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SSH Server on Windows 10

Tom Fenton, delighted to discover that Microsoft now includes an SSH server with Windows 10 that unfortunately is not enabled or configured by default, shows you how to do so.

By Tom Fenton | 05/21/2020

In a previous **article**, I showed you how to use Secure Shell (SSH) and Secure Copy (SCP). SSH is used to securely connect to remote systems, and SCP is used to securely copy files from one system to another. These commands rely on having an SSH server on the system that you are connecting to, and I was delighted to see that Microsoft now includes an SSH server with Windows 10. However, this SSH server is not enabled or configured by default, so in this article I will show you how to do so.

You can install OpenSSH Server by launching Windows Settings and then navigating to **Apps > Optional features**, clicking **Add a feature**, selecting **OpenSSH Server**, and clicking **Install**.

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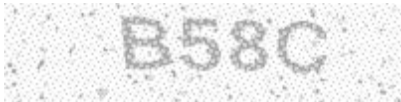### Sign up for our newsletter.

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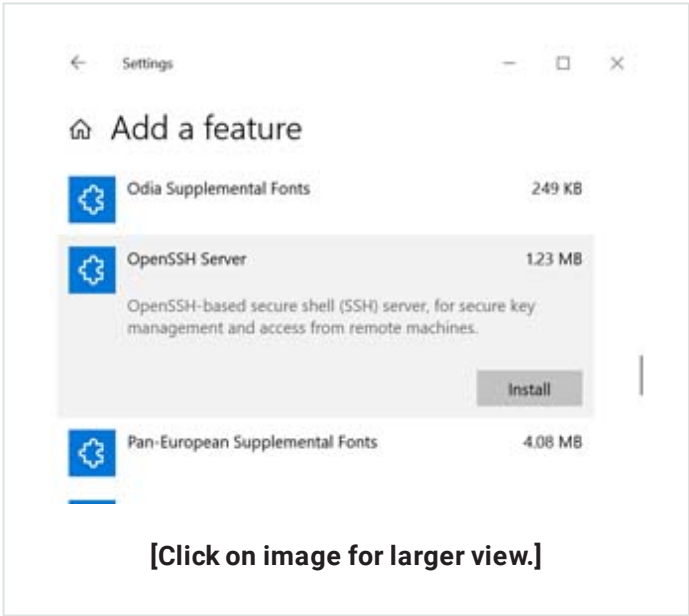B58C

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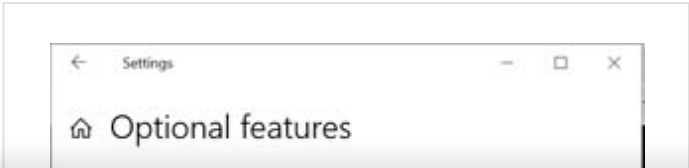
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Once added, it will be shown in the list of optional features.

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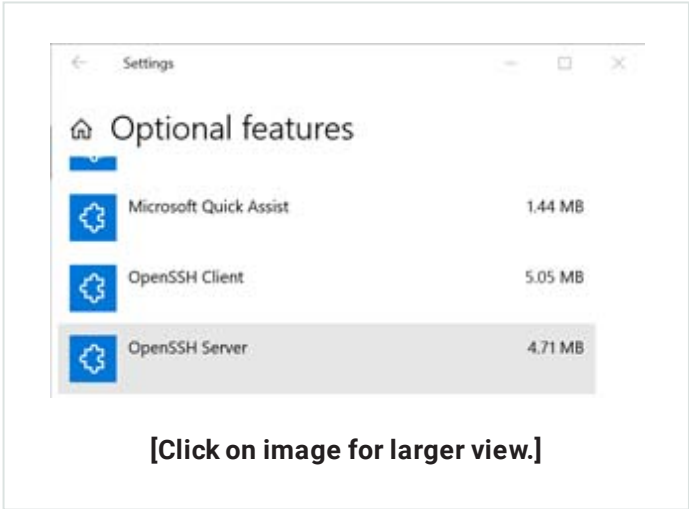
Once it is installed, you will need to start the service. I used PowerShell to do this, but there are other ways you can do so using the GUI or command line.

I launched PowerShell as Administrator, and entered the following commands to see the status of the service, start the service, and then verify that the service was running:
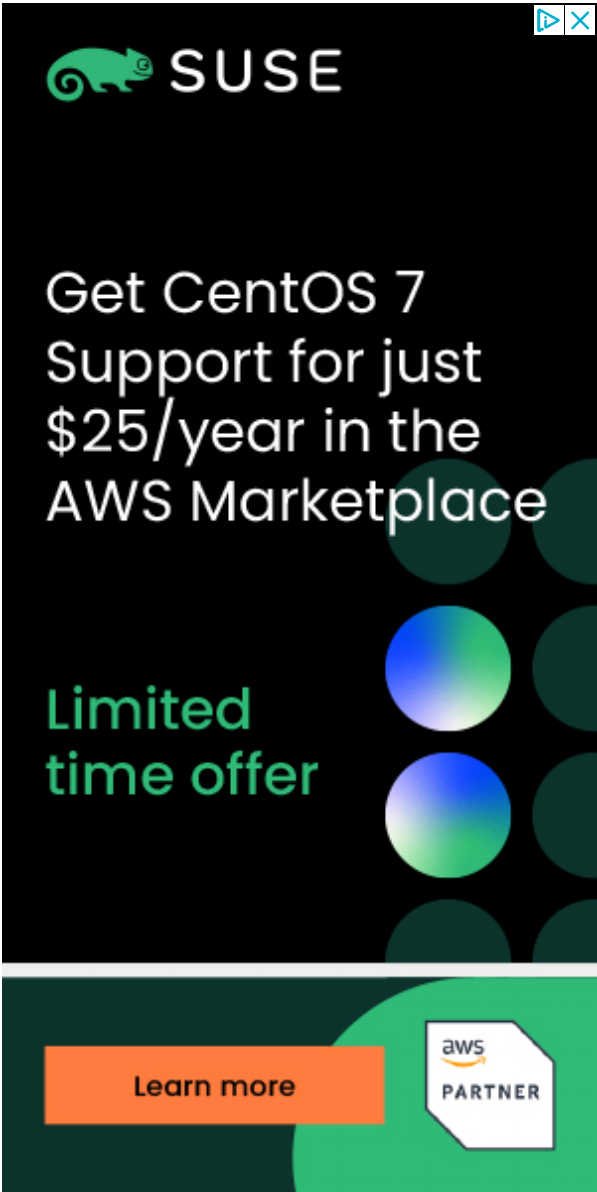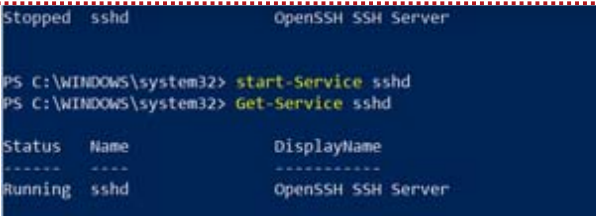
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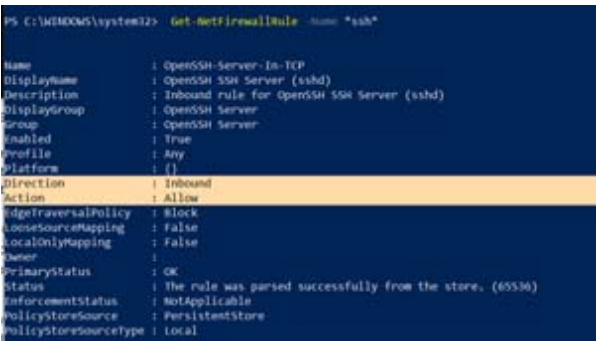...are Explore 2024: ...uncements and Final Recap

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As I wanted the SSH service to start every time the system booted up, I entered:

Set-Service -Name sshd -StartupType 'Automatic'

To check and make sure that the port for the SSH server was open, I entered:
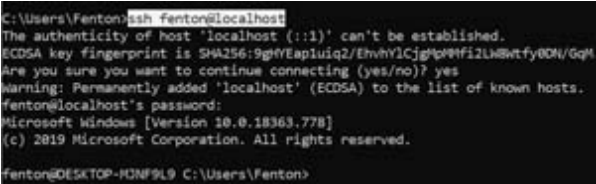
*Get-NetFirewallRule -Name *ssh**

[Click on image for larger view.]

If you have any other firewall or security tools running, you will also need to configure them to allow for SSH connections.

I then checked that my SSH server was operational by connecting to the Windows system that I was currently on by going back to the command console and entering:

ssh fenton@localhost

[Click on image for larger view.]

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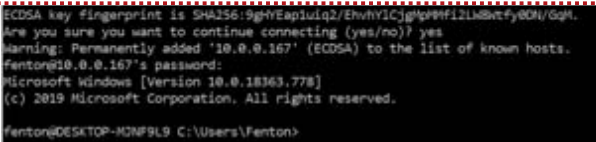September 8-12, 2025

To check that the firewalls for my SSH server was correctly configured by going to another Windows 10 machine and verify that I was able to SSH to this system by entering:

[Click on image for larger view.]

Finally, I verified that I was able to copy a file from a remote system to my local system by entering:

> *scp* fenton@10.0.0.167:/TestFile *CopyOfFile*

[Click on image for larger view.]

Conclusion

In a previous **article**, I showed you how to use SSH on Windows 10 to securely connect to a remote machine, and how to securely copy files using SCP to a Windows 10. In this article I showed you how to install OpenSSH Server on a Windows 10 system so it can accept SSH connections. Both SSH and SCP are invaluable tools when working with or administrating multiple machines, and I am glad to see that Microsoft now includes them with Windows 10.

About the Author

Tom Fenton has a wealth of hands-on IT experience gained over the past 30 years in a variety of technologies, with the past 20 years focusing on virtualization and storage. He previously worked as a Technical Marketing Manager for ControlUp. He also previously worked at VMware in Staff and Senior level positions. He has also worked as a Senior Validation Engineer with The Taneja Group, where he headed the Validation Service Lab and was instrumental in starting up its vSphere Virtual Volumes practice. He's on X @vDoppler.

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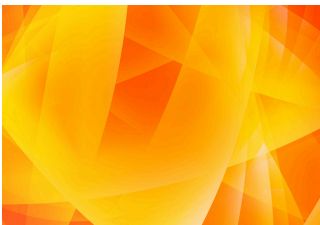
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