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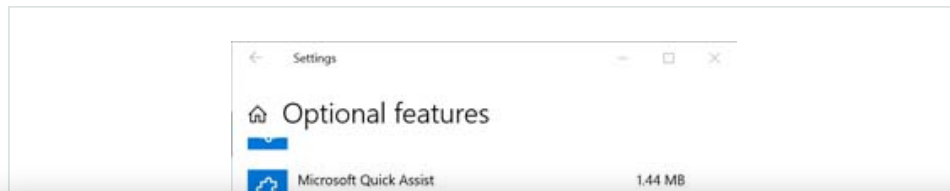
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Once added, it will be shown in the list of optional features.

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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:

Get-Service sshd ← sshd is the OpenSSH service
Start-Service sshd ← Starts the sshd service
Get-Service sshd ← Verifies that the sshd service is running

```
PS C:\WINDOWS\system32> Get-Service sshd

Status Name      DisplayName
-----
Stopped sshd      OpenSSH SSH Server

PS C:\WINDOWS\system32> start-Service sshd
PS C:\WINDOWS\system32> Get-Service sshd

Status Name      DisplayName
-----
Running sshd      OpenSSH SSH Server
```

[Click on image for larger view.]

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**

An advertisement for SUSE Linux Liberty Linux Lite for CentOS 7. The ad features the SUSE logo, the text 'Secure your Linux future with AWS', and a 'Limited time offer' for 'one year SUSE Liberty Linux Lite for CentOS 7 for \$25'. There is a 'Learn more' button and an 'aws PARTNER' logo.

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```
PS C:\WINDOWS\system32> Get-NetFirewallRule -Name "ssh"

Name                : OpenSSH-Server-In-TCP
DisplayName          : OpenSSH SSH Server (sshd)
Description          : Inbound rule for OpenSSH SSH Server (sshd)
DisplayGroup         : OpenSSH Server
Group                : OpenSSH Server
Enabled              : True
Profile              : Any
Platform             : {}
```

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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
```

```
C:\Users\Fenton> ssh fenton@localhost
The authenticity of host 'localhost (:::1)' can't be established.
ECDSA key fingerprint is SHA256:9gH/Eapluq2/EhvhV1Cjg/9MFFi2LMBxfy8DN/GqH.
Are you sure you want to continue connecting (yes/no)? yes
Warning: Permanently added 'localhost' (ECDSA) to the list of known hosts.
fenton@localhost's password:
Microsoft Windows [Version 10.0.18363.778]
(c) 2019 Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.

fenton@DESKTOP-P0NFB9L9 C:\Users\Fenton>
```

[Click on image for larger view.]

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:

```
ssh fenton@10.0.0.167
```

```
C:\Users\User01> whoami
Fentronics\User01

C:\Users\User01> ssh fenton@10.0.0.167
The authenticity of host '10.0.0.167 (10.0.0.167)' can't be established.
ECDSA key fingerprint is SHA256:9gH/Eapluq2/EhvhV1Cjg/9MFFi2LMBxfy8DN/GqH.
Are you sure you want to continue connecting (yes/no)? yes
Warning: Permanently added '10.0.0.167' (ECDSA) to the list of known hosts.
fenton@10.0.0.167's password:
Microsoft Windows [Version 10.0.18363.778]
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fenton@DESKTOP-P0NFB9L9 C:\Users\Fenton>
```

[Click on image for larger view.]

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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
```

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Conclusion

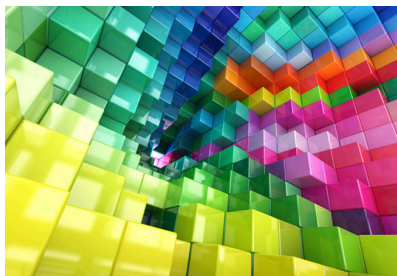
In a previous [article](#), I showed you how to use SSH on Windows 10 to securely connect to a remote machine, and how to securely copy files using SCP to a Windows 10. In this article I showed you how to install OpenSSH Server on a Windows 10 system so it can accept SSH connections. Both SSH and SCP 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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