

Bitbucket Data Center 9.3 (Latest)

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Enable SSH access to Git repositories

Administrators can enable SSH access to Git repositories in Bitbucket Data Center. This allows users to:

- add their own SSH keys to Bitbucket
- use those SSH keys to secure Git operations between their computer and the Bitbucket instance.

Each user must [add their own SSH key pairs to their account](#) to be able to use SSH to access repositories.

Bitbucket supports the following SSH key types:

- ED25519
- RSA2
- ECDSA
- DSA (we recommend you use other key types)
- ED25519-SK
- ECDSA-SK

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Performance

Using SSH has performance implications. When users connect to Bitbucket using SSH the encryption of data adds to overall CPU usage. See [Scaling Bitbucket Server](#) for more information.

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Security

To implement SSH authentication support, Bitbucket bundles a version of the [Apache Mina](#) SSHD server. The Bitbucket SSH server is not integrated with the SSH server on the host Bitbucket is running on, and it doesn't consider the users on the host when authenticating Bitbucket users.

To prevent security issues, the embedded SSH server has been locked down to allow execution of a small set of commands for Git hosting. The only commands that are supported are `git upload-pack`, `git receive-pack`, `git archive-pack` and `whoami` (a custom `whoami` implemented in Bitbucket, not the `whoami` command that exists on Linux). It is not possible to open an SSH shell using the embedded server to execute arbitrary commands on the server.

Enabling SSH access

To enable SSH access:

- Go to  > **Server settings**.
- Select **SSH enabled**.
- Enter values for **SSH port** and **SSH base URL**, according to the information in the sections below.
- Select **Save**.

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For Data Center installations, a load balancer setup is required for SSH. For instructions on how to install and configure your load balancer, refer to [Install Bitbucket Data Center](#).

SSH base URL

The **SSH base URL** is the base URL with which users can access the SSH push/pull/clone functionality of Bitbucket.

This is the base URL that Bitbucket will use when displaying SSH URLs to users. If you do not set this, it will default to the host that is set in **Bitbucket base URL**, with the port that SSH is listening on. See [Specify the Bitbucket base URL](#).

For example, if the **SSH base URL** is not set and the **Bitbucket base URL** is `https://bitbucket.atlassian.com` and the SSH port is 7999, the SSH URL for the repository `Jira` in the project `Atlassian` will be `ssh://git@bitbucket.atlassian.com:7999/ATLASSIAN/jira.git`

If you set up [port forwarding](#), you will need to set the **SSH base URL** to the machine and port that is being forwarded to Bitbucket. However, you do not need to specify the port portion of the URL if the default SSH port (port 22) is being forwarded to Bitbucket.

If the **SSH base URL** and **SSH port** configurations are modified in the global Server settings page, the configurations specified in the properties file will no longer be used.



Client



Bitbucket

Port forwarding	SSH base URL	Bitbucket base URL
✗	Not set	https://bitbucket.atlassian.com
✓ Port 22 -> 7999	https://bitbucket.atlassian.com	https://bitbucket.atlassian.com

When running Bitbucket behind a proxy

If you run Bitbucket behind a http proxy such as Apache (e.g. as per our [instructions](#)), and if Apache runs on a different host. SSH will not be available on that host. Instead, you will need to set the SSH

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If you set up [port forwarding](#), you will need to set the **SSH base URL** to the proxy machine and port that is being forwarded to Bitbucket. However, you do not need to specify the port portion of the URL if the default SSH port (port 22) is being forwarded to Bitbucket.



For example, if you set up port forwarding from your http proxy host, `bitbucket.atlassian.com`, port 22, to `bitbucket.backend.atlassian.com` port 7999, set the **SSH base URL** to `ssh://bitbucket.atlassian.com`. Then, the SSH URL for the repository `Jira` in the project `Atlassian` will be `ssh://git@bitbucket.atlassian.com/ATLASSIAN/jira.git`



Client



Proxy

bitbucket.atlassian.com



Bitbucket

bitbucket.backend.atlassian.com

Port forwarding	SSH base URL	SSH port	Bitbucket base URL
	<code>ssh://bitbucket.backend.atlassian.com:7999</code>	7999	<code>https://bitbucket.atlassian.com</code>
Port 22→7999	<code>ssh://bitbucket.atlassian.com</code>	7999	<code>https://bitbucket.atlassian.com</code>
Port 44→7999	<code>ssh://bitbucket.atlassian.com:44</code>	7999	<code>https://bitbucket.atlassian.com</code>

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