SSH Keys for Dummies

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- Secure your future. Login like a pro. Level up your infra.
- SSH Keys + PowerShell: "Zero-Click" Login Flow, Ultra-Modern Style
- 1. WHY SSH KEYS? "Don't Just Login. Level Up." Passwords are so 2005.

SSH keys bring you next-level crypto security: unguessable, unphishable, and frictionless. Skip the endless password prompts, and join the club of pros who "just type ssh and go." Bonus: Required for real prod infra (FIPS mode? Ed25519 ban? RSA to the rescue).

- 2. IPv4 vs IPv6 Real World, Real Fast
- Stick to IPv4: It Just Works[™], everywhere, every network, every weird corporate proxy.
- Example: ssh yourname@123.45.67.89 (If your ISP/network only speaks IPv6, you're probably already a network ninja.)
- 3. Step 1: Generate Your Keypair Windows PowerShell, Unleashed Open PowerShell as Admin ("Run as administrator"). Then, craft a strong, FIPS-approved RSA key:
 - ssh-keygen -t rsa -b 4096 -C "windows-laptop" -f \$HOME\.ssh\id_rsa_example
- No passphrase? Just press Enter (easy mode). For ultra-security, add one.
- Keys saved at:

Private: C:\Users\YOURNAME\.ssh\id_rsa_example
Public: C:\Users\YOURNAME\.ssh\id_rsa_example.pub

4. Step 2: Beam Your Public Key to the Linux Server scp \$HOME\.ssh\id_rsa_example.pub yourname@123.45.67.89:~/

Then on the server:

mkdir -p ~/.ssh

cat ~/id_rsa_example.pub >> ~/.ssh/authorized_keys

rm ~/id rsa example.pub

chmod 700 ~/.ssh

chmod 600 ~/.ssh/authorized keys

chown -R yourname:yourname ~/.ssh

5. Step 3: Windows SSH Agent—Set & Forget Set-Service -Name ssh-agent -StartupType Automatic Start-Service -Name ssh-agent ssh-add \$HOME\.ssh\id_rsa_example ssh-add -I

 Step 4: Supercharged SSH Config notepad \$HOME\.ssh\config

Add:

Host myserver

HostName 123.45.67.89

User yourname

IdentityFile C:\Users\yourname\.ssh\id_rsa_example

IdentitiesOnly yes

Now connect with:

ssh myserver

7. Step 5: Lock Down Password Auth on Server sudo sed -i 's/^#\?PasswordAuthentication.*/PasswordAuthentication no/' /etc/ssh/sshd_config sudo systemctl daemon-reload sudo systemctl restart ssh

- 8. Recap "From N00b to Ninja in 5 Steps"
- SSH keys = pro-grade security, effortless logins.
- Use RSA (4096-bit) for FIPS/legacy, or Ed25519 for new-school.
- Always default to IPv4 for max compatibility.
- Configure your agent & SSH config once; never waste time again.
- Disable passwords on your servers. Period.
- You're now logging into prod infra like a cloud-native boss.