Passwordless SSH Login

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Description

Allow ssh login to a remote host without the need to input password.

Definitions

- **remote-host**: machine where to login

- **local-host**: machine on site

- **user**: current user

Method

- Create public and private keys using ssh-keygen on local host

```
user@local-host$ ssh-keygen
```

- Press enter when asked where to save the key to save it in default directory and use an empty passphrase (Just press enter). Sample output is shown below.

```
Generating public/private rsa key pair.
Enter file in which to save the key (/home/user/.ssh/id_rsa):
Enter passphrase (empty for no passphrase):
Enter same passphrase again:
Your identification has been saved in /home/user/.ssh/id_rsa.
Your public key has been saved in /home/user/.ssh/id_rsa.pub.
The key fingerprint is:
49:95:7e:26:33:e4:03:51:6a:e3:4d:f8:75:03:e7:07 user@local-host
The key's randomart image is:
```

- Copy the public key to remote-host using ssh-copy-id

```
user@local-host:~$ ssh-copy-id -i user@remote-host
/usr/bin/ssh-copy-id: INFO: attempting to log in with the new key(s), to
filter out any that are already installed
/usr/bin/ssh-copy-id: INFO: 1 key(s) remain to be installed -- if you are
prompted now it is to install the new keys
user@remote-host's password:

Number of key(s) added: 1

Now try logging into the machine, with:   "ssh 'user@remote-host'"
and check to make sure that only the key(s) you wanted were added.
```

- ssh-copy-id appends the keys to the remote-host's .ssh/authorized_key.

Reference

- http://www.thegeekstuff.com/2008/11/3-steps-to-perform-ssh-login-without-password-using-ssh-keygen-ssh-copy-id/