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Ubuntu Linux install OpenSSH server

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How do I install OpenSSH server on Ubuntu Linux version 16.04/18.04/20.04/22.04 LTS?

Introduction: sshd (OpenSSH Daemon or server) is the daemon program for ssh client. It is a free and open source ssh server. ssh replaces insecure rlogin and rsh, and provide secure encrypted communications between two untrusted hosts over an insecure network such as the Internet. Ubuntu Desktop and minimal Ubuntu server do not come with sshd installed. However, you can easily install SSH server in Ubuntu using the following steps.

Tutorial details	
Difficulty level	Easy
Root privileges	Yes
Requirements	Linux terminal
Category	Package Manager
OS compatibility	Debian • Linux • Mint • Pop!_OS • Ubuntu
Est. reading time	4 minutes

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How to install SSH server in Ubuntu

The procedure to install a ssh server in Ubuntu Linux is as follows:

1. Open the terminal application for Ubuntu desktop.
2. For remote Ubuntu server you must use BMC or KVM or IPMI tool to get console access.
3. Type command:

```
$ sudo apt-get install openssh-server
```

4. Enable the ssh service by typing:

```
$ sudo systemctl enable ssh
## OR enable and start the ssh service immediately ##
$ sudo systemctl enable ssh --now
```

5. Start the ssh service by typing:

```
$ sudo systemctl start ssh
```

6. Test it by login into the system using:

```
$ ssh userName@Your-server-name-IP
$ ssh ec2-user@ec2-aws-ip-here
```

Let us see all Ubuntu OpenSSH server installation steps in details with config options using remote console or local terminal.

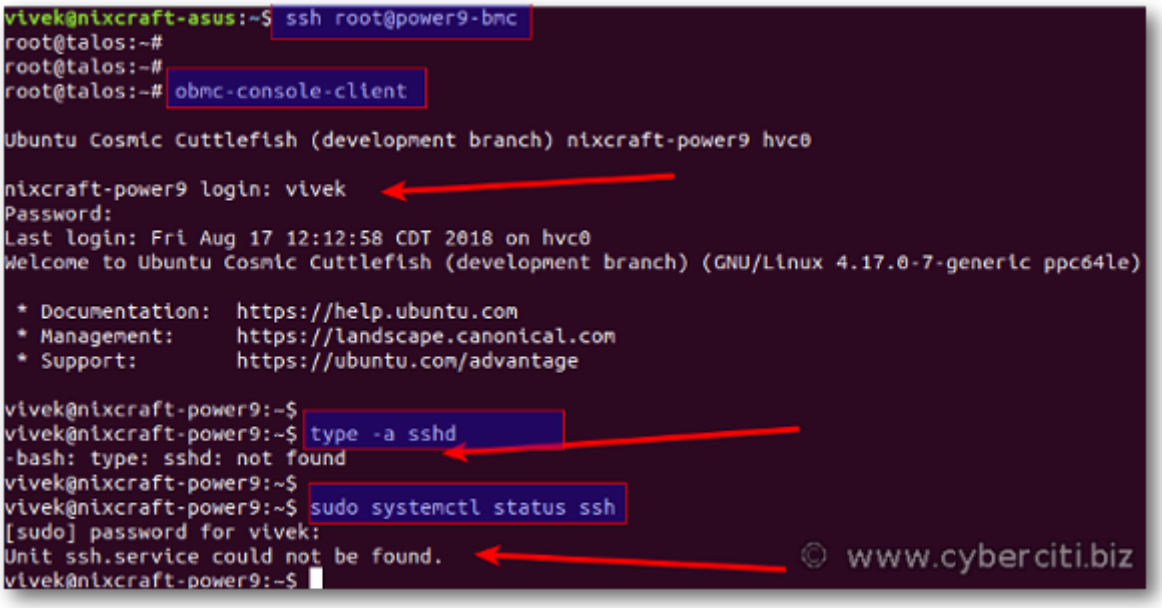
1. Login to remote server using bmc/ipmi/kvm over IP (optional)

I am using OpenPOWER based system called Talos II from Raptor Computing Systems. It is a PowerPC (ppc/ppc64le) based architecture. After a fresh installation of Ubuntu Linux (ppc64le), I found does not come with SSH server installed by default. So here is how to login to bmc server to gain access to the serial console:

```
$ ssh root@power9-bmc
```

Run obmc-console-client to get console access to the Ubuntu server console:

```
# obmc-console-client
```



2. Ubuntu Linux install OpenSSH server

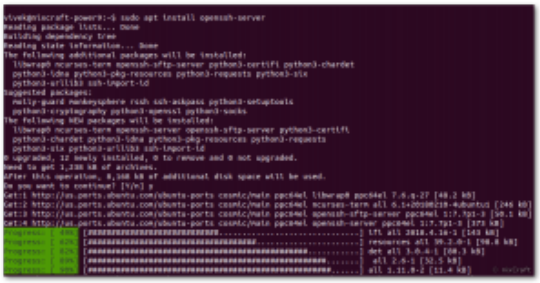
First update the system using the apt command or apt-get command:

```
$ sudo apt update
$ sudo apt upgrade
```

Installing sshd server on Ubuntu Linux

To install openssh-server package, run:

```
$ sudo apt install openssh-server
```



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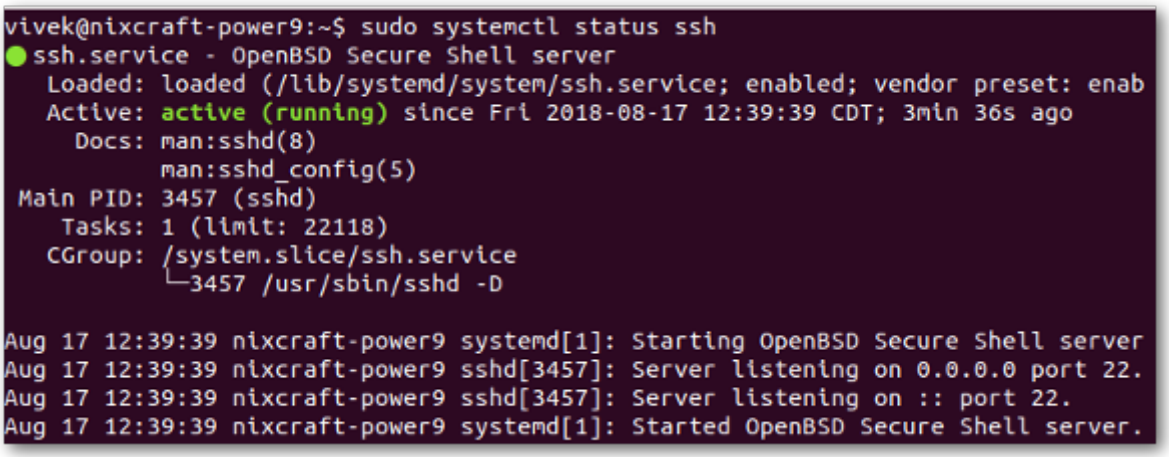
3. Verify that ssh service running

Type the following systemctl command:

```
$ sudo systemctl status ssh
```



If not running enable the ssh server and start it as follows by typing the systemctl command:

```
$ sudo systemctl enable ssh
$ sudo systemctl start ssh
```

```
Synchronizing state of ssh.service with SysV service script with /lib/systemd/systemd-sysv-install.
Executing: /lib/systemd/systemd-sysv-install enable ssh
Created symlink /etc/systemd/system/sshd.service ? /lib/systemd/system/ssh.service.
```

4. Configure firewall and open port 22

You must configure the Ubuntu Linux firewall called ufw. Here is how open or allow port 22 when using ufw on Ubuntu:

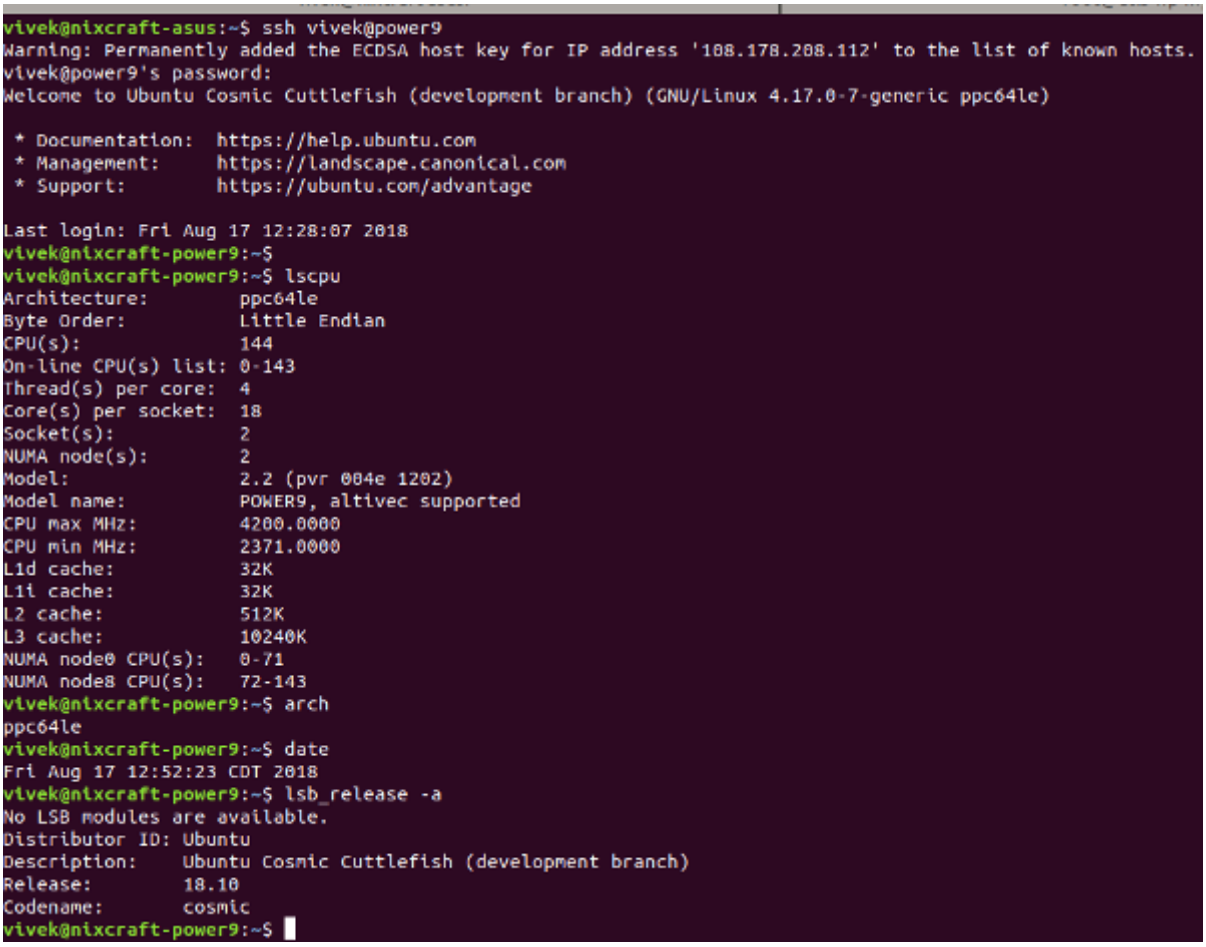
```
$ sudo ufw allow ssh
$ sudo ufw enable
$ sudo ufw status
```

See our “setting up ufw firewall on Ubuntu” guide for more info.

5. Test it

Now you can login from your desktop computer powered by Linux, *BSD, macOS, MS-Windows (putty client) or Unix-like system using the ssh command:

```
$ ssh vivek@server-ip
$ ssh vivek@power9
```



You can install [copy and install the public key using ssh-copy-id command for password less login]:

```
$ ssh-copy-id vivek@power9
```

See "[SSH Public Key Based Authentication on a Linux/Unix server]" for more info.

Ssh config file

One can create shortcuts for ssh login / client options. For example create a file named ~/.ssh/config as follows:

```
$ nano ~/.ssh/config
```

OR

```
$ vi $HOME/.ssh/config
```

Append the following to login into my EC2 Ubuntu server at AWS cloud:

```
Host web01
        HostName aws-ec2-www-server1.cyberciti.biz
        Port 22
        IdentityFile  ~/.ssh/AWS_EC2_Virginia_US_East_Ubuntu_Boxes.pem
        User ubuntu
```

To log in simply type:

```
$ ssh web01
```

See “OpenSSH Config File Examples” for more info.

Conclusion

In this tutorial, you learn how to install the OpenSSH server application at a terminal prompt. Although instructions tested for Power9 (ppc64le) architecture, they should work on Intel AMD64 or ARAM64 server as well. For more info see OpenSSH home page here and how to secure OpenSSH server tutorial here. Make sure you read manual pages too using the man command:

```
$ man sshd_config
```

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About the author: Vivek Gite is the founder of nixCraft, the oldest running blog about Linux and open source. He wrote more than 7k+ posts and helped numerous readers to master IT topics. Join the nixCraft community via RSS Feed or Email Newsletter.

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