How to Modify Port 22 in Ubuntu Server Environment

When you have a Server, especially one that you want other clients to access on a regular basis, such as for examples A – Web Server, Database Server, Media Server, and countless other such or similar servers, it is important to make sure you secure it from "Bad Actors" or criminals attempting to break into it without your permission.

That being said, one of the common ways that system administrators (Sys Admins as I will call them throughout this article) access their servers is remotely through a command-line tool known as "ssh (Secure Shell)", which is normally associated with the logical service port 22.

#from the command-line of another remote machine
#to log into your server you usually run the command

>$ ssh username@server_hostname or ip address

#another example -

>$ ssh user@135.22.22.2

Using ssh with port 22 is a common practice that most everyone in the networking / IT community is aware of, including criminals, so to guard against this, one way of stopping people from attempting to gain access through port 22 without permission is to change the port that you ssh into, from port 22 to another port.

Follow the instructions below to accomplish this --

Be Advised,
whenever you see the **#** symbol, this is a comment or a note which will be ignored by the computer system, and won't be executed by the computer.

#cd to the /etc/ssh/ directory
>$ cd /etc/ssh/

#next you will need to modify the file
#sshd_config

#from there you will want to modify the sshd_config file
#open that file in a text editor example (VI, vim, nano, etc)
#go down to the section that reads → Port 22, **<u>uncomment</u>** it,
#and change to a different port, Port 2220 as a example below --

sshd_config file

```
# This is the sshd server system-wide configuration file.  See
# sshd_config(5) for more information.

# This sshd was compiled with PATH=/usr/local/sbin:/usr/local/bin:/usr/sbin:/us

# The strategy used for options in the default sshd_config shipped with
# OpenSSH is to specify options with their default value where
# possible, but leave them commented.  Uncommented options override the
# default value.

Include /etc/ssh/sshd_config.d/*.conf

Port 2220
#AddressFamily any
#ListenAddress 0.0.0.0
#ListenAddress ::

#HostKey /etc/ssh/ssh_host_rsa_key
#HostKey /etc/ssh/ssh_host_ecdsa_key
```

#Save the modified file, then you will need to restart the ssh service with the command
#below
>$ sudo systemctl restart ssh

#you can check to make sure everything is good
#with the ssh services after restarting it with this command

>$ sudo systemctl status ssh **#example output below**
[sudo] password for user:
● ssh.service - OpenBSD Secure Shell server
   Loaded: loaded (/lib/systemd/system/ssh.service; enabled; vendor preset: e>
   Active: **active (running)** since Fri 2023-04-28 03:38:46 EDT; 1 day 4h ago
     Docs: man:sshd(8)
           man:sshd_config(5)
  Process: 722 ExecStartPre=/usr/sbin/sshd -t (code=exited, status=0/SUCCESS)
 Main PID: 777 (sshd)
    Tasks: 1 (limit: 1115)
   Memory: 4.7M
      CPU: 87ms
   CGroup: /system.slice/ssh.service
           └─777 "sshd: /usr/sbin/sshd -D [listener] 0 of 10-100 startups"

Apr 28 03:38:45 hostname systemd[1]: Starting OpenBSD Secure Shell server...
Apr 28 03:38:46 hostname sshd[777]: Server listening on 0.0.0.0 port 2220.
Apr 28 03:38:46 hostname sshd[777]: Server listening on :: port 2220.
Apr 28 03:38:46 hostname systemd[1]: Started OpenBSD Secure Shell server.
Apr 28 19:35:35 hostname sshd[5874]: Accepted publickey for user from xx.xx.xxx.xx>
Apr 28 19:35:35 hostname sshd[5874]: pam_unix(sshd:session): session opened for
use>

From there you are done.

Now to log into your server from another machine, follow the instructions below
#from another machine, ssh into your server with this command
>$ ssh -p 2220 user@135.22.22.2

From there, if you have done the instructions properly from above you will be done.

Thanks for viewing this document.

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