

SSH Authentication

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1 Authentication

Authentication is the process of verifying the identity of a person or a service which is trying to access a computing resource. It's the process of confirming if the person is the one whom he/she claims to be. This is typically achieved with a combination of username and password.

2 Public Key Authentication

While username/password combination is the most commonly used system of authentication, it's not the most secure way. Moreover, it's not always feasible to use username/password combination, particularly when computing resources/persons try to connect with another resources in a non-interactive way (automation scripts etc). Public Key authentication comes to rescue in such scenarios.

1. How it works?

Public Key authentication is the process of using a pair of keys generated by the SSH program. `ssh-keygen` generates a pair of Public key and Private key and the public key is updated to the resource to which you want to authenticate. Everytime someone tries to authenticate to that resource, ssh program verifies if the person or resource trying to access the other resource has the corresponding public key.