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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*.

```
pastrana@localmachine:~$ ssh-keygen
Generating public/private rsa key pair.
Enter file in which to save the key (/home/pastrana/.ssh/id_rsa): id_rsa
Enter passphrase (empty for no passphrase):
Enter same passphrase again:
Your identification has been saved in id rsa
Your public key has been saved in id_rsa.pub
The key fingerprint is:
SHA256:1b/TAaIKaqMB6iTTpZV41glGhBFRXRkvClDr8HWOJP4 pastrana@localmachine
The key's randomart image is:
+---[RSA 3072]----+
  =0=. .00
   . * 0 0 0...
   ВО* о. ...
  . X.= S.
             ..
0.
0. *...
1+00+ E.
              0 .
    -[SHA256]----
```

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.

```
pastrana@localmachine:~$ ssh-keygen -t rsa -b 4096
Generating public/private rsa key pair.
Enter file in which to save the key (/home/pastrana/.ssh/id_rsa): id_rsa
id_rsa already exists.
Overwrite (y/n)? y
Enter passphrase (empty for no passphrase):
Enter same passphrase again:
Your identification has been saved in id_rsa
Your public key has been saved in id_rsa.pub
The key fingerprint is:
SHA256:lBaMoYHw+TpizKaBffqUsiPYO86Xx/EgBhfTM+YfbpA pastrana@localmachine
The key's randomart image is:
+---[RSA 4096]----+
  ...00* .0
    o. +S.
   .0.0 +
1=*= ++ =
 *++Bo o .
.0**..
 ----[SHA256]-----
```

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.

```
Enter passphrase (empty for no passphrase):
Enter same passphrase again:
Your identification has been saved in /home/pastrana/.ssh/id_rsa
Your public key has been saved in /home/pastrana/.ssh/id_rsa.pub
```

4. Verify that you have created the key by issuing the command Is -la .ssh. The command should show the .ssh directory containing a pair of keys. For example, id rsa.pub and id rsa.

```
pastrana@localmachine:~$ ls -la .ssh
total 24
drwx----- 2 pastrana pastrana 4096 Aug 24 01:04
drwxr-x--- 15 pastrana pastrana 4096 Aug 24 00:54
-rw------ 1 pastrana pastrana 3389 Aug 24 01:04 id_rsa
-rw-r---- 1 pastrana pastrana 747 Aug 24 01:04 id_rsa.pub
-rw----- 1 pastrana pastrana 2240 Aug 24 00:49 known_hosts
-rw----- 1 pastrana pastrana 1120 Aug 24 00:42 known_hosts.old
```

## 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

```
pastrana@localmachine: $ ssh-copy-id -i ~/.ssh/id_rsa pastrana@localmachine
/usr/bin/ssh-copy-id: INFO: Source of key(s) to be installed: "/home/pastrana/.ssh/id_rsa.pub"
The authenticity of host 'localmachine (10.0.2.1s)' can't be established.
ED25519 key fingerprint is SHA256:dig03]/KB60gXNcHURG/wiTVUoVa/arXz3WBb6/WEps.
This key is not known by any other names
Are you sure you want to continue connecting (yes/no/[fingerprint])? yes
/usr/bin/ssh-copy-id: INFO: attempting to log in with the new key(s), to filter out any that are already installed
/usr/bin/ssh-copy-id: INFO: 1 key(s) remain to be installed -- if you are prompted now it is to install the new keys
pastrana@localmachine's password:
Number of kev(s) added: 1
Now try logging into the machine, with: "ssh 'pastrana@localmachine'" and check to make sure that only the key(s) you wanted were added.
```

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.

```
pastranaglocalmachine: $ ssh-copy-id -i ~/.ssh/id_rsa lance1@server1
/usr/bin/ssh-copy-id: INFO: Source of key(s) to be installed: "/home/pastrana/.ssh/id_rsa.pub"
/usr/bin/ssh-copy-id: INFO: attempting to log in with the new key(s), to filter out any that are already installed
/usr/bin/ssh-copy-id: INFO: 1 key(s) remain to be installed -- if you are prompted now it is to install the new keys
lance1@server1's password:
Number of kev(s) added: 1
Now try logging into the machine, with: "ssh 'lance1@server1'" and check to make sure that only the key(s) you wanted were added.
```

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?

```
pastrana@localmachine:-$ ssh lance1@server1
Welcome to Ubuntu 22.04.1 LTS (GNU/Linux 5.15.0-79-generic x86_64)

* Documentation: https://help.ubuntu.com

* Management: https://landscape.canonical.com

* Support: https://lubuntu.com/advantage

System information as of Wed Aug 23 04:48:14 PM UTC 2023

System load: 0.0615234375 Processes: 132
Usage of /: 44.5% of 11.21GB Users logged in: 1
Memory usage: 5% IPv4 address for enp0s3: 192.168.56.101

Swap usage: 0%

184 updates can be applied immediately.
114 of these updates are standard security updates.
To see these additional updates run: apt list --upgradable

Failed to connect to https://changelogs.ubuntu.com/meta-release-lts. Check your Internet connection or proxy settings

Last login: Wed Aug 23 16:36:30 2023

lance1@server1: $
```

```
pastrana@localmachine:=$ ssh lance2@server2
Welcome to Ubuntu 22.04.1 LTS (GNU/Linux 5.15.0-79-generic x86_64)

* Documentation: https://help.ubuntu.com
    * Management: https://landscape.canonical.com
    * Support: https://ubuntu.com/advantage

System information as of Wed Aug 23 05:01:14 PM UTC 2023

System load: 0.13037109375 Processes: 132
Usage of /: 25.9% of 11.21GB Users logged in: 1
    Memory usage: 4% IPv4 address for enp0s3: 192.168.56.102
Swap usage: 0%

102 updates can be applied immediately.
14 of these updates are standard security updates.
To see these additional updates run: apt list --upgradable

Last login: Wed Aug 23 16:49:10 2023 from 192.168.56.103

lance2@server2: $
```

#### Reflections:

Answer the following:

- 1. How will you describe the ssh-program? What does it do? SSH Program is a key that will remotely login a host or user in SSH. Key pairs' roles are to automating logins, enabling single sign-on, and authenticating hosts.
- 2. How do you know that you already installed the public key to the remote servers?

  After executing the ssh-copy-id -i ~/.ssh/id\_rsa user@host it displayed a number of keys added and said that I can now login to the machine without any password.

#### 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

 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

```
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```

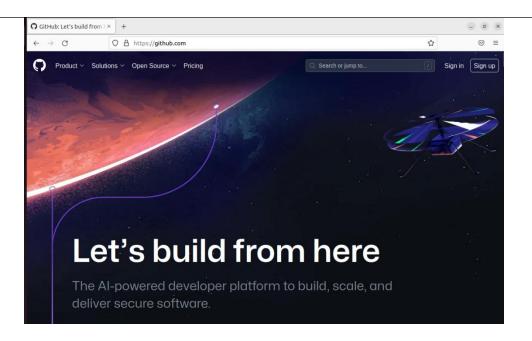
2. After the installation, issue the command *which git* again. The directory of git is usually installed in this location: *user/bin/git*.

```
pastrana@localmachine:~$ which git
/usr/bin/git
```

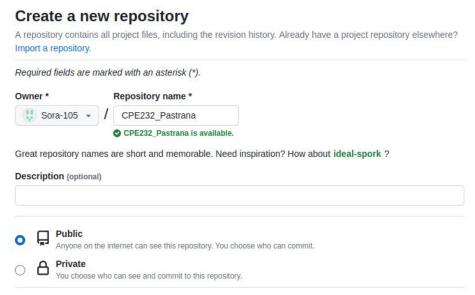
3. The version of git installed in your device is the latest. Try issuing the command *git --version* to know the version installed.

```
pastrana@localmachine:~$ git --version
git version 2.34.1
```

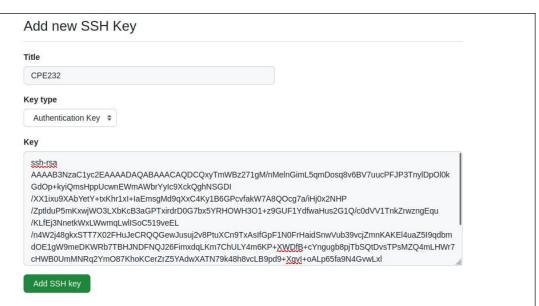
4. Using the browser in the local machine, go to <a href="www.github.com">www.github.com</a>.



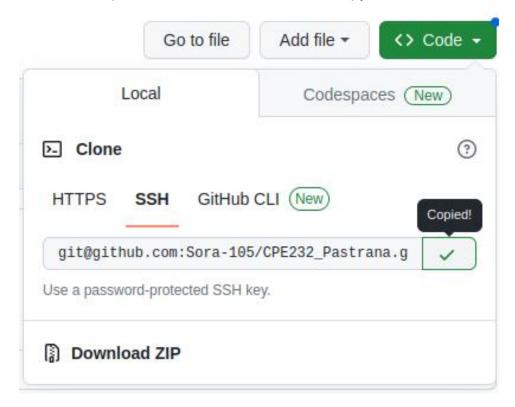
- 5. Sign up in case you don't have an account yet. Otherwise, login to your GitHub account.
  - a. Create a new repository and name it as CPE232\_yourname. Check Add a README file and click Create repository.



- b. Create a new SSH key on GitHub. Go your profile's setting and click SSH 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.

```
pastrana@localmachine:-$ git clone git@github.com:Sora-105/CPE232_Pastrana.git Cloning into 'CPE232_Pastrana'...
The authenticity of host 'github.com (192.30.255.113)' can't be established. ED25519 key fingerprint is SHA256:+DiY3wvvV6TuJJhbpZisF/zLDA0zPMSvHdkr4UvCOqU. This key is not known by any other names
Are you sure you want to continue connecting (yes/no/[fingerprint])? yes Warning: Permanently added 'github.com' (ED25519) to the list of known hosts. remote: Enumerating objects: 3, done.
remote: Counting objects: 100% (3/3), done.
remote: Total 3 (delta 0), reused 0 (delta 0), pack-reused 0
Receiving objects: 100% (3/3), done.
```

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.

```
pastrana@localmachine:-$ ls
CPE232_Pastrana   Desktop   Documents   Downloads id_rsa id_rsa.pub   Music   Pictures   Public   snap   T
pastrana@localmachine:-$ cd   CPE232_Pastrana
pastrana@localmachine:-/CPE232_Pastrana$ ls
README.md
```

- 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.

```
pastrana@localmachine: ~/CPE232_Pastrana

GNU nano 6.2

README.md

Hello Philippines!
```

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 area.

```
pastrana@localmachine:~/CPE232_Pastrana$ git add README.md
```

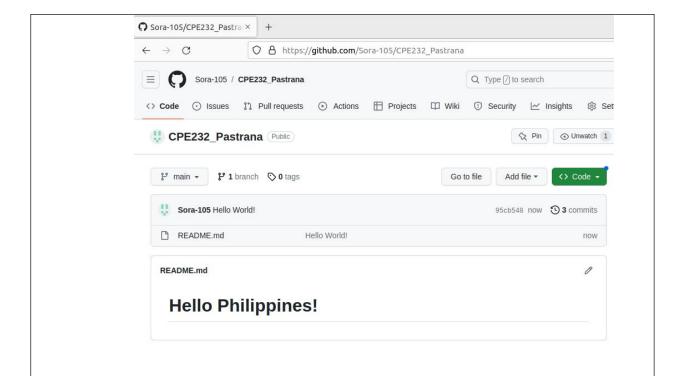
k. Use the git commit -m "your message" to create a snapshot of the staged changes along the timeline of the Git projects history. The use of this command is required to select the changes that will be staged for the next commit.

```
pastrana@localmachine:~/CPE232_Pastrana$ git commit -m "Hello World!"
[main 458a41b] Hello World!
1 file changed, 1 insertion(+), 1 deletion(-)
```

I. 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*.

```
pastrana@localmachine:-/CPE232_Pastrana$ git push origin main
Enumerating objects: 5, done.
Counting objects: 100% (5/5), done.
Writing objects: 100% (3/3), 272 bytes | 272.00 KiB/s, done.
Total 3 (delta 0), reused 0 (delta 0), pack-reused 0
To github.com:Sora-105/CPE232_Pastrana.git
    9cf0cb6..458a41b main -> main
```

m. On the GitHub repository, verify that the changes have been made to README.md by refreshing the page. Describe the README.md file. You can notice the how long was the last commit. It should be some minutes ago and the message you typed on the git commit command should be there. Also, the README.md file should have been edited according to the text you wrote.



### Reflections:

Answer the following:

- 3. What sort of things have we so far done to the remote servers using ansible commands?
  - I was able to create a public and private key to configure my local machine and servers and connect them using the SSH key.
- 4. How important is the inventory file?

The inventory file tells ansible commands which devices to connect to and perform operations on. All commands are preserved here so that they can be used again when the command is enabled.

### Conclusions/Learnings:

After this Hands-On Activity, I was able to configure the local machines and servers using SSH. I also now have a GitHub and configure it using the local machine terminal. I just simply create a git repository.