**Connecting to Your Linux Instance Using SSH**

After you launch your instance, you can connect to it and use it the way that you'd use a computer sitting in front of you.

**Note**

After you launch an instance, it can take a few minutes for the instance to be ready so that you can connect to it. Check that your instance has passed its status checks. You can view this information in the **Status Checks** column on the **Instances** page.

The following instructions explain how to connect to your instance using an SSH client. If you receive an error while attempting to connect to your instance, see [Troubleshooting Connecting to Your Instance](http://docs.aws.amazon.com/AWSEC2/latest/UserGuide/TroubleshootingInstancesConnecting.html).

**Prerequisites**

Before you connect to your Linux instance, complete the following prerequisites:

* **Install an SSH client**

Your Linux computer most likely includes an SSH client by default. You can check for an SSH client by typing **ssh** at the command line. If your computer doesn't recognize the command, the OpenSSH project provides a free implementation of the full suite of SSH tools. For more information, see [http://www.openssh.com](http://www.openssh.com/).

* **Install the AWS CLI Tools**

(Optional) If you're using a public AMI from a third party, you can use the command line tools to verify the fingerprint. For more information about installing the AWS CLI, see [Getting Set Up](http://docs.aws.amazon.com/cli/latest/userguide/cli-chap-getting-set-up.html) in the *AWS Command Line Interface User Guide*.

* **Get the ID of the instance**

You can get the ID of your instance using the Amazon EC2 console (from the **Instance ID**column). If you prefer, you can use the [describe-instances](http://docs.aws.amazon.com/cli/latest/reference/ec2/describe-instances.html) (AWS CLI) or [Get-EC2Instance](http://docs.aws.amazon.com/powershell/latest/reference/items/Get-EC2Instance.html)(AWS Tools for Windows PowerShell) command.

* **Get the public DNS name of the instance**

You can get the public DNS for your instance using the Amazon EC2 console (check the**Public DNS (IPv4)** column; if this column is hidden, choose the **Show/Hide** icon and select **Public DNS (IPv4)**). If you prefer, you can use the [describe-instances](http://docs.aws.amazon.com/cli/latest/reference/ec2/describe-instances.html) (AWS CLI) or [Get-EC2Instance](http://docs.aws.amazon.com/powershell/latest/reference/items/Get-EC2Instance.html) (AWS Tools for Windows PowerShell) command.

* **(IPv6 only) Get the IPv6 address of the instance**

If you've assigned an IPv6 address to your instance, you can optionally connect to the instance using its IPv6 address instead of a public IPv4 address or public IPv4 DNS hostname. Your local computer must have an IPv6 address and must be configured to use IPv6. You can get the IPv6 address of your instance using the Amazon EC2 console (check the **IPv6 IPs** field). If you prefer, you can use the [describe-instances](http://docs.aws.amazon.com/cli/latest/reference/ec2/describe-instances.html) (AWS CLI) or [Get-EC2Instance](http://docs.aws.amazon.com/powershell/latest/reference/items/Get-EC2Instance.html) (AWS Tools for Windows PowerShell) command. For more information about IPv6, see [IPv6 Addresses](https://docs.aws.amazon.com/AWSEC2/latest/UserGuide/using-instance-addressing.html#ipv6-addressing).

* **Locate the private key**

Get the fully qualified path to the location on your computer of the .pem file for the key pair that you specified when you launched the instance.

* **Get the default user name for the AMI that you used to launch your instance**
  + For an Amazon Linux AMI, the user name is ec2-user.
  + For a Centos AMI, the user name is centos.
  + For a Debian AMI, the user name is admin or root.
  + For a Fedora AMI, the user name is ec2-user or fedora.
  + For a RHEL AMI, the user name is ec2-user or root.
  + For a SUSE AMI, the user name is ec2-user or root.
  + For an Ubuntu AMI, the user name is ubuntu or root.
  + Otherwise, if ec2-user and root don't work, check with the AMI provider.
* **Enable inbound SSH traffic from your IP address to your instance**

Ensure that the security group associated with your instance allows incoming SSH traffic from your IP address. The default security group does not allow incoming SSH traffic by default. For more information, see [Authorizing Inbound Traffic for Your Linux Instances](https://docs.aws.amazon.com/AWSEC2/latest/UserGuide/authorizing-access-to-an-instance.html).