

Connect to your Linux/Unix-based Lightsail instance using PuTTY

Last updated: August 16, 2018

In addition to the browser-based SSH terminal in Lightsail, you can also connect to your Linux-based instance using an SSH client such as PuTTY. To learn how to set up PuTTY, see [Download and set up PuTTY to connect using SSH in Lightsail](#).

Note

To connect to a Windows-based instance using RDP, see [Connect to your Windows-based Lightsail instance](#).

You can use the default private key that Lightsail provides, a new private key from Lightsail, or another private key that you use with another service.

1. Start PuTTY (for example, from the **Start** menu, choose **All Programs, PuTTY, PuTTY**).
2. Choose **Load**, and then find your saved session.

If you don't have a saved session, see [Step 4: Finish configuring PuTTY with your private key and instance information](#).

3. Log in using one of the following default user names depending on your instance operating system:
 - Amazon Linux, openSUSE, and FreeBSD: **ec2-user**
 - CentOS: **centos**
 - Debian: **admin**
 - Ubuntu: **ubuntu**
 - Powered by Bitnami instances: **bitnami**
 - Plesk instances: **ubuntu**

For more information about instance operating systems, see [Choosing an image in Lightsail](#).

To learn more about SSH, see [SSH and connecting to your Amazon Lightsail instance](#).