip.ip.ip.ip's password:
```

```
stdin: is not a tty
```

Please advice

Thanks

[Link](#)

- [Jayachandran](#) November 3, 2009, 12:14 pm

Please try with one of the following:

```
ssh-copy-id -i -t ~/.ssh/id_rsa.pub ip.ip.ip.ip
```

```
ssh-copy-id -i -q ~/.ssh/id_rsa.pub ip.ip.ip.ip
```

```
ssh-copy-id -i -T ~/.ssh/id_rsa.pub ip.ip.ip.ip
```

else, use another method,

```
#scp ~/.ssh/id_rsa.pub user@remotehost:/home/user/
```

This will ask you the password of the user you have mentioned

```
#cat id_rsa.pub >> /home/user/.ssh/authorized_keys
```

Thanks,

Jai

[Link](#)

- A November 11, 2009, 3:27 pm

when i tried ssh-copy-id ~/.ssh/id\_rsa.pub jaliu@beeeater. i.e user@remote-host. i got an error; ssh: Could not resolve hostname /home/bayeni/.ssh/id\_rsa.pub: Name or service not known. please what do i do

[Link](#)

- [Snorfalorpagus](#) December 10, 2009, 9:47 am

I've done this before, but wanted a quick reference check. I'd not come across ssh-copy-id. Thanks!

[Link](#)

- [tayfun](#) December 23, 2009, 2:21 am

One small typo:

Note: ssh-copy-id appends the keys to the remote-host's .ssh/authorized\_key.  
should read

Note: ssh-copy-id appends the keys to the remote-host's .ssh/authorized\_keys.

Notice authorized\_key\*s\* . Thanks for the article!

[Link](#)

- hams2 February 22, 2010, 11:27 am

Verry good post 😊 THanks or this 😊 i'm french and i'm looking for scp script in order to backup my data everyday 😊

[Link](#)

- htx202yl March 24, 2010, 7:18 am

@hams2

I found this tutorial about doing backups securely with ssh

<http://troy.jdmz.net/rsync/index.html>

[Link](#)

- midou June 5, 2010, 4:33 am

Thank you, it's good tutorial

[Link](#)

- [lxtips](#) August 17, 2010, 10:15 pm

Very good instructions. Thank-you.

[Link](#)

- Sathish Kumar December 7, 2010, 5:52 am

Thanks, for your help.....

[Link](#)

- winx March 22, 2011, 3:42 am

Very nice tutorial! keep it up guys!

[Link](#)

- Anonymous April 28, 2011, 12:28 am

I'm a bit confused. It seems you can add your public key to the remote host and grant yourself access. This seems like no security at all. What am I missing?

[Link](#)

- Pier May 21, 2011, 2:36 pm

@Anonymous

You won't be able to add your public key on a server where you don't have a valid login/password combination.

And just to add my own geek stuff :

To get a password-less connection from local user1 to remote user2, copy the user1 public key(id\_rsa.pub) to the remote user2 "authorized\_keys" file using a pipe over ssh:

```
$ cat /home/user1/.ssh/id_rsa.pub |ssh root@remote_server 'cat >> /home/user2/.ssh/authorized_keys'
```

This would do the same job as ssh-copy-id without the 2 out of 3 "weak" points revealed by rameesh.

[Link](#)

- jaxxm July 14, 2011, 4:35 am

Geek stuff strikes again. Keep up the great articles.

[Link](#)

- Patrick November 28, 2011, 11:54 pm

Neat. This was easy to set up on one of my computers. On the other one, it was a bit more stubborn. For the benefit of someone else who's bit by it, sshd will not accept an authorized\_keys file if either directory ~/.ssh or ~ are writable by Group or Others. The difficult system was PCBSD, in which every user also has their own group and their directory is writable to that group.

[Link](#)

- marines December 6, 2011, 5:17 am

Doesn't work for me. It gives me "Agent admitted failure to sign using the key." message when I try to log in without password.

[Link](#)

- Oded February 27, 2012, 3:36 am

+1 Very helpful and very simple

[Link](#)

- Anonymous March 1, 2012, 2:38 pm

very good

[Link](#)

- Doalwa March 15, 2012, 6:21 am

Nice tutorial, adequate security really doesn't get any easier than this..you gotta love Unix/Linux!

[Link](#)

- Deepesh May 3, 2012, 3:54 am

Thanks a lot bro.....  
It was very very helpful for me.....

[Link](#)

- Mark Hahn May 30, 2012, 7:27 pm



DO NOT FOLLOW THIS RECIPE NAIVELY – it is very dangerous, since a key with no passphrase is the moral equivalent of dumping your password in a file in the clear. Anyone who gets even momentary access to your private key TOTALLY OWNS any accounts where you’ve installed the public part.

The only way you should use an unencrypted key (no passphrase) is if you can guarantee total and eternal security of the private part. This might be possible, but is highly unlikely. That said, there are just two responsible ways to use keys:

- encrypt the key by providing a passphrase when you generate it. this may seem strange, since to use it, you’ll need to provide the passphrase, which is presumably harder than a password. and \*that\* is why ssh-agent exists: it lets you supply the passphrase once, not every time. (you can have ssh-agent timeout the passphrase after a fixed time, or keep it as long as its running.)
- constrain the key wherever it’s installed, so that it can only perform some limited function. for instance, if the key’s purpose is to permit something unattended like a backup, use openssh’s “command=” syntax so that the key can only be used for that, not to get a shell or tunnel through firewalls. (“man sshd” to see the syntax for the .authorized\_keys file – constraining a key to particular client machines is also a good idea, etc.)

[Link](#)

- [Manohar Viswanatha](#) August 1, 2012, 12:20 am

Does typing only ssh-keygen generates keys or shall we should also mention the key type , i mean rsa..... because when i entered ssh-keygen its asking for the keytype with -t option

[Link](#)

- Luke Stanley August 4, 2012, 1:50 pm

Please point out very obviously in the original post that step 1 may have been done already and if so only step 2 may be needed!

[Link](#)

- Roger August 16, 2012, 3:23 pm

There’s a step still missing. I’ve done all the steps and I’m still prompted to enter a password... I believe there is a KEON change that needs to happen as well. Also, the public key is using the short name for the host, but you need to use the full qualified name to ssh, scp, or sftp. So,... how do we get the ssh-keygen to allow for use to type in a server name....

[Link](#)

- Rotsen September 19, 2012, 2:30 pm

The tutorial works for me if I do it as root but that creates a security hole. When a create a user ‘user\_ssh’ and follow the intructions, it seems to work but when I do an ‘ssh hostname’ it asks me for:

Enter passphrase for key ‘/home/user\_rsync/.ssh/id\_rsa’:

Why does it not work ad a regular user?

**Update:** OK I got it to work by adding quotes on the “ssh” statement. See my cron

below:

```
#!/bin/sh
```

# the line below works for root

```
#rsync -av -progress -stats -exclude "*.LCK" -e ssh  
user_rsync@remotehost:/home/www/ /home/www
```

# the line below works for none root user

```
rsync -av -progress -stats -exclude "*.LCK" -e "ssh -i /home/user_rsync  
/.ssh/id_rsa.pub user_rsync@remotehost:/home/www/" /home/www
```

[Link](#)

- [Rotsen](#) September 19, 2012, 4:43 pm

One thing that worries me now is that before when the user was root the report created only show and overall of totals when no files were transfered but now that I am doing the rsync as a regular user the email I get has a list of all the files even if no files were transfer. I hope some one is reading this.....

[Link](#)

- [icone](#) September 27, 2012, 4:39 am

Please do note Patrick's comment:

"sshd will NOT ACCEPT an authorized\_keys file if either directory ~/.ssh or ~ are writable by Group or Others"

SSH would still ask for a password.

This solved my problem.

Remove a user from a group:

```
'sudo gpasswd -d user-to-remove group'
```

[Link](#)

- [cubsfan](#) December 7, 2012, 8:49 am

Nice article. Easy to follow and understand.

[Link](#)

- [devender shekhawat](#) February 20, 2013, 3:52 am

when i used

```
jsmith@local-host$ ssh-copy-id -i ~/.ssh/id_rsa.pub remote-host
```

error no remote host.is it possible to create 2 host in single machine.please tell me the process.how to overcome that error.

[Link](#)

- [Abyakta](#) February 26, 2013, 1:56 pm

Hi

I did the exact step but it still ask for the password.

Please tell me where i am going wrong.

Regards  
Abyakta

[Link](#)

- anonymous March 11, 2013, 12:03 pm

Very Useful Steps. I just used and it worked quite well.. Thanks!

[Link](#)

- Reza March 25, 2013, 7:05 am

Finally you solved my problem! Thanks

[Link](#)

- Dhandayuthabani March 30, 2013, 12:24 am

I followed that three steps. but, knows hosts files does not exists in .ssh/ directory again it asks password from the user. what i have to do.

Thanks & Regards  
Dhandayuthabani

[Link](#)

- jonnybignote April 29, 2013, 4:00 pm

I can make this work by typing the command into terminal, and by running the shell script it is inside, but it will not run through the remote control I'm using (to keep a media center mythtv backend from shutting down by sending a lock command) It lists a failed password

Any ideas?  
Thanks

[Link](#)

- JRM June 12, 2013, 11:10 am

Is necessary the same user account on both hosts? Local and remote?

[Link](#)

- Anonymous June 12, 2013, 12:50 pm

If you're trying to login to a Red Hat host, [this](#) might help.

[Link](#)

- Nexus July 4, 2013, 5:33 am

Should you encounter a message such as:

Ambiguous output redirect

...try the below approach

```
cat ~/.ssh/id_rsa.pub | ssh user@hostname 'umask 077; mkdir -p .ssh; cat >>
.ssh/authorized_keys'
```

If you have a lot of hosts to update the `authorized_keys`, you may try the below  
Add the below line to your `.cshrc` file (this works only with `csh/tcsh`)

```
alias sshcpid "cat ~/.ssh/id_rsa.pub | ssh \!:\! 'umask 077; mkdir -p .ssh; cat >>
.ssh/authorized_keys'"
Source the .cshrc before you can execute the alias
>source ~/.cshrc
Execute the alias by passing the username & hostname as parameters
>sshcpid user@hostname
```

[Link](#)

- [Patrick](#) September 1, 2013, 11:59 am

Interesting. I followed the steps from Step 2 on (I already have a key generated, which has a passphrase attached). When I tried to ssh in as my user, I'm still prompted for a password. But, if I try to ssh in as root, I'm prompted for my passphrase (the first time after a reboot) and it logs me in automatically.

I'm going from an Ubuntu 13.04 machine to a Fedora 19 machine. The other interesting thing is, I have a customized .bashrc file on both the user and root profiles. When I ssh in as the user, I have to run source .bashrc to get it working, but when I log in as root, it does it automatically.

Could it be that I've never logged in on the remote machine physically as the user by chance? (It's a home server running Amahi Home Server)

Have a great day.:)  
Patrick.

—

In addition to my above comment, I also copied it to my mythbuntu machine, and it works perfectly. I'm thinking that it might be because the password isn't the same on the server (for my user).

[Link](#)

- Stefan Ivanov September 19, 2013, 1:01 pm

This is work for me  
ssh-copy-id "user@remote-host -p 4242" -i ~/.ssh/id\_rsa.pub

[Link](#)

- MrGmaw September 25, 2013, 8:47 am

Great man. Thank you so much.

[Link](#)

- [rowthu vijayakrishna](#) October 7, 2013, 7:20 am

thanks for watering the Linux Tree, and thanks for making the explanation on "free remote logging" lucid.

[Link](#)

- akhilesh November 15, 2013, 8:04 am

great article ramesh.

but i couldn't login to the remote server without the password even if the file

content of id\_rsa.pub are same as of .ssh/authorized\_keys

[Link](#)

- Ramu December 7, 2013, 12:44 am

Hi Ramesh.. can you pls help regarding how to copy the file from one server to another sverver using scp command with password. i am using scp command to copy the file from one to another. that scripts works fine.so if we run that script via crontab then it fails.problem is password .it is not taking that password while run the cronjob.

debug1: Trying private key: /home/postgres/.ssh/id\_dsa

debug1: Next authentication method: password

[postgres@192.168.3.117](#)'s password:

error log is coming to here only.we are thinking like password is not taking automatuclally

thanks in advance

[Link](#)

- green man December 17, 2013, 4:37 am

its simply great boss

[Link](#)

- Roman January 28, 2014, 3:28 pm

on OS X

sudo port install openssh

default osx ssh client didn't have ssh-copy-id utils

thanks for article

[Link](#)

- Elie February 9, 2014, 2:16 am

Thank you, that was very useful!

[Link](#)

- Wagner February 14, 2014, 3:36 pm

Very usefull, congratulations !!!

[Link](#)

- mohan March 19, 2014, 2:28 am

Eventhough i successfully completed the 2 Step, it still asking for password, Please tell me is there any changes i have to do.

Thanks..

[Link](#)

- spellinator April 22, 2014, 4:55 pm

If anyone is still being prompted for a password after doing these steps, it may be that Secure Enterprise Linux is enabled on the remote\_server.

Check with the "getenforce" command.

Turn it off with "setenforce 0" command.

[Link](#)

- Luís Felipe de Andrade May 15, 2014, 11:18 am

Thanks for the useful post!. Always, when i need add a new server, i came to this link to see how to do.

[Link](#)

- Sury June 4, 2014, 12:30 pm

Thanks for the useful post.... What happens when you change the password for the login in the remote server...

[Link](#)

- Ramesh RC July 25, 2014, 6:58 am

Tried it a few time, your instructions are clear but somewhere I believe we are missing some config. I am running this on RHEL

I am prompted with the password everytime, looks like it skips the password less authentication method...attached the verbose log, your help is appreciated.

```
[jirauser@ldsrcqmbldp002 .ssh]$ ssh -v jirauser@10.x.x.x
OpenSSH_4.3p2, OpenSSL 0.9.8e-fips-rhel5 01 Jul 2008
debug1: Reading configuration data /etc/ssh/ssh_config
debug1: Applying options for *
debug1: Connecting to 10.x.x.x. [10.x.x.x] port 22.
debug1: Connection established.
debug1: identity file /home/jirauser/.ssh/id_rsa type 1
debug1: identity file /home/jirauser/.ssh/id_dsa type -1
debug1: loaded 2 keys
debug1: Remote protocol version 2.0, remote software version OpenSSH_4.3
debug1: match: OpenSSH_4.3 pat OpenSSH*
debug1: Enabling compatibility mode for protocol 2.0
debug1: Local version string SSH-2.0-OpenSSH_4.3
debug1: SSH2_MSG_KEXINIT sent
debug1: SSH2_MSG_KEXINIT received
debug1: kex: server->client aes128-ctr hmac-md5 none
debug1: kex: client->server aes128-ctr hmac-md5 none
debug1: SSH2_MSG_KEX_DH_GEX_REQUEST(1024<1024<8192) sent
debug1: expecting SSH2_MSG_KEX_DH_GEX_GROUP
debug1: SSH2_MSG_KEX_DH_GEX_INIT sent
debug1: expecting SSH2_MSG_KEX_DH_GEX_REPLY
debug1: Host '10.x.x.x' is known and matches the RSA host key.
debug1: Found key in /home/jirauser/.ssh/known_hosts:1
debug1: ssh_rsa_verify: signature correct
debug1: SSH2_MSG_NEWKEYS sent
```

```
debug1: expecting SSH2_MSG_NEWKEYS
debug1: SSH2_MSG_NEWKEYS received
debug1: SSH2_MSG_SERVICE_REQUEST sent
debug1: SSH2_MSG_SERVICE_ACCEPT received
```

Cable&Wireless Worldwide

This is a private system. Do not attempt to login unless you are an authorised user. Any authorised or unauthorised access and use may be monitored and can result in criminal or civil prosecution under applicable law.

```
debug1: Authentications that can continue: publickey,gssapi-with-mic,password
debug1: Next authentication method: gssapi-with-mic
debug1: Unspecified GSS failure. Minor code may provide more information
No credentials cache found
```

```
debug1: Unspecified GSS failure. Minor code may provide more information
No credentials cache found
```

```
debug1: Unspecified GSS failure. Minor code may provide more information
No credentials cache found
```

```
debug1: Next authentication method: publickey
debug1: Offering public key: /home/jirauser/.ssh/id_rsa
debug1: Authentications that can continue: publickey,gssapi-with-mic,password
debug1: Trying private key: /home/jirauser/.ssh/id_dsa
debug1: Next authentication method: password
jirauser@10.x.x.x's password:
```

[Link](#)

- mila February 18, 2015, 7:40 am

I tried `ssh-copy-id -i ~/.ssh/[file.pub] [remote host]` but received these messages:

```
/usr/local/bin/ssh-copy-id: INFO: attempting to log in with the new key(s), to filter
out any that are already installed
```

```
/usr/local/bin/ssh-copy-id: ERROR: ssh: connect to host [remote host] port 22:
Connection refused
```

How do I solve this?

[Link](#)

- tungds May 25, 2015, 1:07 am

Thanks, after deleting all files in `/.ssh` and following your step, ssh doesn't require pass

[Link](#)

- Premkumar August 12, 2015, 8:41 am

Worked for me

[Link](#)

- Ken September 14, 2015, 12:53 am

Try this:

```
ssh -v -i /etc/ssh/ssh_host_rsa_key user@host
```

Didn't work before I added the -i bit

[Link](#)

- Ubaid September 19, 2015, 8:50 pm

the ssh-copy-id is the magic, I spent 8 hours trying to fix this damn thing before finally finding your page. Although I cannot figure out what I was doing different manually, I set 600 on auth...\_keys, 700 on .ssh and copied the key to auth file in one piece..

[Link](#)

- Brad Dre October 20, 2015, 11:56 am

if you use a name other than id\_rsa for the key file, then in step 3 you'll need to add the -i argument to ssh command:

```
ssh -i ~/.ssh/id_myserver myserver
```

[Link](#)

- Abhijeet December 24, 2015, 12:42 pm

Extremely helpful & explained very well...

[Link](#)

- me January 29, 2016, 11:41 pm

not working on arch

Permission denied (publickey).

trying to make /etc/ssh/sshd\_config match my debian box's on which it works fine, debian default config is like 50 lines arch's default config is like 150 lines with what it seems like to have a different directory structure as well for some stuff, I'm going to cut and paste my config from debian into arch and see what happens, HOUR # 3 trying to get simple ssh key auth working, this shouldn't be so compacted it's 2016 3 hours you linux ssh programmers blow make something simple, simple is more secure "automated key exchange" not this bs

[Link](#)

- Ahmed March 9, 2016, 7:06 am

Great

[Link](#)

- Jagdish May 24, 2016, 6:21 am

Thanks for the information .. I have always found material in your blog very aptly described .

[Link](#)

- Rajveer June 1, 2016, 3:00 am



Plz help me ....i forgot my password of ssh....

[Link](#)

- Rajveer June 1, 2016, 3:02 am

I can try with these cmd. But they can not login without passwd.

[Link](#)

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by Ramesh Natarajan, [thegeekstuff.com](http://thegeekstuff.com)



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Ramesh Natarajan



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My name is **Ramesh Natarajan**. I will be posting instruction guides, how-to, troubleshooting tips and tricks on Linux, database, hardware, security and web. My focus is to write articles that will either teach you or help you resolve a problem. Read more about [Ramesh Natarajan](#) and the blog.

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