SSH and connecting to your Lightsail instance

Note
Secure SHell (SSH) is a protocol for securely connecting to a virtual private server (or Lightsail *instance*). SSH works by creating a public key and a private key that match the remote server to an authorized user. Using that key pair, you can connect to your Lightsail instance using a browser-based SSH terminal.

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In Amazon Lightsail, you can choose from three options in each region to set up SSH as you create your Lightsail instance (a virtual private server):

- **Default**. Choose the default key pair and connection method to use the Lightsail console to connect securely to your instance. Lightsail provides a browser-based SSH terminal, so you won't even need to set up a client! You can also download the key to use with an SSH client such as PuTTY.
- **Create new**. When creating your instance, choose **Change key pair**, and then choose **Create new** to get a new public and private key pair for connecting. This enables you to use a client such as PuTTY to connect securely to your instance. In this option, Lightsail creates and manages the SSH keys.
- **Upload new**. When creating your instance, choose **Change key pair**, and then choose **Upload new**. This enables you to use an SSH client such as PuTTY to connect securely to your instance. In this option, you are using an existing SSH key that you might also use with another service, such as GitHub.

To use PuTTY to connect to your instance, see Set up PuTTY to connect to your Lightsail instance.

To learn more about SSH, see Secure SHell on Wikipedia.

Tip
You can also manage SSH keys from the **Account** page.

SSH keys and AWS Regions

In Lightsail, the SSH key pairs you use are AWS Region specific. Lightsail creates a **Default** key in each region. If you want to create a new key pair to use with your instances, you'll need to create or upload a new key pair in each region where you have Lightsail instances. After you create a new key pair, you can upload the same key to multiple regions. For more information, see Regions and Availability Zones in Lightsail.

Using an SSH client such as PuTTY

To set up PuTTY to connect to your Lightsail instance, see Set up PuTTY to connect to your Lightsail instance.

To learn more about SSH, see Secure SHell on Wikipedia.