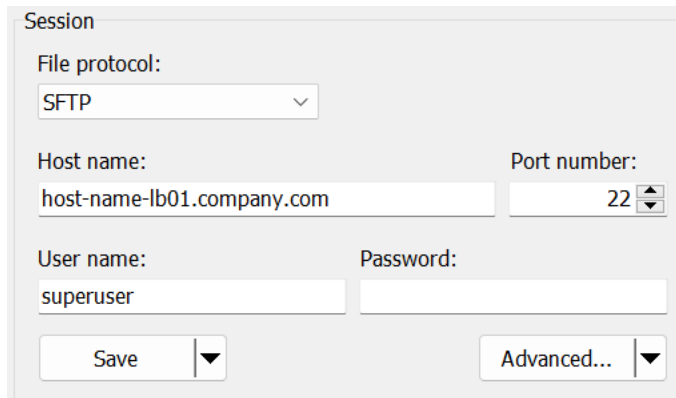


How to create a key-based connection to a shared virtual machine

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.

The image shows the 'Session' dialog box in WinSCP. It has a title bar 'Session'. Inside, there are four main sections: 'File protocol:' with a dropdown menu showing 'SFTP'; 'Host name:' with a text field containing 'host-name-lb01.company.com'; 'Port number:' with a spinner box showing '22'; and 'User name:' with a text field containing 'superuser'. There is also a 'Password:' label next to an empty text field. At the bottom, there are two buttons: 'Save' and 'Advanced...'.

Session

File protocol:
SFTP

Host name: host-name-lb01.company.com Port number: 22

User name: superuser Password:

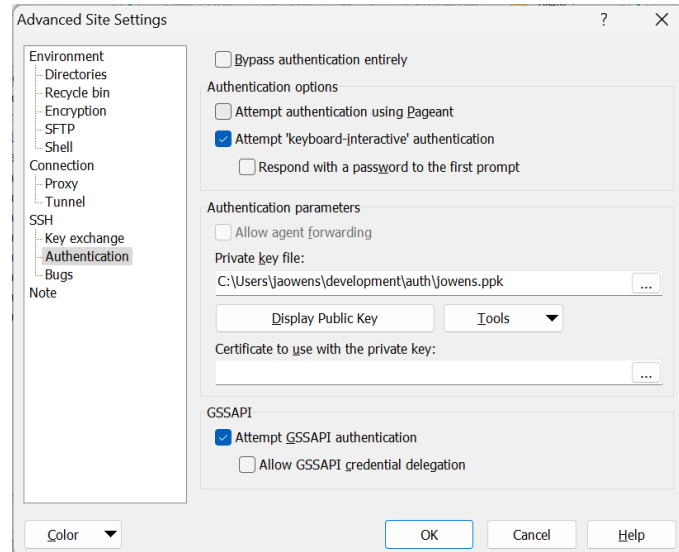
Save Advanced...

- 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.

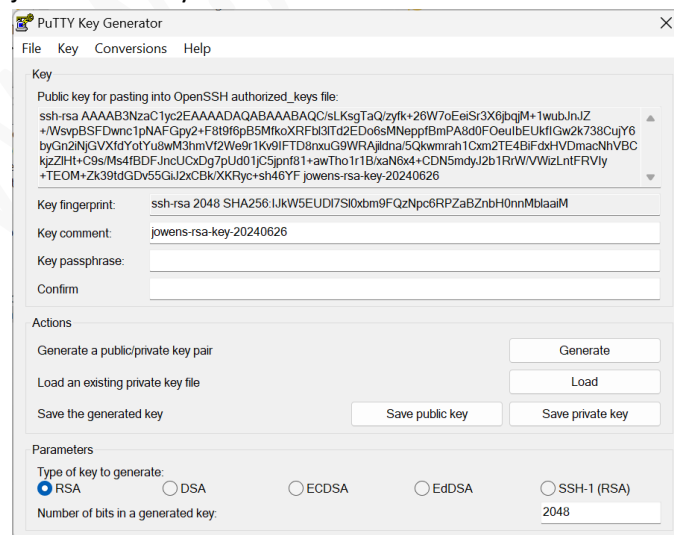
3. Configure authentication settings:

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

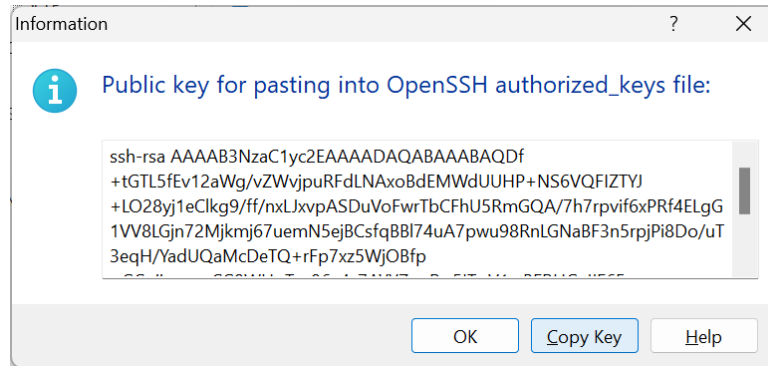
The Advanced Site Settings dialog box appears.



- 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**.



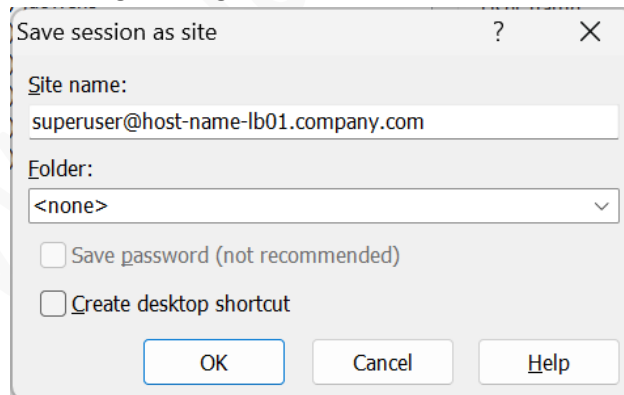
- j. In the Information dialog box, click **Copy Key**, and then click **OK**.

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.



- 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 `authorized_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.