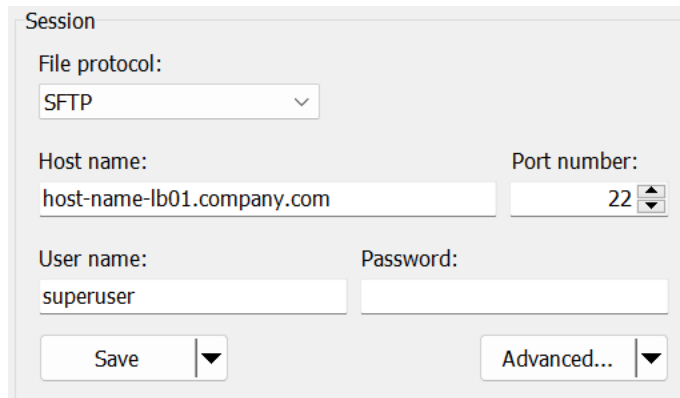# Create a key-based connection to a shared virtual machine

This document describes how to create a key-based connection to a shared virtual machine in the WinSCP client. Before you begin, download and install [WinSCP](#).

To create a key-based connection in WinSCP:

1. Open WinSCP, and select **New Session** in the left pane.

2. Enter session details:

    a. In the Session section, select **SFTP** from the File protocol drop-down menu.
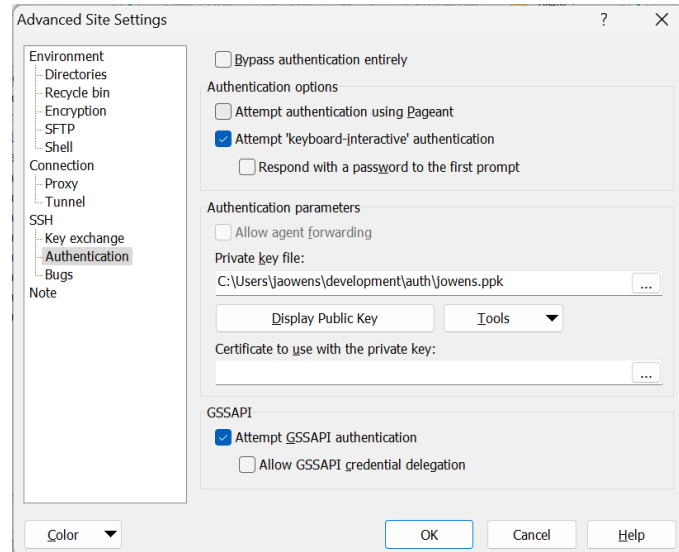

    b. Enter **host-name-lb01.company.com** in the Host name field.

    c. Enter **22** in the Port number field.

    d. Enter **superuser** in the User name field.

    e. Leave the Password field blank.

3. Configure authentication settings:

    a. In the Session section, click the **Advanced** button.

        The Advanced Site Settings dialog box appears.

    b. Click **Authentication** under SSH.

    c. From the Tools drop-down list, select **Generate New Key Pair with PuTTYgen**.

    d. In PuTTY Key Generator, click **Generate**, and move your cursor around the blank area to generate randomness.

    e. Once the key is created, add your username to the Key comment field; for example, jowens-rsa-key-20240626.
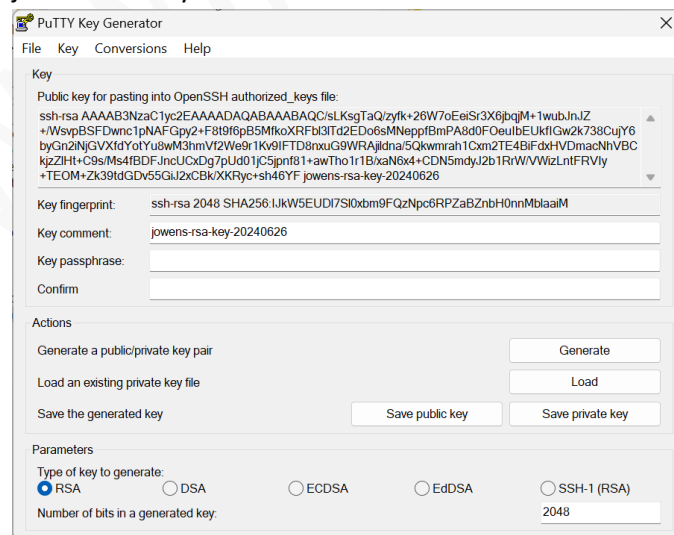
f.   Click the **Save private key** button.

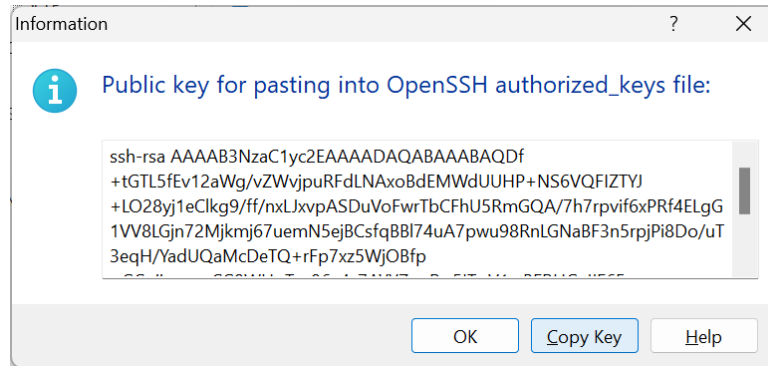g.   Select a location in which to save the .ppk file, enter a name, and click **Save**.

h.   Close the PuTTY Key Generator dialog box.

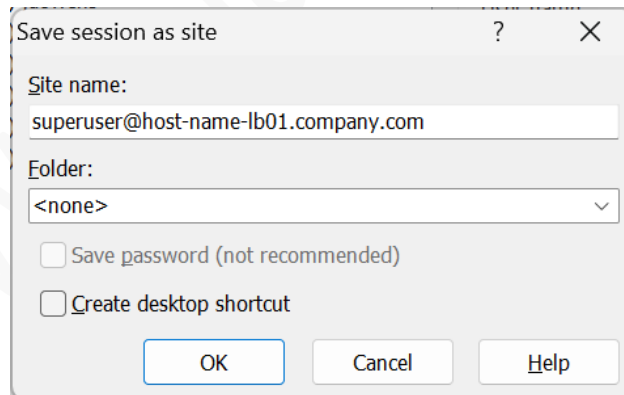i.   In the Advanced Site Settings dialog box, click **Display Public Key**.

Information   ?   ✕

ℹ   Public key for pasting into OpenSSH authorized_keys file:

ssh-rsa AAAAB3NzaC1yc2EAAAADAQABAAABAQDf
+tGTL5fEv12aWg/vZWvjpuRFdLNAxoBdEMWdUUHP+NS6VQFIZTYJ
+LO28yj1eClkg9/ff/nxLJxvpASDuVoFwrTbCFhU5RmGQA/7h7rpvif6xPRf4ELgG
1VV8LGjn72Mjkmj67uemN5ejBCsfqBBl74uA7pwu98RnLGNaBF3n5rpjPi8Do/uT
3eqH/YadUQaMcDeTQ+rFp7xz5WjOBfp

                                  OK   Copy Key   Help

j.   In the Information dialog box, click **Copy Key**, and then click **OK**.

Tip: Save the public key text to a temporary file; the text will be added to the server in step 5.

k.   Click **OK** to close the Advanced Site Settings dialog box.

4.   Save the session:

a.   In the Login dialog box, click **Save** to save the new site settings.

Save session as site   ?   ✕

Site name:
superuser@host-name-lb01.company.com

Folder:
<none>   ⌄

☐ Save password (not recommended)

☐ Create desktop shortcut

              OK   Cancel   Help

b.   In the Save session as site dialog box, click **OK**.

5. Add the public key to the server:

    1. Open a terminal, and run the following command to log into the server:

        ```
        $ ssh superuser@host-name-lb01.company.com
        ```

    2. Add your public key to the authorization_keys file:

        ```
        echo public_key_string >> ~/.ssh/authorized_keys
        ```

        Where *public_key_string* is your public key.

6. In WinSCP, select the new site, and click **Login** to confirm the connection.