



Windows 10 OpenSSH Equivalent of ssh-copy-id

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2 min read

At the moment, Windows 10's implementation of the OpenSSH client does not have the `ssh-copy-id` command available. However, a PowerShell one-line command can mimic the `ssh-copy-id` command and allow you to copy an SSH public key generated by the `ssh-keygen` command to a remote Linux device for passwordless login.

Generate an SSH Key

Note: If you have already generated an SSH keypair that you would like to use, skip this section and proceed to the [Copy SSH Key to Remote Linux Device](#) section.

First, open a new PowerShell window (*not* a Command Prompt window!) and generate a new SSH keypair with the `ssh-keygen` command. By default, the public and private keys will be placed in the `%USERPROFILE%\.ssh\` directory. The public key file we are interested in is named `id_rsa.pub`.

Plaintext



```
PS C:\Users\Christopher> ssh-keygen
Generating public/private rsa key pair.
Enter file in which to save the key (C:\Users\Christopher\.ssh\id_rsa):
Created directory 'C:\Users\Christopher\.ssh'.
Enter passphrase (empty for no passphrase):
Enter same passphrase again:
Your identification has been saved in C:\Users\Christopher\.ssh\id_rsa.
Your public key has been saved in C:\Users\Christopher\.ssh\id_rsa.pub.
The key fingerprint is:
SHA256:/mjkrJQqbRzCAwLSPYVBNCuxntm/Ms5/MMC15dCRrMc christopher@Christopher-Win10-VM-01
The key's randomart image is:
+---[RSA 2048]-----+
|oo.+o==    o.o  |
| . o +. =  o =  |
|  o .+. . B    |
|   +..+o o E    |
|    *.S. .      |
|   o +...o      |
|    o =. .o     |
|   o.*o ..      |
|    .=+++       |
+----[SHA256]-----+
PS C:\Users\Christopher>
```

Copy SSH Key to Remote Linux Device

Next, we use the below PowerShell one-line command to copy the contents of the `id_rsa.pub` public key to a remote Linux device. Replace the `{IP-ADDRESS-OR-FQDN}` with the IP address or FQDN (Fully Qualified Domain Name) of the remote Linux device you would like to copy the public key to.

Plaintext





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Linux device at IP address 192.168.30.31.

Plaintext



```
PS C:\Users\Christopher> type $env:USERPROFILE\.ssh\id_rsa.pub | ssh 192.168.30.31 "cat >>
.ssh/authorized_keys"
The authenticity of host '192.168.30.31 (192.168.30.31)' can't be established.
ECDSA key fingerprint is SHA256:mTD0/WNCVZ/p/PFSkNDmLJtzIGb5eD7qj6erOQkomjM.
Are you sure you want to continue connecting (yes/no)? yes
Warning: Permanently added '192.168.30.31' (ECDSA) to the list of known hosts.
christopher@192.168.30.31's password:
PS C:\Users\Christopher>
```

Test Passwordless SSH Connectivity to Remote Linux Device

Finally, verify that you can SSH to the remote Linux device with the `ssh` command. An example to a remote Linux device at IP address 192.168.30.31 is shown below. Note how a password did not need to be entered in order for us to establish SSH connectivity to the remote Linux device.

Plaintext



```
PS C:\Users\Christopher> ssh 192.168.30.31
Last login: Sat May 23 12:44:51 2020 from 192.168.10.139
[christopher@linux ~]$ who
christopher pts/0      2020-05-24 19:35 (192.168.10.113)
```

References

The instructions for this blog post were heavily inspired by [Scott Hanselman's blog post](#) on the subject.

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