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](https://winscp.net/eng/download.php).

To create a key-based connection in WinSCP:

1. Open WinSCP, and select **New Session** in the left pane.
2. Enter session details:  
   1. In the Session section, select **SFTP** from the File protocol drop-down menu.  
      A screenshot of a login box

      Description automatically generated
   2. Enter **host-name-lb01.company.com** in the Host name field.
   3. Enter **22** in the Port number field.
   4. Enter **superuser** in the User name field.
   5. Leave the Password field blank.
3. Configure authentication settings:  
   1. In the Session section, click the **Advanced** button.  
        
      The Advanced Site Settings dialog box appears.  
      A screenshot of a computer

      Description automatically generated
   2. Click **Authentication** under SSH.
   3. From the Tools drop-down list, select **Generate New Key Pair with PuTTYgen**.
   4. In PuTTY Key Generator, click **Generate**, and move your cursor around the blank area to generate randomness.
   5. Once the key is created, add your username to the Key comment field; for example, jowens-rsa-key-20240626.  
      A screenshot of a computer

      Description automatically generated
   6. Click the **Save private key** button.
   7. Select a location in which to save the .ppk file, enter a name, and click **Save**.
   8. Close the PuTTY Key Generator dialog box.
   9. In the Advanced Site Settings dialog box, click **Display Public Key**.  
      A screenshot of a computer error

      Description automatically generated
   10. 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.
   11. Click **OK** to close the Advanced Site Settings dialog box.
4. Save the session:  
   1. In the Login dialog box, click **Save** to save the new site settings.  
      A screenshot of a computer

      Description automatically generated
   2. In the Save session as site dialog box, click **OK**.
5. Add the public key to the server:
6. Open a terminal, and run the following command to log into the server:   
     
   $ ssh superuser@host-name-lb01.company.com
7. Add your public key to the authorization\_keys file:  
     
   echo *public\_key\_string* >> ~/.ssh/authorized\_keys  
     
   Where *public\_key\_string* is your public key.
8. In WinSCP, select the new site, and click **Login** to confirm the connection.