Quick Guide – Use Putty to connect to EC2 instance over SSH

Objective

This guide has been written to help you understand how to use Putty to connect to an EC2 instance over SSH.

Background

In order to connect to an EC2 instance over SSH, it is necessary to use a tool such as Putty.

Before you begin, you must make sure that:

- the instance is running
- the security group (firewall) permits inbound traffic through port 22
- you have a copy of the EC2 key pair

Further reading

Should you require any further information, please refer to the following resource:

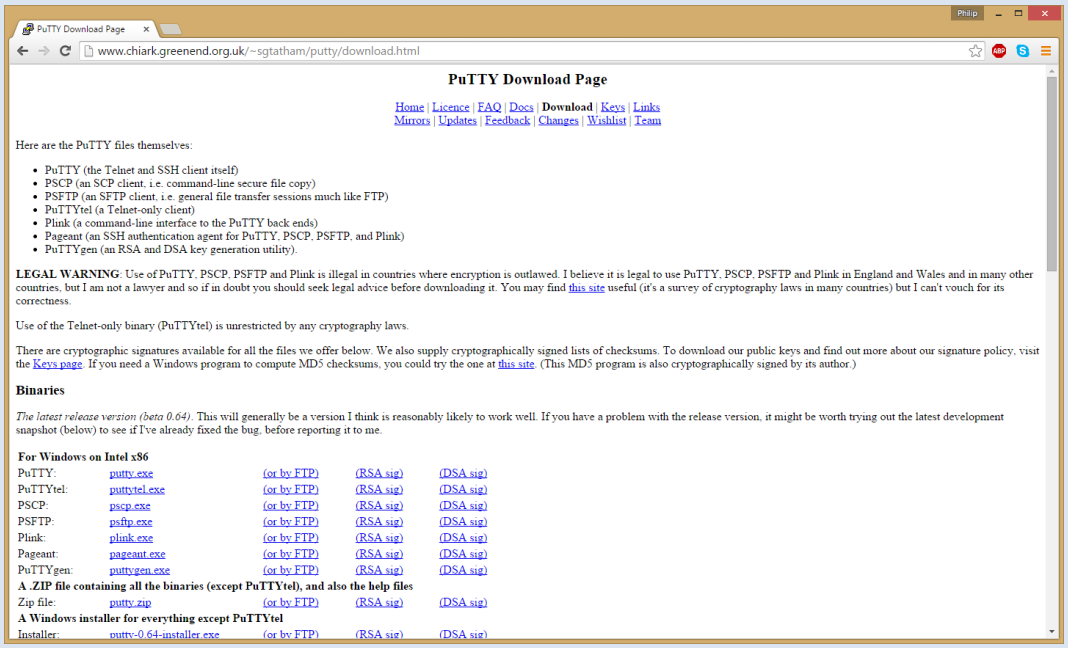
http://docs.aws.amazon.com/AWSEC2/latest/UserGuide/putty.html

Stage 1 : Download Putty

Step 1

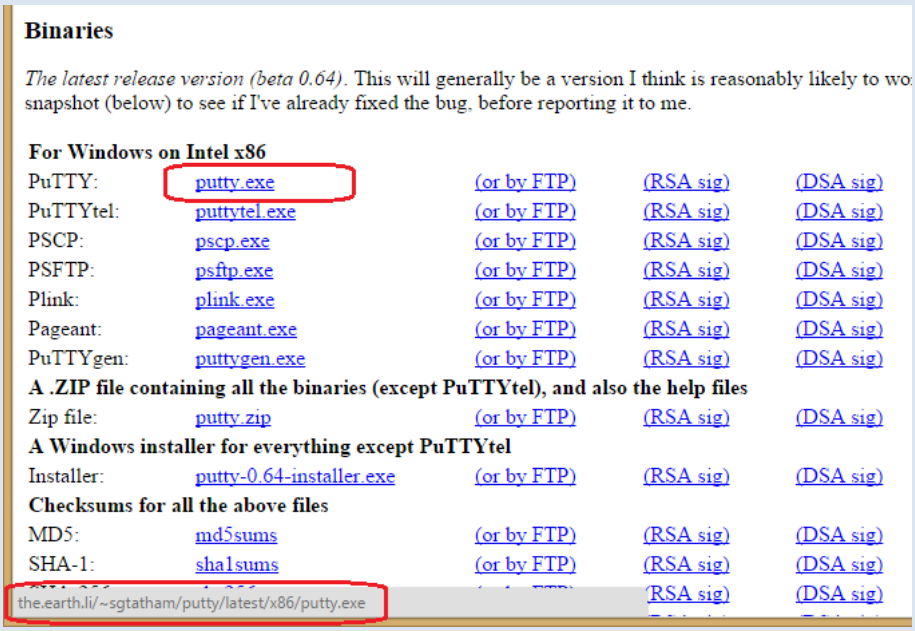
If you do not already have a copy of Putty, you can download it from the following url:

https://www.chiark.greenend.org.uk/~sgtatham/putty/latest.html



Step 2

Locate the most appropriate the **putty.exe** binary for your client machine and download a copy to a convenient location.



Stage 2 – Download Puttygen

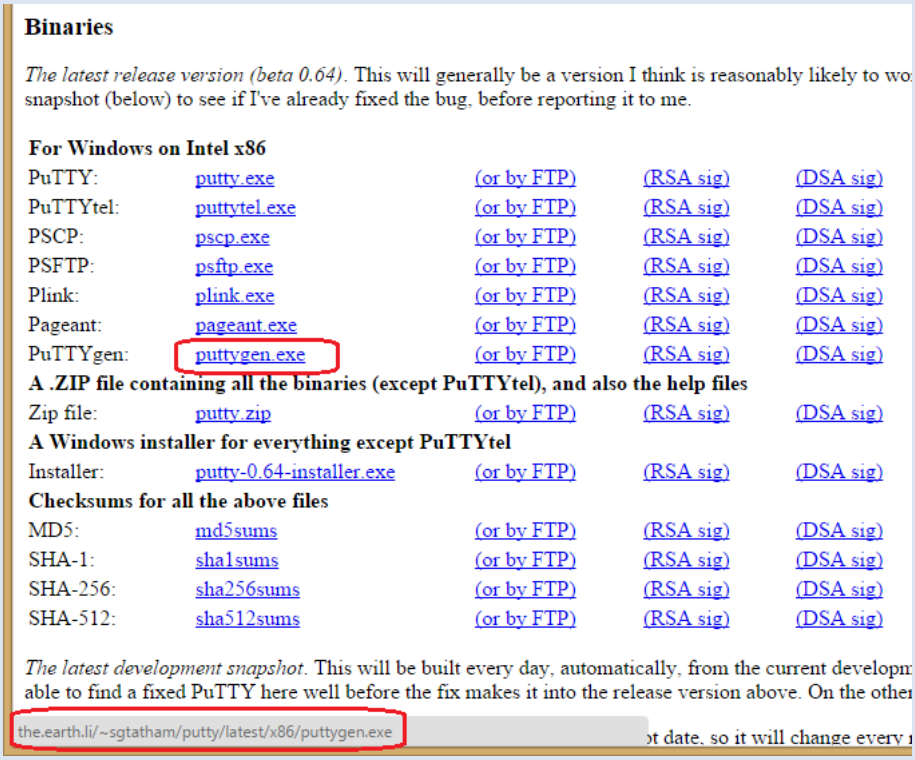
Step 3

Although you will use Putty to connect to your EC2 instances, you will also need to download Puttygen.

Puttygen is needed to convert any EC2 key pair **pem** file you may have into a **ppk** file which Putty requires.

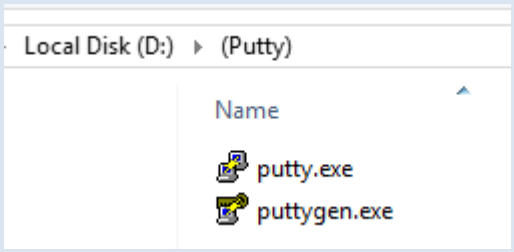
Step 4

Locate the **puttygen.exe** binary and download a copy to a convenient location.



Step 5

You should now have both the binaries downloaded to a convenient location.

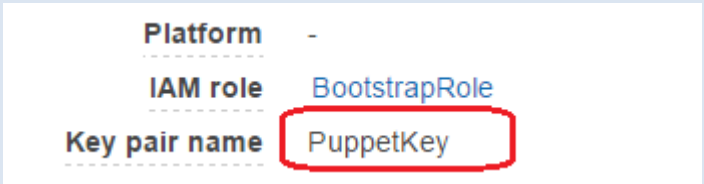


Stage 3 – Convert EC2 key file from pem to ppk

Step 6

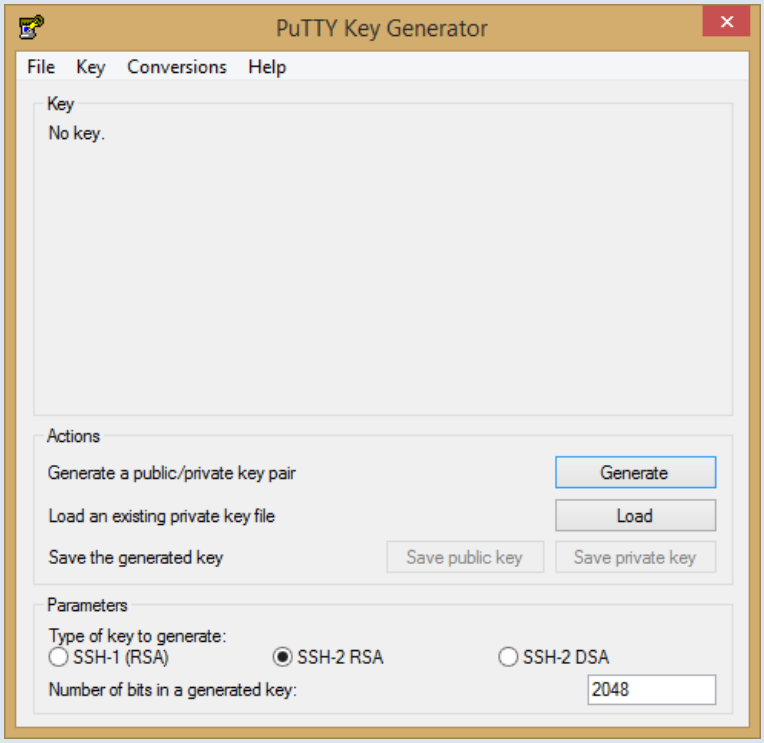
When you launched your EC2 instance, you will have assigned it an EC2 key pair.

If you cannot recall the name of the EC2 key pair that you used, you can always retrieve it by viewing the instance's metadata in the **AWS Console**.



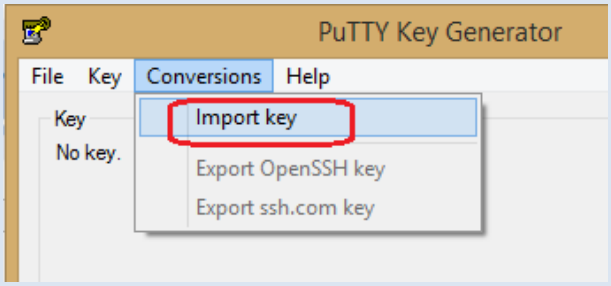
Step 7

Launch **puttygen.exe**.



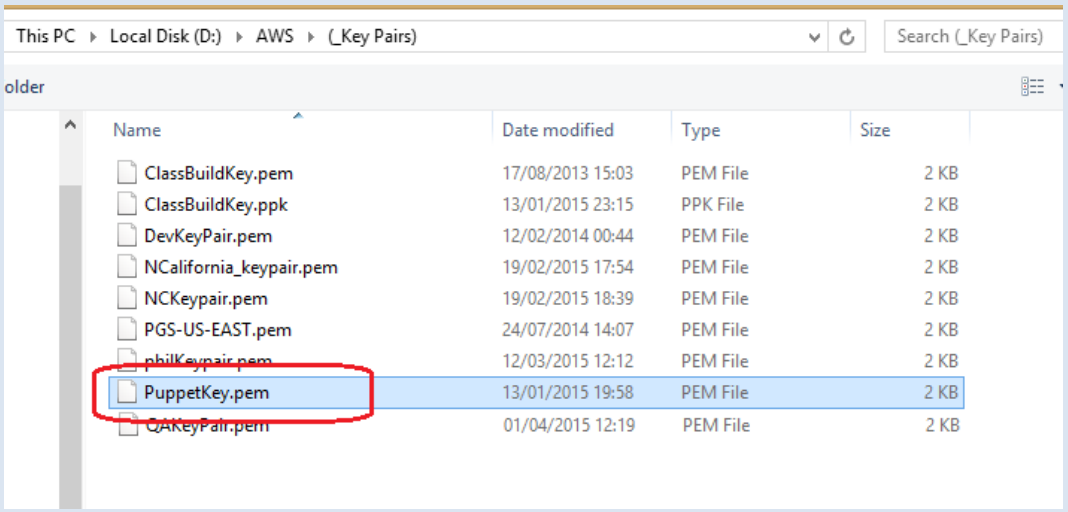
Step 8

Select **Import key** from the **Conversions** menu.



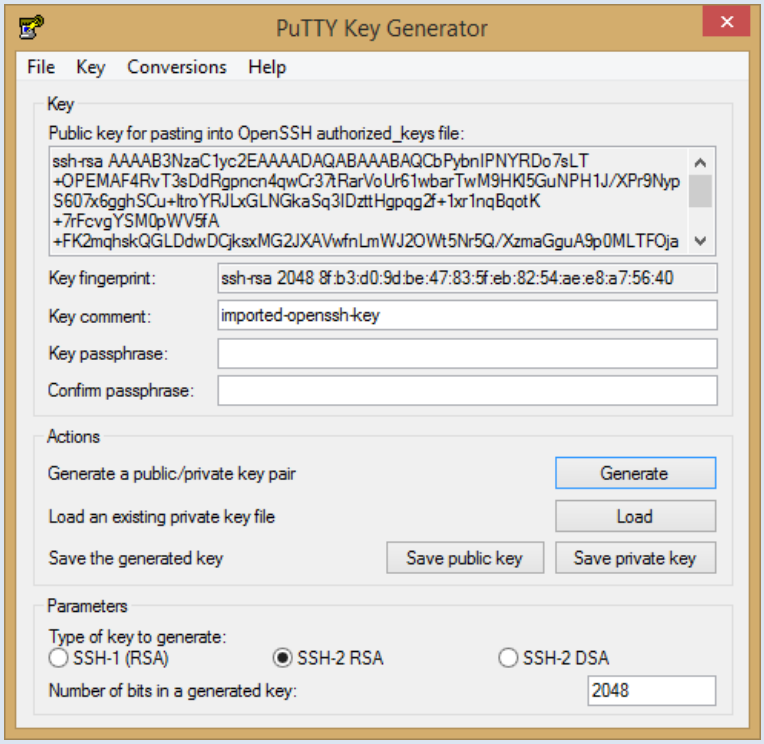
Step 9

Locate the EC2 key pair **pem** file that relates to the EC2 instance that you wish to connect to and then click the **Open** button.



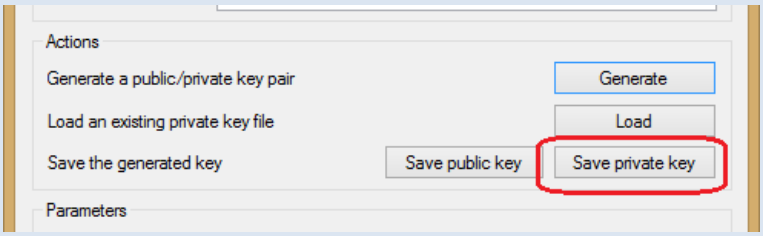
Step 10

You will now see the contents of your half of the EC2 key pair.



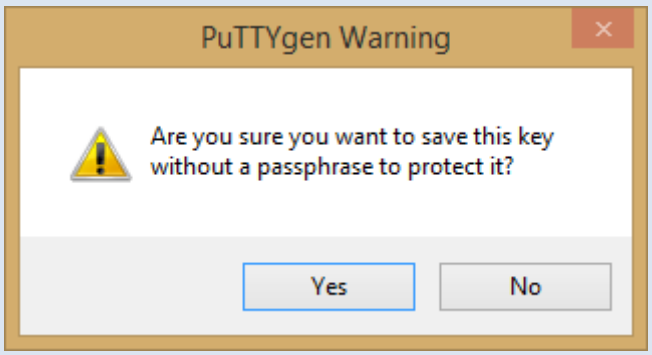
Step 11

Click on the **Save private key** button.



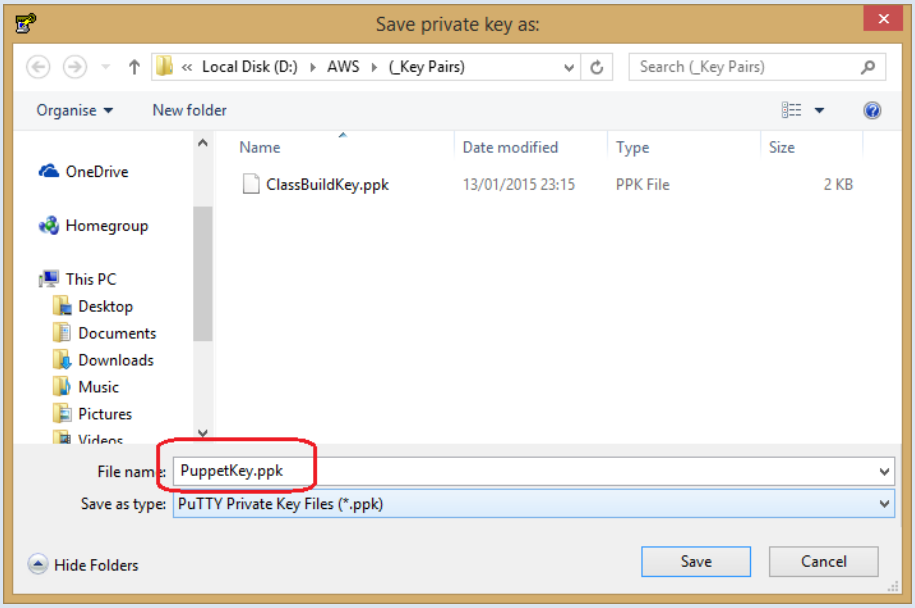
Step 12

You will be warned about generating a private key file without a passphrase. Go ahead and click the **Yes** button.



Step 13

In the **Save private key as** dialog, supply a name for your key file. Ideally, you should use the same filename as you used for the source **pem** file. Click the **Save** button.



Step 14

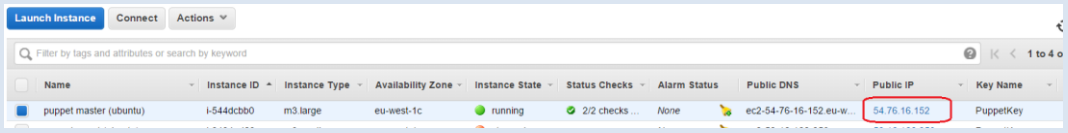
Now that you have generated a **ppk** file from your EC2 key pair **pem** file, you are ready to connect to an EC2 instance.

Note. There is no need to generate a new **ppk** file each time you want to connect to an EC2 instance. Once you have a **ppk** file to match the appropriate **pem** file, you can simply continue to use it.

Stage 4 – Connect to an EC2 instance using Putty

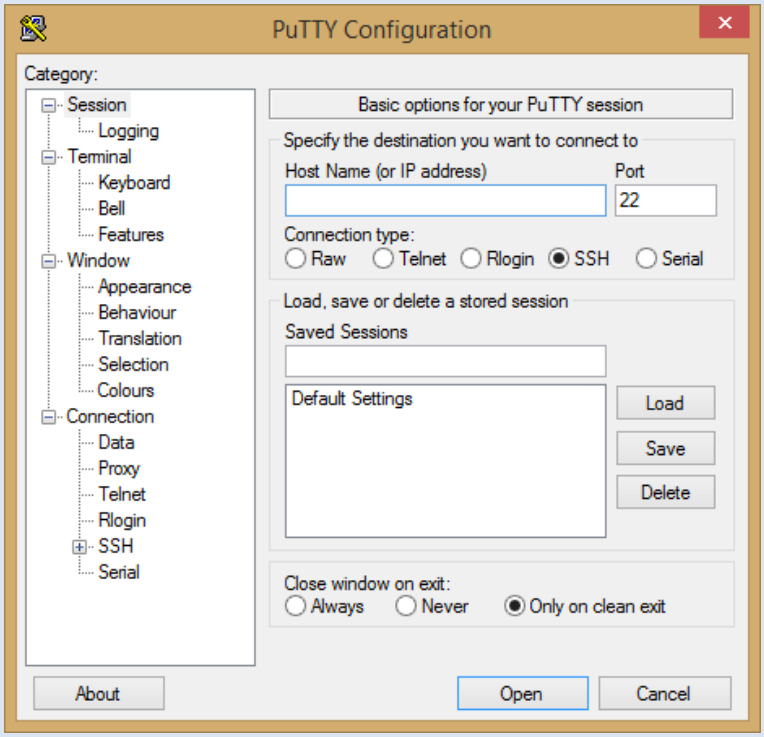
Step 15

Locate the public IP of your running EC2 instance and make a note of it.



Step 16

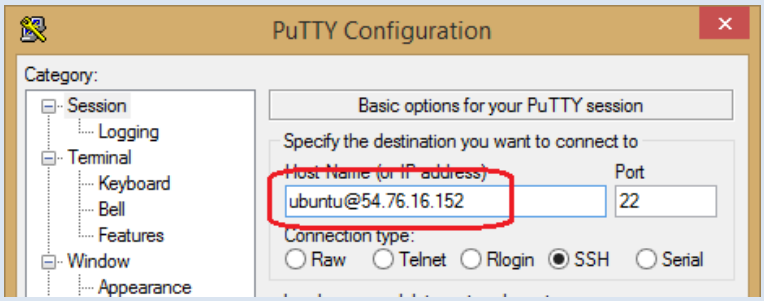
Launch **putty.exe**.



Step 17

Enter the EC2 instance's public IP address prefixed with the appropriate username using the format:

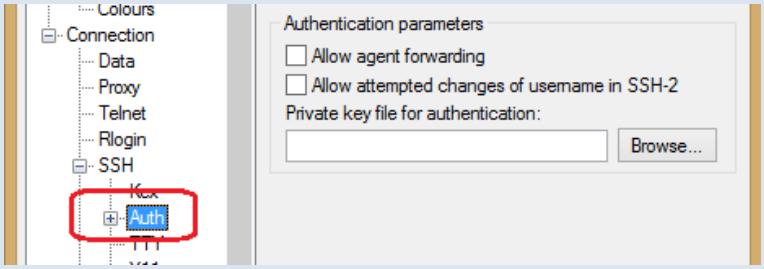
<username>@<public-IP>



Note. The user name depends on the type of EC2 instance. If it is an Ubuntu server then the username will be **ubuntu**. However, if you are connecting to a Linux server, the username will be **ec2-user**.

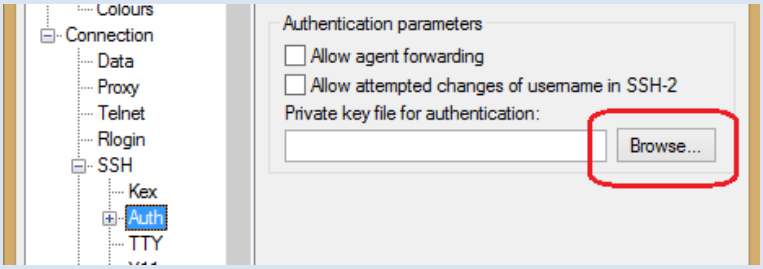
Step 18

Expand the **Connection** category and click on the **Auth** node.



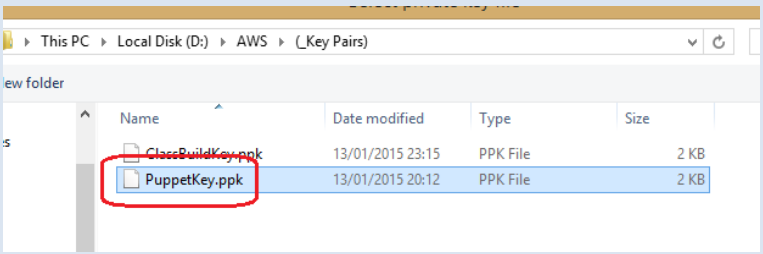
Step 19

Click on the **Browse** button to locate the required **ppk** file.



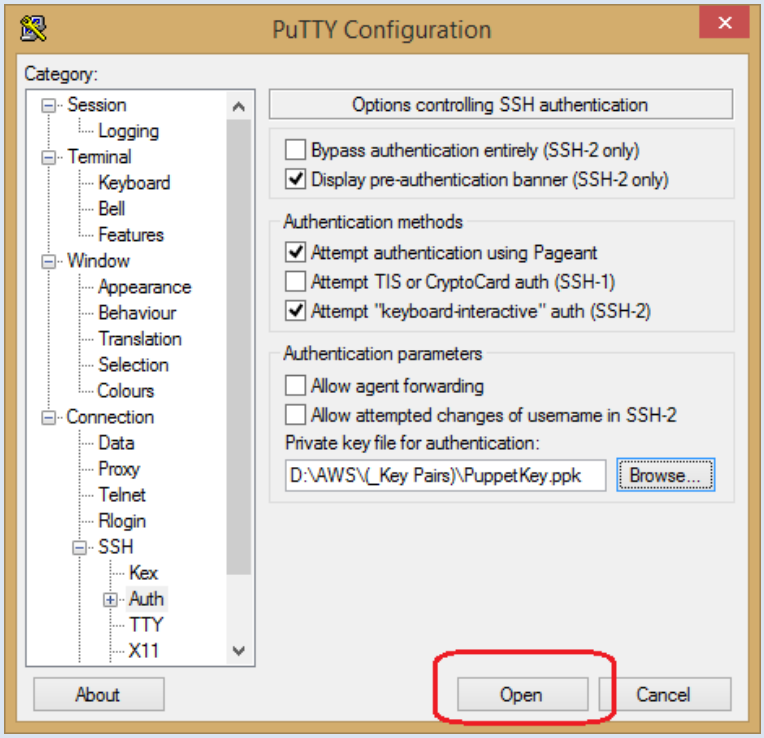
Step 20

Locate and select the required **ppk** file and click the **Open** button.



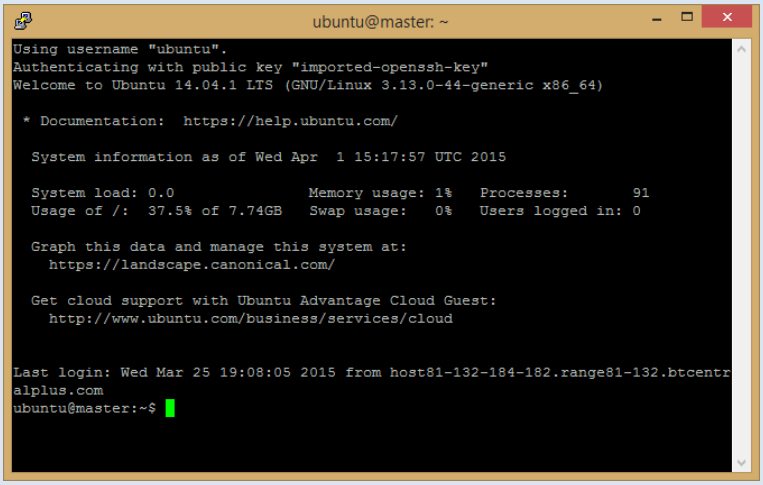
Step 21

Finally. Click the **Open** button to open a Command window to your EC2 instance.



Step 22

What you do now is entirely up to you.



Step 23

Congratulations. You have successfully downloaded **putty.exe** and **puttygen.exe**, used **puttygen.exe** to generate a **ppk** file and then used **putty.exe** to connect to an EC2 instance over SSH.