
Managing Multiple GitHub Accounts with Separate SSH Keys on a VPS

Scenario

You are working with two private repositories from **two different GitHub accounts** (e.g., frontend and backend) and want to:

- Deploy both projects to the **same VPS**
- Use **separate SSH keys** to authenticate with each GitHub account

☒ Step-by-Step Guide

1. Generate a Second SSH Key

On your VPS:

```
ssh-keygen -t ed25519 -C "your-second@email.com"
```

When prompted:

```
Enter file in which to save the key (/root/.ssh/id_ed25519):  
/root/.ssh/id_ed25519_dev2
```

2. Add the New Public Key to GitHub (Second Account)

Display the public key:

```
cat ~/.ssh/id_ed25519_dev2.pub
```

Copy the full output.

Then go to **GitHub Account #2**:

Settings → **SSH and GPG keys** → **New SSH key**

Paste the key and save.

3. Configure the SSH Client

Edit (or create) the SSH config file:

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

Add this configuration:

```
# GitHub for Account 1 (default)
Host github.com
  HostName github.com
  User git
  IdentityFile ~/.ssh/id_ed25519

# GitHub for Account 2 (frontend)
Host github-dev2
  HostName github.com
  User git
  IdentityFile ~/.ssh/id_ed25519_dev2
```

Save and exit (**Ctrl + O**, **Enter**, **Ctrl + X**).

4. 🐙 Clone Each Repo Using the Correct Host

Now you can clone each repo using the correct SSH host.

Clone Backend (Account 1)

```
git clone git@github.com:dev1-username/backend-repo.git
```

Clone Frontend (Account 2)

```
git clone git@github-dev2:dev2-username/frontend-repo.git
```

Note the use of **github-dev2** as defined in your SSH config.

5. 🔧 Test the SSH Connections

Verify both identities work:

```
ssh -T git@github.com          # For Account 1
ssh -T git@github-dev2        # For Account 2
```

Expected output:

```
Hi dev1-username! You've successfully authenticated...  
Hi dev2-username! You've successfully authenticated...
```

☒ Summary

- Each GitHub account has its own SSH key.
 - `~/.ssh/config` defines which key to use per host.
 - You clone using the appropriate `Host` alias.
 - This setup allows clean separation for deploying repos from multiple accounts on the same VPS.
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