Michael Herman

Software Developer

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Managing Multiple Github Accounts

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Let’s look at how to manage multiple Github accounts from one computer. In essence, it’s simply a matter of balancing both your git and ssh configurations - which actually is not as bad as it might seem.

> Note: This tutorial is meant for Unix users.

Set up SSH Keys

Let’s assume your two Github accounts are named *githubPersonal* and *githubWork*, respectively.

Create two SSH keys, saving each to a separate file:

```
$ cd ~/.ssh
$ ssh-keygen -t rsa -C "your_email@associated_with_githubPersonal.com"
# save it as id_rsa_personal when prompted
$ ssh-keygen -t rsa -C "your_email@associated_with_githubWork.com"
# save it as id_rsa_work when prompted
```

The above commands setup the following files:

- *id_rsa_personal*
- *id_rsa_personal.pub*
- *id_rsa_work*
- *id_rsa_work.pub*

Add the keys to your Github accounts:

Copy the key to your clipboard:

```
$ pbcopy < ~/.ssh/id_rsa_personal.pub
```

Add the key to your account:

- Go to your Account Settings
- Click “SSH Keys” then “Add SSH key”
- Paste your key into the “Key” field and add a relevant title
- Click “Add key” then enter your Github password to confirm

Repeat the process for your *githubWork* account.

Create a configuration file to manage the separate keys

Create a config file in ~/.ssh/

```
$ touch config
```

Edit the file using the text editor of your choice. I used vim - `$ vim config`:

```
# githubPersonal
Host personal
   HostName github.com
   User git
   IdentityFile ~/.ssh/id_rsa_personal

# githubWork
Host work
   HostName github.com
   User git
   IdentityFile ~/.ssh/id_rsa_work
```

Update stored identities

Clear currently stored identities:

```
$ ssh-add -D
```

Add new keys:

```
$ ssh-add id_rsa_personal
$ ssh-add id_rsa_work
```

Test to make sure new keys are stored:

```
$ ssh-add -l
```

Test to make sure Github recognizes the keys:

```
$ ssh -T personal
Hi githubPersonal! You've successfully authenticated, but GitHub does not provide shell access.
$ ssh -T work
Hi githubWork! You've successfully authenticated, but GitHub does not provide shell access.
```

Test PUSH

On Github, create a new repo in your personal account, *githubPersonal*, called *test-personal*.

Back on your local machine, create a test directory:

```
$ cd ~/documents
$ mkdir test-personal
$ cd test-personal
```

Add a blank "readme.md" file and PUSH to Github:

```
$ touch readme.md
$ git init
$ git add .
$ git commit -am "first commit"
$ git remote add origin git@personal:githubPersonal/test-personal.git
$ git push origin master
```

> Notice how we're using the custom account, `git@personal`, instead of `git@github.com`.

Repeat the process for your *githubWork* account.

Test PULL

Add some text to the *readme.md* file in your personal account on Github.

Now PULL and merge the changes by running the following command within the *test-personal* directory:

```
$ git pull origin master
```

Again, repeat this for your *githubWork* account.

Questons? Comments? Did I miss something? Comment below.

Authored by Michael Herman Sep 16th, 2013 7:43 am github