# **🛡️ Fixing "Bad Permissions" for .pem Files on Windows (SSH to EC2)**

This guide explains how to properly set file permissions on a .pem private key file to allow SSH access to an EC2 instance using Windows.

## **📂 Where to Start**

* Your .pem file is stored in:  
   D:\Deployment\Pristine Couture\e-commerce.pem
* The SSH command you're using is:

bash

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ssh -i "D:\Deployment\Pristine Couture\e-commerce.pem" ubuntu@<your-ec2-public-dns>

## **⚠️ Problem**

When trying to SSH, you got this error:

vbnet

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WARNING: UNPROTECTED PRIVATE KEY FILE!

Permissions for 'e-commerce.pem' are too open.

Permission denied (publickey).

## **✅ Fix: Restrict Permissions for .pem on Windows**

### **🔹 Step 1: Open File Properties**

1. Go to the folder in File Explorer:  
    D:\Deployment\Pristine Couture
2. Right-click e-commerce.pem → click **Properties**
3. Go to the **Security** tab
4. Click the **Advanced** button

### **🔹 Step 2: Remove Inherited Permissions**

1. Click **Disable inheritance**
2. Select **Remove all inherited permissions from this object**
3. Under **Permission entries**, remove:  
   * NT AUTHORITY\Authenticated Users
   * Users
   * Any other accounts except your **Windows user**

### **🔹 Step 3: Add Your User with Read Permission**

1. Still in **Advanced Security Settings**, click **Add**
2. Click **Select a principal**
3. In the dialog, either:  
   * Type your Windows username (e.g., user) and click **Check Names**, or
   * Click **Advanced** → **Find Now**
     + From the list, pick your user (e.g., DESKTOP-MJ65D6G\user)
     + Click **OK**
4. Under **Basic permissions**, check **Read**
5. Click **OK**, then **Apply**, then exit all dialogs

## **🧪 Test the SSH Command**

Once permissions are fixed, run your command again:

bash

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ssh -i "D:\Deployment\Pristine Couture\e-commerce.pem" ubuntu@<your-ec2-public-dns>

Example:

bash

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ssh -i "D:\Deployment\Pristine Couture\e-commerce.pem" ubuntu@ec2-16-171-3-247.eu-north-1.compute.amazonaws.com

You should now connect successfully 🎉

## **🧠 How to Check Your Windows Username (Optional)**

If you're not sure what your Windows username is:

### **CMD:**

bash

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whoami

Returns: DESKTOP-XYZ123\yourusername

### **PowerShell:**

powershell

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$env:USERNAME

Returns: yourusername